

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

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

- A. A resident living near the Bloor Estate in Filham Chase, raised the point that there is still some Heras fencing on the site. I approached Bloor who explained that planned planting and landscaping work has been delayed but that this will commence as soon as the hot, dry weather abates. Once done, the land will be handed to the Management Company and the fencing removed.

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

1. Call for Sites

As part of the Joint Local Plan, SHDC are running a Call for Sites and inviting landowners, developers, agents and others to submit land for consideration. Sites could be for housing, jobs, gypsy and traveller provision, or larger opportunities such as new settlements or communities. The Call for Sites is open from until 24 September 2026. Sites already provided do not need to be resubmitted.

The link to submit a site is [here](#).

2. Fly Tipping CCTV cameras

SHDC is deploying temporary surveillance cameras at known fly-tipping locations. These will help to identify those responsible for illegally dumping waste.

Anyone caught fly tipping could face enforcement action, including Fixed Penalty Notices, prosecution, and substantial fines.

All surveillance will be deployed in accordance with data protection legislation and footage will only be used for legitimate enforcement purposes.

Household waste can be disposed of responsibly through local recycling centres, authorised waste carriers, or council collection services.

Anyone using a private waste contractor should ensure that they are properly licensed, as householders may still be held responsible if their waste is fly-tipped.

- Read more [here](#).

3. Free Adult Education Opportunities across Devon

- Learn Devon's adult education programme has around 200 opportunities to develop skills for work and progress careers.
- The programme includes courses in English, Maths, Digital Skills, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), and Skills and Development, supporting learners to gain qualifications and build confidence for employment.

- These curriculum areas are designed to meet local workforce needs and support progression into jobs, further training or career change.
- Courses are starting throughout August and September.
- Online and face-to-face options available.
- Small class sizes and friendly tutor.
- Find out more [here](#).

4. Reduce the Risk of Wildfires

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has issued advice on reducing wildfire risk, which would be useful to share with residents—particularly if hot conditions continue in the coming weeks.

- Most wildfires in the UK are caused by human activity.
- Every year, wildfires destroy large areas of countryside and wildlife habitats, causing long-lasting damage to the environment.
- Wildfires can spread quickly and threaten homes and infrastructure, particularly during warm, dry weather. As the weather warms up, the risk of wildfires can rise.
- Do not light fires in the countryside or other open spaces, including parks, moorland and wooded areas.
- If you spot a wildfire then move to a safe location away from the fire.
- Call 999 immediately and do not assume someone else has already reported it.
- More information can be found [here](#).

5. Crisis and Resilience Fund

The Crisis and Resilience Fund is for residents who may be struggling financially.

The fund is designed to support low-income households in the South Hams who are facing an unexpected financial shock, such as a sudden loss of income, the breakdown of an essential household item, or another urgent cost they cannot afford.

The fund can also provide housing support, financial advice and wider services to help people avoid future crises and build longer-term resilience.

Residents must be aged 16 or over and live in the South Hams as their main home.

Residents in need of support, should check the eligibility criteria and apply online using this link southhams.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/other-available-support/crisis-and-resilience-fund

The team understands that not all residents are able to complete online applications and can provide support by telephone and, longer term, hope to develop a face-to-face offering.

6. Stay Safe Around Water This Summer

Follow the RNLI's lifesaving Float to Live advice. Even when the weather feels warm, the water around the UK stays cold enough to cause cold water shock, which can affect breathing and lead to panic within seconds.

If you find yourself in difficult in the water – Float to Live

- Tilt your head back and keep your ears in the water
- Relax and try to control your breathing
- Use your hands and legs gently to help you stay afloat
- It's okay if your legs sink – everyone floats differently
- Once you are calm, call for help or swim to safety
- If you see someone in trouble in the water, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

7. Volunteer Drivers

Volunteer drivers are needed to support community transport schemes across Devon.

Anyone aged 21 or over with a full driving licence, at least two years' driving experience and access to a vehicle can volunteer, with no minimum commitment and mileage reimbursed. Volunteer drivers help residents get to medical appointments, shopping trips and social activities, with 106,561 journeys provided last year.

Members are encouraged to share the opportunity in their wards and community networks.

To find out more, visit [the Devon Communities Together website.](#)