

District Councillors' Report to UPC – Alison Dewynter and Victor Abbott May 2026

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

- A. Concerns were raised by residents about a hedge, fence panels and general rubbish at the back of Bittaford Car Sales that are threatening to fall into Ugborough Road. Unfortunately, despite pleas by both District and Parish Councillors to various bodies, including Highways (at Devon County Council), Devon Building Control and South Ham District Council Environmental Health as well as to the owners of the garage itself, no one has been able to take responsibility for removing the items of concern.

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

1. Fusion Lifestyle and SHDC Leisure Centres

From Monday 1 June, Parkwood Leisure via Active Communities Together, will formally be running the leisure centres across South Hams on behalf of the councils.

SHDC have updated their website with standalone FAQs from Parkwood along with letters that are being sent to all members and customers.

Residents can [find the information here](#).

2. Bank Holiday Changes to Waste Collection

Bank Holidays will affect waste collections: [Click here to find out more](#).

3. Guided Tour of Local Community Energy Projects

Residents can join a guided tour of local community energy projects on Thursday 11 June. The tour visits sites including Totnes Wier Hydro and Ernesettle Solar Farm in Plymouth.

Register for free [here](#) or by contacting matthew.ahluwalia@ashden.org.

4. Renter's Rights Act Came into Effect on 1 May 26

The Act brings in new rights and responsibilities across the private rented sector designed to create more security and fairness for tenants, while setting out clear expectations for landlords. [Click here to find out more](#).

5. A special community screening of "The People's Emergency Briefing".

Residents can join our Principal Climate Change Officer, Adam Williams, and Sustainable South Hams for a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing at Ivybridge Watermark on 27 May from 7 p.m. (for a 7:30 p.m. start).

This important film covers key issues facing us all, including:



Extreme weather



Food security



Health



Cost of living

The film is based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster (featured by ITV, Channel 4 and The Times) with appearances from Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, and a range of voices from across the UK.

After the film, there will be a short open discussion about what it means for our community and what we can do locally.

6. Let's Talk Sessions on Teenagers

Residents can sign up for sessions to hear about the challenges young people face and how they can make a difference to their lives.

- Session 1 - Tuesday 5 May at 7 p.m. – A reintroduction to your teenager - [Click here to book](#)
- Session 2 – Tuesday 12 May at 7 p.m. – Community Risks - [Click here to book](#)
- Session 3 – Tuesday 17 May at 7 p.m. – Family life - [Click here to book](#)

7. Delivering More Temporary Accommodation to help tackle homelessness

SHDC have added nine flats in Kingsbridge to their growing stock of temporary accommodation. The council finished extensive renovation work to the Westville Flats after buying them two years ago, and the first occupants have now moved in. The properties can accommodate a mixture of single people, couples and families, and there is also space for a Housing Officer who will provide support for people staying in the flats.

This project has been funded in partnership with Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority.

Housing is a key priority for South Hams District Council which is working hard to improve the area's housing crisis, including keeping homes warm, supporting community-led housing schemes, and investing in more council homes.

- [Find out more here.](#)