

District Councillors' Report to UPC (Cllr Victor Abbott and Cllr Alison Dewynter)
15 February 2024

Feedback on Issues Raised by the PC for action by District Councillors:

A. Dog Warden

A dog patrol was carried out in Ugborough in January in response to reports of dog fouling but no evidence of fouling was seen. Localities have said that specific details of the areas affected would be required to enable more targeted future patrols. Please let your District or Parish Councillor know the location of any fouling so that this information can be fed back to SHDC.

News from South Hams DC of note to Ugborough PC:

1. South Hams Housing Offer

The South Hams Housing Offer is available to help communities deliver more affordable homes in their area by supporting established groups and offering assistance to new groups wanting to set up community housing organisations.

More at this website: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/south-hams-housing-offer>

2. Changes to the way you can vote in the UK

Voters can now apply online to vote by post or by proxy.

Voters' identities will be checked as part of the application process. Both online and paper applications will need ID verification (except for emergency proxy votes)

There is now a limit to the amount of people voters can be proxy for. They can act as a proxy for two people.

If they vote on behalf of UK voters who live overseas, they can act as a proxy for up to four people (but only two of those can live in the UK)

Find out more on the [Electoral Commission website](#)

3. Garden Waste Service

South Hams residents can sign up to or renew their garden waste collection subscription from 15 February 2024. The cost is going up this year but there is a lower fee for those who sign up before 31 March 2024. The fee of £52 (for those who sign up between 15 Feb and 31 March 2024) or £55 (for those who sign up after 31 March 2024), will cover collection of one brown wheelie bin. There is a maximum of two subscriptions per household.

Sign up here www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Or call 01803 861234.

4. Learn Devon Courses

[Learn Devon](#) have a range of free courses to choose from to help residents build on their digital skills. The courses range from accessing digital banking, connecting with loved ones on-line to accessing job and training opportunities.

Free courses can be [found here](#).

5. Composting Pilots run by Sustainable South Hams

The briefing document at Appendix A provides a short summary of composting pilots being run by Sustainable South Hams and includes links to a sign up form so that communities can become involved. All of the hyperlinks go to the same form, which might be an error. If in doubt, enquire at the email address at the bottom of the appendix.

6. Climate Change and Biodiversity Locality Fund

The Climate Change and Biodiversity Locality fund is now open for business and can be accessed by the link below.

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/communities/community-grants-and-funding/climate-change-and-biodiversity-locality-fund>

7. Working Together to Support Biodiversity

[South Devon National Landscape](#) has received over £2m from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for an exciting project 'Life on the Edge' focussed along the South Devon coast. This project will aim to help restore the population of some of the UK's rarest insects. More information at this link:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/news/2024/working-together-support-biodiversity>

8. Support for Care Leavers

SHDC Executive have agreed a new policy to support the employment of care leavers. Please read the full [press release](#).

If you know of a business or organisation who would like to support a care leaver, whether that be through employment, work experience or apprenticeships, please could you ask them to email hr@swdevon.gov.uk?

People enter care through no fault of their own and subsequently have a start in life that can leave them at a disadvantage compared to those from stable family backgrounds. Please support this initiative where you can.

ANNEX A
to District Councillors' Report to UPC
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Compost Pilots - Briefing Notes for SHDC Councillors Jan 2024

With the support of South Hams District Council, Sustainable South Hams is conducting a series of compost pilots in the region. The pilots are starting at a small scale in a few locations, but if successful, will be rolled out more widely.

Composting provides a valuable and easy way to reduce carbon emissions, increase soil fertility and encourage community engagement in climate and nature action.

The objectives of the pilot programme are:

- To increase the knowledge and support for community composting schemes.
- To put redundant brown bins to good use
- To inspire and inform residents about home composting
- To explore ways to offer street level composting of food waste

SusSH is supporting the establishment of a community composting facility at Marldon. Lessons learnt about the “barriers to entry” will be documented in fact sheets by end April 2024 and will be available for any community wishing to replicate the project.

To receive fact sheets, register [here](#)

Community compost training course 27/28th April South Brent.

In depth course led by Nicky Scott & Ben Bryant. Suitable for all communities interested in community composting.

SusSH will be demonstrating the best methods for repurposing redundant brown bins to a) Wormeries, b) Rainwater butts and c) Compost bins.

This knowledge will be shared at a course. All attendees will leave the course with the knowledge and equipment necessary to convert brown bins in their own communities.

To nominate a community composting champion to attend the course or to express interest, [register here](#)

Train the Trainer Course. Venue tbc Sat 23rd March and/ or Sun 5th May

To nominate Trainers who will be prepared to share the knowledge in their communities, please [register here](#).

Public Engagement Programme for Home composting

SusSH has developed a popup roadshow, suitable for events, which engages and informs the public about household composting.

To express interest for your community, please [register here](#)

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SusSH is working with Sustainable South Brent to create a “Home composting demo site” displaying various composting methods. If successful this could be offered to other communities.

To express interest for your community, please [register here](#)

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Food Waste Compost Club

SusSH is working with one or two sites to trial food waste Compost Clubs, either:

- a. Neighbour / Street Level or
- b. Small businesses Commercial waste

If you know of a site or community that would like to be involved with the trial, please [register here](#)

If any community would like to register interest in any of the above pilots, [register here](#).

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