

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FOR MAY/JUNE 2022 FROM ROSEMARY ROWE

At The Annual Full Council Meeting held on the 19th May there were changes made in member offices of the Council. We have a new Chairman of the Council; Cllr. Lance Austin from Ivybridge was elected as The New Chairman of The Council. Cllr. Bernard Taylor from Modbury is the new Vice Chairman. Cllr. Richard Foss who represents Allington & Strete is now Chairman of the Development Management Committee and Cllr. Rosemary Rowe is the new Vice Chairman. There have also been a few changes of members on committee membership.

The Council has so far paid out £3mil. to 20,000 households for the £150.00 council tax rebate payable to those who pay council tax in Band A / D .this is for those who pay by D/D. Arrangements have been made for non D./D. Payees to receive their rebate by other means.

The Communications Department is being upgraded to improve the phone service given to callers. This will make the I.T. System more efficient and make on line meetings easier. It will make a saving of £70.000 (So we are informed.)

The Planning Department is being re-aligned with officers working in zones in order to work more efficiently as they used to. (In Pre T 19 days) A 2nd. Head of Planning is being recruited to cover West Devon Council. It is hoped that this will help to reduce the back log of planning work which we have at present.

South Hams has so far welcomed 192 Ukrainian Refugees and funding has been granted to the Host families of £350.00 and £200.00 to each guest. 95% of which is going well. There are obviously some problems to be expected.

Locality officers are out and about concentrating on Street Cleaning /Overflowing Bins / Getting Overflowing Bottle Banks Emptied /Toilet Inspections/and dogs which should be on leads where appropriate.

Many of us have worked within our Parishes to assist with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Assisting with The lighting of the Beacons on the Thursday night. Organising Sports Events, Children`s Tea Parties/Lunches / Picnics and many other events across our own areas. This could not have been done without the many volunteers we had from local residents .The weather managed to behave it`s self most of the time across the four days.

We held a Special Council Meeting on 8th June with F.C.C. for them to explain and be questioned on their work and why there has been no improvement in the Brown Bin missed collections since the collection was restarted at the beginning of April. They did not tell us anything new from 12 months ago. Same problems, lack of staff .they are unable to recruit manual operatives and drivers. After 2 hours members felt we did not receive any conclusions as to what we could expect in the near future. The only good thing is that they concentrate on collecting grey bins and the recycling bags.

Sustainable South Hams is looking to encourage new and existing community groups with climate change, nature and bio diversity initiatives. The group is launching a new Website to help with its aims. It wants to connect with Town and Parish Councils so that they can work with them and local Community groups. For more information refer to their website. Take Care .Rosemary Rowe