

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

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

**A. Planning permission rules**

After questions about planning enforcement, I asked the planning department about costs. The answer was that if you build something without planning permission and then refuse to put in for planning permission afterwards, the structures will have to be removed (regardless of whether they would actually have been granted planning permission or not). If you agree to put in for retrospective planning permission, you must pay twice the fee that you would have paid had you applied before building.

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

**1. The Future of Local Government**

This continues to dominate the agenda.

Various models have been proposed. SHDC still support the so called 4-5-1 model. The final vote on what SHDC will put forward to government takes place at the Full Council meeting on 28 November 25.

**2. Citizens Advice Autumn Newsletter**

The latest local Citizens Advice newsletter is linked here:

[southhamscab.org.uk/autumn-newsletter/](https://southhamscab.org.uk/autumn-newsletter/)

**3. Report Dog Fouling**

Residents are encouraged to 'bag and bin' their dog waste responsibly because if left, it poses a serious health risk.

Any concerns about dog fouling should be reported via the SHDC website:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/environment-and-nuisance/dogs/dog-fouling>

**4. NHS App**

Residents are encouraged to download the NHS App, which can be used to order repeat prescription and nominate a pharmacy for collection, book GP appointments, and locate nearby NHS services.

**5. Sustainable South Hams Composting Update**

On Saturday 15 Nov, Sustainable South Hams is running a 3-hour training session on setting up a food-scrap composting project in a street or community space.

The workshop will draw on these projects as well as examples from around the UK, to discuss:

- Why composting food scraps as a community is important for local food growing and resilience
- Different models of community food scrap composting, including as a street, in community gardens/ farms/ allotments, and as a micro-business.
- The process of composting food scraps – getting the balance of air and water.

- The site, equipment, set-up logistics, legislation, costs and funding, risk assessments.
- Frequently asked questions, including how to set up a group, managing the system, hygiene.

There will be a combination of talks, discussion and looking at/ trying out different food scrap composting systems.

Who is this for?

- Anyone who is interested in building local resilience, support local food growing and bringing the community together in practical activities.
- Members of allotment groups, community gardens, Transition Streets, groups of neighbours, or community venues who would like to see local food scrap composting
- Parish, or district councilors who would like to support actions to build community and resilience.

Refreshments will be provided, and participants are welcome to bring a packed lunch and stay on for lunch at the end of the session. The site is accessible by wheelchairs, although the ground is uneven in parts. Please get in touch with Mel to discuss any access requirements - [mel@sussh.org](mailto:mel@sussh.org)

Find out more and book your place here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-set-up-a-food-compost-creation-station-tickets-1632067932119?aff=oddtcreator>