# Report from your District Councillor

# Ged Yardy

# Park and Ride Dartmouth

# SHDC Exec agreed to 8 spaces providing 1 hour free parking however also agreed charges for the remainder of the HWBC car park and winter charges for the P&R. I have asked for a further 10 spaces to cover the expanded use of the centre.

# A robust review of parking users and needs has been promised for January 2024.

# I continue to support the DAMP campaign against the installation of parking charges in Dartmouth by DCC and in particular support the new Dartmouth & District Chambers of Commerce report on the state of parking in Dartmouth.

* **Dentistry Crisis in South Hams.**

# At the South Hams District Council meeting held on 14 December 2023 Cllr Ged Yardy (Lib Dem – Dartmouth) and Cllr John Birch (Lib Dem -Totnes) put forward a proposal for seeking to address the growing public healthcare crisis in dentistry in South Hams.

# In putting forward their proposal they highlighted the fact that the Community based NHS dental services are both failing and being withdrawn with patients being unable to access or afford dental care.

# Cllr Yardy said “At the heart of our community's concern lie the issues of access and affordability. The challenge is to address these issues effectively while maintaining a sustainable

# and ethical practice model. Patients are primarily concerned with affordability, value for money, and the standard of care they receive.

# Cllr John Birch said  “We as a council are concerned about the health and wellbeing of our residents and this extends to the adverse effects arising out of the local dentistry crisis.

# To seek to address this growing issue Cllrs Yardy and Birch proposed the following proposal be adopted by the Council.

# “In a move to address the dentistry crisis it is resolved that the Council encourages the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board and the local MPs to work with local dental practitioners and patients to investigate the setting up of a pilot scheme to provide accessible no-frills dental care for all age groups with the aim of encouraging the relevant NHS services to introduce the scheme across South Hams.”

# The proposal was carried with the full support of the Council.

# I have circulated ( DCC SHDC LOF, CCG, DTC, NHS) a proposal for review to establish a No Frills Dental service. This requires £32k pump priming funding. Good feedback so far.

# Ex Dartmouth Hospital Site

# NHS Foundation has now placed the ex Cottage Hospital and Zion place on the open market though Montague Evans with a deadline of January 17th. The NHS have continued to state that Social Value for the local residents will remain important to a future transaction for the site. The NHS requested that SHDC were obliged to lift the covenant on part of the old hospital site.

# The previous agreement which envisaged DTC to take ownership and a developer to lease the site and build a hotel failed as the developer was not able to provide the funds. In this case there would have been significant funds generated for the benefit of the residents of Dartmouth distributed by a respected local charity. This potential transaction has now been terminated.

# DTC continues to pursue the need for the social value for the residents of Dartmouth.

# Sports Facilities

# Meetings to support the Development of Sports Facilities (Rugby Football) using S106 monies

# Supported Swifts football with a donation from the community fund

# Bus Services:.

# Bus Services:. Dartmouth Area Bus proposal – no funding currently. Working to update Dartmouth Area Bus proposal - similar to BOB the Bus in Totnes.

# Concern raised over the loss of the Stagecoach compound on performance and Stagecoach retendering of Dartmouth Park and Ride regarding with stagecoach services. Clear Deterioration of Services.

# Dartmouth Visitor Centre

# There is a need to explore reducing costs eg diversification / partnerships.

# Major funding achieved from DTC and SHDC for DVC to cover the Transition period prior to relaunch

# Banking hub is not to be located at the DVC, but will go ahead in another location in Dartmouth.

# South Devon & Torbay NHS Foundation Trust

# Attended multiple Governor and Board oversight meetings: NHS Torbay NHS Foundation NHS Foundation

# Reviewed the Freedom to Speak up policy in light of the Letby disaster

# Trust has been in NOF4 operational and financial challenges, as have all the local trusts under national oversight. Eg Day surgery, reducing long wait targets.

# OPEL 4: Up to a 20% increase in patients , Consultants / junior doctors - annual leave, strikes are impacting on capacity and delivery leading to challenges.

# 420 Ambulances arrived over one weekend. There is a need to make sure residents do their best to engage with healthcare support services before visiting A&E

# Plymouth Freeport:

# Reviewed progress concerning the Plymouth Freeport. Report approved at Full council in December 2023

# SHDC Accounts and Budget

# SHDC accounts reviewed and approved, Budgeting underway

# Housing partner merger

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| For your information, a press release was issued just before the festive break on the potential merger of [Places for People](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBsYWNlc2ZvcnBlb3BsZS5jby51ay8iLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjQwMTA1Ljg4MDIyMDYxIn0.Ey8uXU2AK7-tQM2_No5Bbv-SMYtgbNV_LHB7FWKwZ5o/s/2973243887/br/234294424126-l) and [South Devon Rural Housing Association (SDR)](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vc291dGhkZXZvbnJ1cmFsLmNvLnVrLyIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyNDAxMDUuODgwMjIwNjEifQ.58SpMU-6vp7kVesDU1i23kaX5ZtVzixDN08cLMrcTMI/s/2973243887/br/234294424126-l).  View the [full press release](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vc291dGhkZXZvbnJ1cmFsLmNvLnVrL25ld3MtZGV0YWlscy9wbGFjZXMtZm9yLXBlb3BsZS1hbmQtc291dGgtZGV2b24tLXJ1cmFsLWFubm91bmNlLW1lcmdlci1wbGFucy8xNDUvMC8wIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDI0MDEwNS44ODAyMjA2MSJ9.34JmtIawa60U4uYfZE2BHnqvjUhMJU8JGy5HxWdzrpk/s/2973243887/br/234294424126-l).  The two organisations are currently in discussions and, if the merger is successful, this would mean SDR and its 357 homes in the South West of England joining the Places for People Group in the coming months.  The majority of SDR homes within South Hams are in the Totnes/ Dartington area.  We do not see any issues with the merger and welcome the news, which may bring further housing opportunities to the area. Places for People have an excellent track record in social value projects so could potentially help with our priorities around supporting vulnerable people such as care leavers.  We will keep you updated on the progress of discussions, but if you have any questions in the meantime, please email [Alex Rehaag](mailto:alex.rehaag@swdevon.gov.uk).  **Isabel Blake – Head of Housing** |

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# Growing the use of e-bikes

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| We would appreciate your help in building a list of companies who hire bikes in our area, so we can talk to them about how we can support them and grow the use of e-bikes in our area.  We are also planning to invite these local bike businesses to a workshop to discuss barriers early this year. Please can you get in touch with [Gemma Bristow](mailto:Gemma.Bristow@swdevon.gov.uk) (01803 861383) if you know of any other companies not included in the list below:   * Salcombe Bike Hire Co * South Hams E-bikes (Stokeley Farm Shop) * Bearland Bikes (East Portlemouth) * E-XploreDevon (Kingsbridge) * Brightham House – a B&B hiring bikes   (Salcombe) * Evo Bike Hire (Stoke Fleming)   **Gemma Bristow I**Economic Development Team |

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# S106 Infrastructure Funding Statements

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| Each year the Council is required to send to Central Government it's Section 106 Infrastructure Funding Statements.  Following liaison with Finance, Open Space, Sport and Recreation (OSSR) and Affordable Housing Officers, the 22/23 submissions were compiled by the Section 106 team and details of the submissions can be [found here](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnNvdXRoaGFtcy5nb3YudWsveW91ci1jb3VuY2lsL2NvdW5jaWwtcGxhbnMtcG9saWNpZXMtYW5kLXJlcG9ydHMvcG9saWNpZXMvcGxhbm5pbmctcG9saWNpZXMvZGV2ZWxvcGVyLWNvbnRyaWJ1dGlvbnMiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjQwMTA1Ljg4MDIyMDYxIn0.c405gBwzloa4o-ao5sB51GabkCm0TDfGXABQE7HG7cQ/s/2973243887/br/234294424126-l).  **Dai Antill** I Senior Business Support Officer |

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# Help residents save on their energy bills

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| Lower income households could benefit from free energy efficiency upgrades to their homes this winter with our support.  We are working with partners South Dartmoor Community Energy to survey eligible homes across the District and provide energy efficiency measures, personalised to the needs of the property.  Homes Upgrade Grants are available to homeowners with an annual income of less than £31k, who have heating that isn't mains gas with an EPC rating of D,E,F or G.  Please spread the word and if you know of any residents who may be eligible for support, please ask them to [apply online.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..Tsj92lG-VbHn26gihJjSNT4ZQNA0vRAblNoM2qI4rPY/s/2973243887/br/234294424126-l)  **Dave Sexton I**Principal Environmental Health Officer |

# Careers fair success

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| As part of our commitment to attract younger people into the organisation, we attended the Dartmoor Multi Agency Trust Careers Fair last week with a popular stand representing our organisations, and it has been an enormous success.  The event covered Holsworthy School, Oakhampton College and Tavistock College and involved years 9 to 13 and saw over 600 students per year pass through the Fair.  Over the two days we talked to hundreds of students promoting the opportunities and range of jobs at our Councils. |

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| What was evident from talking to students of all ages, is the interest in apprenticeships which is something we are focusing on.  We are continuing to exploring other events that we can attend across our areas, to raise our profile with the schools and students, and also other organisations with whom we can work to promote these opportunities.  **Catherine Bowen I**Head of Organisational Development |

# New planning software

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| As part of the implementation of the Planning Improvement Plan, we have now gone live with our new Planning Software called MasterGov. The system went live on Wednesday 29 November 2023 and alongside the back office system we have also introduced new website pages to search and display planning applications. This is updated by the main MasterGov software in real time – meaning that documents, plans and decision will be published immediately. The changes to the website have been positively received.  The move across to MasterGov has gone well and been completed on time. There are some minor issues to resolve as expected, and understandably it will take a little time for everyone to become confident with the new software. However, staff are already appreciating the benefits of the new system, working together and supporting each other through the change.  The system has numerous benefits, but the primary focus is on the external users of the service – applicants, agents, residents, town and parish councils. They will benefit from a simpler, more intuitive and structured planning online system, including a brand new Map search function which will be enhanced over time.  Over the coming weeks we will introducing further changes, including updating the weekly reports and the information which can be reported from the system to continue to further improve the planning service.  If any Members would like to be shown the new planning software or website please contact [Helen Smart](mailto:helen.smart@swdevon.gov.uk).  **Helen Smart**  Planning Business Manager |

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# Joint Local Plan Appeals Digest

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| The Appeals Digest considers a handful of planning appeals that have been issued in the JLP area, and provides an assessment of the way that policies have been applied and interpreted. This will help make more consistent and transparent decisions in the future.  Each appeal contained within the digest includes key passages of text from the appeals, and highlights the issues considered by Inspectors in coming to a decision.  Where relevant, the appeals digest will also include appeals and case law from other parts of the UK that contain decisions that are pertinent to decision making by the JLP Councils.  Read the Appeals Digest [here](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vY29udGVudC5nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeS5jb20vYXR0YWNobWVudHMvVUtTV0RFVk9OLzIwMjMvMTIvMDcvZmlsZV9hdHRhY2htZW50cy8yNzA5MzA5L0FwcGVhbHMlMjBkaWdlc3QlMjBKYW4lMjBOb3YlMjAyMDIzLnBkZiIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzEyMDguODY4MzQ3NzEifQ.qPVHRQ0YnKpWS-1dl2763Wn-dHahW6CFKG2NiiWFJLY/s/2973243887/br/232614650110-l).  **Phil Baker**  Principal Planning Officer |

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# Support with energy bills

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| Lower income households could benefit from free energy efficiency upgrades to their homes this winter with our support.  Please help spread the word of our Homes Upgrade Grant, available to homeowners with an annual income of less than £31k, who have heating that isn't mains gas and an EPC rating of D,E,F or G.  We are working with partners South Dartmoor Community Energy to survey eligible homes across the District and provide energy efficiency measures, personalised to the needs of the property.  If you know of any residents who may be eligible for support, please ask them to [apply online.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnNvdXRoaGFtcy5nb3YudWsvaG91c2luZy9ob3VzaW5nLXN1cHBvcnQvaG91c2luZy1ncmFudHMtbG9hbnMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2hlbHAtcmVkdWNpbmctZnVlbC1iaWxscy9ob21lLXVwZ3JhZGUiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA4Ljg2ODM0NzcxIn0.5STAFFG7e6vILaDIK1-uQMm_g0O2J0OlkdwnIp8P3yw/s/2973243887/br/232614650110-l)  **Dave Sexton**  Principal Environmental Health Officer |
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