

**District Councillors' Report to UPC – Alison Dewynter and Victor Abbott
February 2025**

News from South Hams DC of note to PC and residents:

1. Garden waste service

Anyone living in the district can now sign up for a garden waste subscription for 2025/26.

If you sign up before 31 March 2025, you'll pay a lower "early bird" fee of £65 for a year-long subscription running from 1 April 2025 that covers collections for one brown wheelie bin. If you sign up after 31 March, the service will cost £68.

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.

The price for the year-long subscription has risen from last year; this is to continue covering the cost of waste services.

The quickest and easiest way to sign up is on the SHDC website: www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste - the website is also full of information on the service.

If you're already a subscriber to the garden waste service, there will be no changes to your service if you renew your subscription by 1 April, and you can continue to use your brown bin with no interruptions.

Those who decide not to sign up for the service can still take their garden waste to all three recycling centres in the South Hams. Full details, including opening hours, are available online here:

www.devon.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/centre/

Alternatively, people can find out more on home composting possibilities here: www.recycledevon.org/in-the-garden/how-to-compost

2. Avian Influenza – Bird flu

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) has been declared for the whole of England.

This means that people who keep birds must, by law, follow strict biosecurity rules to prevent the spread of bird flu.

Biosecurity measures include for example;

- Placing bird food and water under cover to prevent contamination from wild birds
- Changing or disinfecting footwear when entering the enclosure to prevent any contamination.
- Washing hands before and after tending to birds

Bird species such as parrots and budgies that are kept entirely indoors are excluded from the order, but people who keep poultry are, regardless of how many birds they keep, included. Since 2022, one in five bird flu cases were in poultry kept in the garden as pets.



Finally, it is important that if you find a wild dead bird to not touch it, but to report it to DEFRA. They test the bird to track the extent of any bird flu outbreak. You can report to DEFRA [via this link](#) or by telephoning them on 03459 33 55 77.

3. Half Term Activities at Fusion

- a. Ivybridge Leisure Centre 01752 896999** – <https://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/ivybridge-leisure-centre/activities/all/ivybridge>

In the sports hall we will have the big bouncy fun sessions, crash swimming courses, gym rebels sessions and lots of family swim sessions with floats in the pool.

- b. Totnes Leisure Centre 01803 862992** - <https://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/totnes-leisure-centre/activities/all/>

Totnes have warm spaces, as well as extra gym rebel sessions and fun and float sessions.

4. SHDC's Response to the Local Government Finance Settlement

Please find attached a copy of the Council's consultation response to the Local Government Finance Settlement.

[Click here to download a copy.](#)

We have made the point that we strongly oppose the decision taken by ministers to cut the funding for rural authorities.

In particular, the decision to abolish the Rural Services Delivery Grant (RSDG) without any engagement or consultation with the affected authorities has been very disappointing.