

# Ben Cooper

**District Councillor for  
Dartmouth and East Dart**

**Stoke Gabriel Parish Report  
March 2024**



## **Stoke Gabriel Carnival**

I have been contacted by Roz Holmes about supporting the Carnival in Stoke Gabriel this year, I've decided to use the remainder of my locality fund and give them £750 to help towards the cost of the event.

i am told that any any profits made from the event will be distributed between the primary school, the pre-school, Scout Group, the Boating Association, along with other groups in the village.

## **Energy Vouchers from Citizens Advice**

Citizens Advice South Hams are offering help for households with the cost of energy bills with vouchers worth £300, anyone struggling to pay energy bills can contact them directly by calling 0808 278 7948 or see them at The Flavel on Tuesdays between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

They can help with complex energy billing issues, resolving matters directly with your energy provider, help deal with energy supplier issues, including billing and meter problems, help with making homes more energy efficient and look at fuel bills and household finances to help save money. All support from Citizens Advice is free, independent and confidential.

## **South Hams Community Awards 2024**

The Chairman of South Hams District Council is looking for nominations for the South Hams Community Awards, designed to celebrate and shine a deserved light on the individuals, groups and organisations who make an outstanding contribution to our South Hams communities.

There are three awards, the Young Persons Award (for under 18s), the Community Champion Award (for over 18s) and the Community Organisation Award. Nominations close on Sunday 31 March 2024 and can be made via the South Hams website.

## **Bathing Water Status - Update**

All four sites proposed by Friends of the Dart, including the one at Stoke Gabriel, have been successful in getting through to consultation. Defra looked for views on whether any of the proposed sites should be added to the list of designated bathing waters.

i submitted a response, and Defra will now review the responses to the consultation before a final ministerial decision is made on whether any site should be designated as bathing water.



## Street Cleansing - Update

Your three District Councillors have been putting pressure on the Waste Team to improve how the council deals with the issues of litter and detritus we see everyday. Luke Rees, the Localities Case Manager, tells us that the Waste Team are currently undertaking a review of street cleansing; when that has been completed they should then be able to set expectations regarding sweeping for residents, towns and parishes more clearly.

At this time, some of the mechanical sweepers are older pieces of equipment that have been spending increased time out of action for maintenance and repairs; he tells us this review will also look at the forward fleet plan for this essential equipment and I have made it clear Stoke Gabriel should be included in any routes they plan.

In the meantime, to help ensure that the areas in need of attention are being targeted, please use the South Hams District Council reporting systems, either by calling the Customer Service Team on 01803 861234 or reporting issues online at:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/environment-and-nuisance/report-problem-our-streets>

This will help the Waste Team to ensure that the right resource is sent to the right location to resolve the issues.

## Village Halls and Community Buildings Small Grants Fund

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) has released details about a funding opportunity for Village Halls and Community Buildings. Grants of between £2,000 and £5,000 are intended to support smaller capital projects such as boiler replacements, insulation, toilet upgrades and new kitchens.

Awards can be made to cover 20% of eligible project costs, up to a maximum amount of £5,000. For more information, FAQ's and how to apply, please visit [www.acre.org.uk](http://www.acre.org.uk)

You can also contact one of DCT's Village Halls and Community Buildings team on [info@devoncommunities.org.uk](mailto:info@devoncommunities.org.uk)

## Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal

At full Council, we voted to respond to the consultation that any decision made on the proposed Devon and Torbay Combined Authority and Devolution Deal is postponed until after the next General Election and the 2025 Country Council elections.

## Police and Crime Commissioner Elections

The election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall takes place on Thursday 2 May. Residents have until Tuesday 16 April to register to vote, and they must also make sure they have the correct form of ID to vote.


