South Hams District Council Report to Ugborough Parish Council

9th September – 14th October 2026

Flu vaccine programme rolls out to all those eligible

There is an opportunity for many to have the flu jab. You may not have had the flu for many years (thank goodness for inoculations) but it is extremely debilitating. You can find information on eligibility at https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/08/27/your-guide-to-whos-eligible-for-the-autumn-2026-flu-vaccine/

Saxon Gate

The street name plates have been erected. I have met with a Wain Homes representative and some residents on site on the flooding issue between Saxon Gate and Elizabeth Way (ITC), which is being addressed, at least in part. There are ongoing discussions about a bat corridor.

Repeated Call for Sites

As part of the preparation for a new Joint Local Plan, SHDC want to hear from anyone who may have land that may be suitable for future developments. SHDC have now contacted all Town and Parish Councils in the District to request their support to identify land that could potentially be used for housing, Gypsy & Traveller sites, employment, retail and leisure, renewable energy, or nature and biodiversity.

- If you know of any Landowners who have sites then please encourage them to get in touch.
- Proposals should be submitted by Friday 13 November 2026 using the Placemaker platform at https://cfs.plymouth-swdevon.urbanintelligence.co.uk/events
- Sites already put forward do not need to be resubmitted.

This is an extended deadline to allow for proposals to be prepared following the Government's announcement of the pause and review of Local Government Reorganisation.

New Planning Laws

Under new planning legislation which came into force this October, cases will only be able to be called to the District Planning Committee in the most significant instances, with the vast majority required to be decided by the case officer, with no committee input.

There is no change regarding the role of the Parish Council planning committee on hearing residents and debating cases. The Parish Council Planning Committee sessions are more important than ever.

Heritage at Risk

The Heritage Team is working on a Heritage at Risk Register. This will identify and collate a list of Listed Buildings that are at risk due to their condition or by being empty. It will also highlight the need for urgent action and inform enforcement where relevant.

Residents are welcome to suggest a building for the Heritage Team to survey at this link - https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Y5q8GnjWWEedGbhlwuDPScgkomq_etZMnX5kn_9sE7JUREE3NVpQMUVZTk9YSDJBUjkwR1FKOTRMQy4u .

Note this is for buildings that are already listed. Confirmation of listing can be checked using the Historic England website: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/map-search/

Junior LifeSkills in October

The initiative, aimed at equipping young people with essential life skills is organised with local schools. Aimed at Year 6 pupils, the children gain practical knowledge and skills that will help them safely navigate various real-life situations. The events are part of our priority to enhance the wellbeing of communities across the District. Two sessions will be held in Ivybridge, on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October in the leisure centre.

Council and Citizens Advice team up on money support

We are working with Citizens Advice South Hams on a new Autumn campaign to encourage residents to ask for help before money worries become a crisis. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the help available as many households face financial uncertainty.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund supports low-income households facing unexpected financial shocks, such as a sudden loss of income, an urgent essential cost, or a broken household item like a fridge or cooker. SHDC can also offer Crisis and Resilience Fund Housing Payments to people receiving Housing Benefit or the Housing Costs Element of Universal Credit who are struggling with housing related expenses. Residents can also get support to improve their longer-term finances, including checks for eligibility of benefit, help to manage Council Tax arrears with affordable repayment plans, and referrals to specialist partners for debt, energy, housing or budgeting advice.

SHDC has provided funding for two additional Citizens Advice South Hams' case workers to strengthen outreach support across the district, helping more people access advice closer to home.

CCTV and Fly tipping

CCTV cameras proving a success in fighting fly-tipping

- The project has been hugely successful so far, catching seven fly-tippers in the act – as well as an incident of arson and five incidents of littering.
- Their use will support our enforcement activity and help identify those responsible for illegally dumping waste.
- The Council will take all possible action against those caught fly tipping, including Fixed Penalty Notice on-the-spot fines up to £5,000, or taking those identified to court, which could lead to an unlimited fine.

We're also reminding our residents that 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.

Work elsewhere, should you be travelling in the District –

Torcross

Due to the sea defence work at Torcross next month - there will be frequent HGV movements, marine deliveries, and potentially 24/7 working aligned with tidal conditions to maximise efficiency and reduce programme duration. Due to a single road access route and constrained site conditions, some disruption to residents, businesses, and local traffic is unavoidable.

Dartmouth Lower Ferry

There is planned maintenance for the Dartmouth Lower Ferry this autumn. From Thursday 29 October until Sunday 13 December, the Hauley VI tugboat and Tom Avis float will have their annual refits and Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) inspections. Therefore, the Lower Ferry will run with one ferry during this time.

Consultations –

Registered taxi fares

Hackney Carriage taxi consultation: Residents, businesses, visitors and members of the taxi trade are being invited to have their say on proposed changes to Hackney Carriage taxi fares across South Hams.

- Fares set by the Council are maximum fares that can be charged by Hackney Carriage vehicles. Drivers are permitted to charge less than the approved maximum tariff but cannot charge more. Taxi fare reviews help ensure that fares remain fair and balanced, taking into account factors such as rising operating costs, fuel prices, vehicle maintenance, insurance, licensing requirements and wider economic changes.
- The aim is to support a sustainable taxi service for both passengers and drivers while ensuring fares remain reasonable for those who rely on taxis for work, healthcare, shopping and leisure activities.
- The consultation seeks views from all interested parties, including taxi users, residents, local businesses, visitors, parish and town councils, community groups and licensed drivers and operators. Feedback received during the consultation period will be considered before a final decision is made on whether to introduce the proposed fare changes.
- The consultation closes on 22 October.

Proposed Animal Licensing Policy

The Council has launched a public consultation on a proposed Animal Licensing Policy and is inviting feedback from residents, businesses, licence holders and other interested parties. While there is no statutory requirement to have an Animal Licensing Policy, the proposed document aims to provide a clear, consistent and transparent framework for how the Council administers and enforces its animal licensing functions.

It also aims to promote high standards of animal welfare and provide clarity for applicants and licence holders. The policy covers a range of animal licensing regimes, including: animal boarding establishments, dog breeding, selling animals as pets, hiring out horses, keeping or training animals for exhibition, zoos, Dangerous Wild Animals licences, and primate licences.

The consultation provides an opportunity for stakeholders to review the draft policy and share their views before it is considered for adoption. The consultation is open until 30 October 2026. Details: https://www.southhams.gov.uk/news/2026/have-your-say-our-proposed-animal-licensing-policy

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