

SHDC Councillors' Report to UPC - Sep 2025

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

A. Sale of Churchill Cottages

Alison Dewynter is still chasing information on Live West's plans for Churchill Cottages and whether any have been put up for sale and why. Dr Dewynter is liaising with the Housing Team at SHDC.

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

1. The Future of Local Government

There are two main ways that central government is planning to reform local government:

- a. 'Local Government Reorganisation', which involves replacing the current two-tier system of county and district councils with new unitary authorities that serve larger populations. The ideal size of population to be served is 500 000.
- b. Devolution, which involves the transfer of powers and funding from central government to local areas. New regional strategic authorities will be created, each led by an elected Mayor. These authorities will cover areas with populations over 1.5 million in regions of England that do not already have them. Council leaders in Devon have joined forces to call for the creation of a South West Peninsular Mayoral Strategic Authority.

As already stated in reports to this Parish Council, SHDC are seeking feedback from residents on what matters the most to them and the communities they live in. This is so that SHDC can develop a more detailed business case for the final proposed plan for reorganised local government in this region.

Re-organisation events start on 9 September, and residents are urged to engage with the process.

Date & Venue	Link to Booking
09 September – Shaugh Prior Village Hall, Shaugh Prior	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-shaugh-prior-tickets-1540544984519?aff=oddtcreator
16 September – Sparkwell Parish Hall, Sparkwell	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-sparkwell-tickets-1526773985089?aff=oddtcreator
17 September – The Watermark, Ivybridge	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-ivybridge-tickets-1526796672949?aff=oddtcreator
19 September – Yealmpton Community Centre, Great Hall, Yealmpton	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-yealmpton-tickets-1544058302949?aff=oddtcreator

23 September – Newton and Noss Village Hall, Noss Mayo	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-newton-and-noss-tickets-1526801517439?aff=oddtcreator
24 September – The Crooked Spire, Ermington	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-ugborough-ermington-holbeton-tickets-1526811055969?aff=oddtcreator
25 September – The Woolwell Centre, Woolwell	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-woolwell-tickets-1526818177269?aff=oddtcreator
30 September - Rose & Crown, Yealmpton	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-brixton-tickets-1526832911339?aff=oddtcreator
01 October – War Memorial Village Hall, Wembury	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-wembury-and-down-thomas-tickets-1526844365599?aff=oddtcreator
02 October – Kingsbridge Community College, Kingsbridge	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-kingsbridge-tickets-1526850594229?aff=oddtcreator
07 October – Cliff House, Salcombe	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-salcombe-tickets-1526858377509?aff=oddtcreator
08 October – Flavel Centre, Dartmouth	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-dartmouth-tickets-1526887494599?aff=oddtcreator
09 October – Follaton House, Totnes	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shaping-devons-future-engagement-totnes-tickets-1526895949889?aff=oddtcreator

In addition to the above engagement events, daytime drop-in sessions have been arranged. These do not require booking and will be run as one-to-one discussions on the proposals.

- 17 September – Cornwood Drop-In (Public noticeboard opposite Cornwood Inn)
- 19 September – 36 Venn Court, Brixton 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- ****UPDATED VENUE**** 22 September – South Brent Village Hall (side hall). 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- 20 September – Ugborough Village Hall, Ugborough. 10 a.m. to noon
- 22 September – Modbury Memorial Hall, Modbury. 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- 6 October- Sherford Community Hub 12:30 p.m – 2:30 p.m

At this link you can find out more about local government reorganisation, book a place at an event and also take part in the on-line survey:

www.southhams.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation

2. Re-use is as important as Recycling

Recycle Devon has [a whole page full of information on reusing and upcycling](#), including great advice on:

- [Repair cafes and fixing things](#)
- [Upcycling](#)
- [Refill and zero waste shops](#)
- [Loving your clothes](#)

3. Disposal of Lithium Batteries including from Vapes

Lithium batteries have caused fires on waste and recycling vehicles and at SHDC depots when mixed in with general rubbish or recycling. Please take the following types of battery to your recycling centre for disposal.

- a. Rechargeable lithium-ion cells – like those in vapes and e-cigarettes, electric shavers, laptops, mobile phones, or power tool packs
- b. Industrial or high-capacity batteries
- c. Damaged, leaking or corroded batteries of any kind

Common household batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, D and 9V batteries you might use in household appliances, remote controls, clocks and other things around the home can be put in home recycling, use Recycling Box 2.

[Find out more on our website](#)

4. Election – Annual Canvass of residents

The SHDC election team completed their annual election canvas in August. They contacted residents by email or letter to ask them to confirm their details. Replying ensures that they can vote in local and national elections. The email or letter directed residents to a secure page on the SHDC website. If residents can't respond on-line, they can be sent a paper version to return to the SHDC election team.

5. More support for care leavers and vulnerable groups

New funding is available through the Household Support Fund to help residents facing financial pressures.

For example:

- a. Low-income families can get vouchers worth £60–£150 per child to help with uniform and shoes.
- b. Care leavers living in South Hams will receive £500 in July and another £500 in December 2025.
- c. Carers receiving a Council Tax carers discount will receive £150 payments in both July and Decem
- d. An open application scheme will launch later in the year for residents needing urgent help.

6. Help shape plans for Dartmoor National Park

The [Dartmoor National Park Partnership Plan](#) is being reviewed and Dartmoor National Park Authority are asking for help to shape the new plan. Visit [Your Dartmoor](#) to complete a survey and find out more.

7. Postal Vote Renewal

Postal vote applications are now only valid for a maximum of three years, and a new application must be made by 31 Jan of the third year. The quickest and easiest way to reapply for a postal vote is to complete a new application form online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote.

8. Avian Flu

SHDC collects dead birds on public land if they pose a public health concern. Instances of dead birds can be reported through their [website](#) where locations will be triaged as to public health risk.

Reporting dead birds is important for agencies to understand how diseases are spread. You can report any sightings [here](#).

England is in an avian influenza prevention zone (AIPZ) with mandatory biosecurity measures. All bird keepers must follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu.

Further information on the biosecurity measures can be found [on the Gov.UK website](#).

You can read about the [latest situation online here](#).

9. RTS Teleswitch Switch Off

The radio signal that controls RTS electricity meters is in the process of being switched off so if you have an RTS electricity meter, you will need to have it replaced. If your RTS electricity meter is not replaced before the shutdown, it may mean that your heating and hot water supply stops functioning as normal. Your energy supplier will contact you if you have an RTS meter to arrange the installation of a new meter. If your supplier has already contacted you, take action to book the installation of your new meter.

Find out more information on the Ofgem website: www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/replacing-your-radio-teleswitch-electricity-meter