

## District Councillors' Report to UPC – Alison Dewynter and Victor Abbott November 2024

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

#### **A. Barking dogs in Ugborough village**

I contacted SHDC EH department to see if a consolidated diary could be submitted by all affected residents rather than one diary each, as a way of reducing the burden on each individual resident. They said that this wasn't possible but provided more information on the process of reporting noise nuisance. I wrote each resident that had contacted me a letter explaining the rationale for the reporting and monitoring process and delivered this to their house, along with a copy of the noise information pack.

### News from South Hams DC of note to Ugborough PC:

#### **1. Increase in Parking Charges within South Hams**

SHDC have a budget deficit for two main reasons. First, Fusion are not able to make the payments they were contracted to make and secondly, the waste service is costing more than expected. The latter is expecting to improve, and other in house savings are being implemented but there will still be a significant gap in the budget. SHDC have not increased parking charges in the district since 2021, which now equates to a loss of 26% if inflation to date is taken into account. Parking charges in SHDC are some of the lowest in the SW of England. Hence an increase in parking charges has been proposed. The detail of this has yet to be agreed. It will be debated and voted on at SHDC Full Council in February 2025. A two tier system has been proposed in which residents are eligible for a discount on the full parking fare. Sign-boards will advertise the full fare but by registering either with Ringo or directly with SHDC, residents can nominate two vehicles per household that will be eligible for a reduced rate. This will still be higher than current costs. Another proposal is that car parks will be divided into Zone 1 and Zone 2. Zone 1 will be the high footfall car parks in highly tourist areas. Ivybridge will fall into Zone 2 and parking charges in Zone 2 will be lower than in Zone 1. Without this measure, an alternative would be an increase in precepts, or for services such as the leisure centres to shut. Town Councils have been asked to comment on the proposals and their preferred option for closing the budget gap.

#### **2. Dartmoor National Park LCWIP**

Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) has been awarded funding from Active Travel England to develop a Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

This will be similar to the LCWIP being completed by SHDC, but with a greater focus on leisure trips given the rural populations and the high visitor numbers to the national park.

DNPA want to hear about the new active travel routes or ideas you would like to see developed, and any existing active travel routes that need improvement.



You can [learn more about the project and submit comments via this link](#).

We would be grateful if you could share this link and invite others to comment too.

### 3. PASD Freeport Unlocking Growth event

The Plymouth and South Devon Freeport is holding an event for businesses later this month to explore the opportunities, incentives and support that PASD Freeport could offer.

The Unlocking Growth event takes place at Holne Park House (at the River Dart Country Park estate near Ashburton) on Wednesday 20 November from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Among the businesses being targeted for the event are those directly operating - or as part of the wider supply chain - in the marine, defence, space, advanced manufacturing, engineering or net zero tech sectors.

At the event, attendees will:

- i. Learn how the Freeport can help them reduce costs, boost competitiveness and access new markets.
- ii. Gain insights into tax benefits and savings, customs opportunities, and prime locations for investment and trade. With the tax benefits and reliefs now available to eligible businesses up to and including 30 September 2031, eligible businesses locating in the Freeport can be in receipt of reliefs into the mid-2030s.
- iii. Network with other businesses and explore collaboration possibilities.
- iv. Businesses wanting to attend can [register online](#).

