

CLERK REPORT FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

28th February 2024

TOWN CLERK

- With the Council being keen to support the school with the lack of parking around the school **Parking Permits for Salcombe School** have now been formally offered to parents to enable them to park in Bonfire Hill carpark, free of charge, during drop off and pick up times during term time. I have also been in touch with Cty. Cllr Rufus Gilbert, following the school being advised by DCC that the recent vacant site review they have carried out indicated the School Crossing Patrol site does not meet the criteria for a Council funded Patrol, advising it did not meet the criteria in three previous assessments over the last eight years. Their proposal **is to remove the site; making the site dormant**. Cty Cllr Rufus Gilbert advised that he was surprised to hear the school still had a lollipop person until recently, as all others in his area are now gone and he has so far not managed to save any of them, 'as is the case in much of Devon'. He further advised, however, that he is more than happy to arrange for enforcement to be increased, so the Council just needs to let him know when more enforcement is needed.
- Letter received from the **Friends of the Redfern Centre** to thank the Council for its donation of £631.66, from donations received for the Coronation mugs.

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

- Following the period of extended wet weather that we have experienced over the festive period, the Highways and Traffic Management Service has experienced a significant increase in the **number of potholes** reported by the public and recorded through the Highway Safety Inspection process. They have advised:
 - Fragile carriageways due to long-term lack of capital funding
 - Increase in potholes reported likely to worsen during the current cold spell
 - Encouragement to use 'report a problem' webpages for pothole notifications: www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/
 - Response time targets for defect reports: 3 working days on higher category roads, 7 days on lower category roads
 - Potential strain on resources for gritting network during prolonged cold weather
 - Prioritization of safety critical operations over planned improvement works
 - Network Response Team in daily communication with contractor Milestone to assess demand and priorities
 - Identification and repair of non-safety defects, including innovation and trialling of new products and processes
 - Recent trial of 'Elastomac,' a mastic asphalt with recycled materials
 - Current resources: Up to 26 defect gangs, 8 internally resourced Milestone gangs, 2 external gangs, and 4 dragon patching gangs
 - Additional £6.663m investment announced for carriageway improvements, with focus on serviceability patching and local planned works brought forward in the programme.

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

- **Dartmouth Lower Ferry** will continue to operate a single service this February. South Hams District Council's Executive Member for Community Services; Operations and Leisure, Cllr Victor Abbott, said "We had expected that our double ferry service would be back up and running from 12 February, however due to more works needed on the vessel hull and the linked safety checks, this has now been delayed. We also need to make sure we have the correct tides to bring the ferry back into service. Its usual double ferry service will now restart on Tuesday 27 February 2024". www.southhams.gov.uk/dartmouth-lower-ferry
- Councillors agreed to a small increase in **Council Tax** of £5.54 per year, (2.99%) meaning residents living in a Band D property would pay £190.96 for the District Council's section of the

Council Tax, for all of its services. Only 8p of every £1 paid (8%) in Council Tax is kept by South Hams District Council to fund its services. The largest part of the Council Tax bill goes to Devon County Council who provide adult social care, children's services and the roads network, including potholes which many people mistakenly think SHEC are responsible for.

At the same time the Council has approved changes to extend its existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which already supports 4,900 households and has awarded £5.9m to reduce residents' bills through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

- South Hams District Council's Full Council on Thursday 15 February, formally adopted its **Council Plan for 2024-2028** along with the supporting delivery plan for the first year. The Council agreed the four key policy areas needed to prioritise the climate change and biodiversity emergency, tackle the challenging housing situation, support the economy and deliver good quality services to the district's communities. For the next year, the Council has agreed to take forward the following projects all linked to the Council's key priorities, to:
 - lead on environmental concerns and take direct action to combat climate change and biodiversity loss including supporting community energy groups, increasing electric vehicle charging points and developing a Keep It Local food scheme.
 - create and launch the South Hams Housing Offer. This new scheme will support communities and landowners to bring forward affordable housing in their area and help conversations with proven registered housing who working with communities.
 - deliver an independent living scheme (Disabled Facilities Grants) increasing the amount of funding available to residents.
 - improve the energy efficiency of 55 properties by awarding Homes Upgrade Grants.
 - delivery of a new temporary accommodation unit in Kingsbridge.
 - refurbish and improve local toilets including exploring potential for more Changing Places toilets as important facilities for residents with disabilities.
 - improve local sport and recreation facilities using developer contributions.
 - explore the idea of a pilot e-bike hub scheme with 10 hubs totalling 70 bikes.
 - buy land for tree planting with part-funding from Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest.
- South Hams residents can now sign up to or renew their subscription for the district's **garden waste collection service for 2024/25**.
 - If you sign up before 31 March 2024, you'll pay £52 for a year-long subscription running from 1 April 2024 that covers collections for one brown wheelie bin. There is a maximum of two subscriptions (which would cover two bins) per household. Subscribers can put grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, cut flowers and plants, small branches, weeds, leaves, twigs, windfall fruit and vase flowers in their brown bin.
 - If you sign up after 31 March 2024, the service will cost £55. Subscribers should note that the service will be suspended over the winter for four weeks, from 20 December 2024 to 20 January 2025.

PROJECT OFFICER'S ACTIVITY

- Daily – Email, admin and general office tasks.
- Weekly – Check Mortuary Building & Jubilee Gardens Playground & record.
- Checking on and advising Cllrs regarding painting at Mortuary Building – Completed.
- Meeting with Emma Foster & Vic Thomas related to Grounds Maintenance and the wider Salcombe perspective concerning improving the SHDC assets presentation (e.g. Cliff House Gardens).

- Jones interment of ashes. Review grave space for interment opportunity.
- Set up of SharePoint for Cemetery Data to initiate the opportunity to start changeover and sharing of Pear Technologies Cemetery Mapping & Data System.
- Project overview/costings for the Park & Ride fencing renewal to allow motorhomes & campervans.
- Site visit to Bonaventure Wood to review tree replanting as per TPOs
- Site visit Footpath 5 – Investigating possible dangerous structure. DCC updated.
- Site visit to The Berry for moles investigation. Mole-catcher contacted.
- Build itinerary for HMS Magpie & manage invites for reception & onboard quests.
- Chase down Chris Kemp to complete works already approved & facilitate access to Council Hall rear courtyard and mortuary building.
- Investigate leaning tree on Footpath near Jubilee Gdns. Confirmed tree is DCC responsibility & DCC advised. Tree safe, for now.
- Town Pump – Investigate and work with WG to get quotes.
- Cemetery applications for memorials, Brown & Dunstan.
- Valuation Office – Request for Info – Bonfire Hill Cemetery – Site areas and burials last 3 years.
- VAT - Investigation into historic cemetery receipts.

ADMINSTRATOR'S ACTIVITY

- Updating of Planning agenda compilation
- Reporting and following up on Resident issues via DCC and SHDC online portal