

## FULL COUNCIL

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

### UPDATES AND INFORMATION

#### Councillor updates, conferences and events

Cllr Dredge - Devon and Cornwall Police Councillor Advocate Meeting South Hams – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Cllr Dredge - GWR stakeholder meeting – address by the CEO – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Cllr Dredge - DALC Board Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

#### General Information

##### **South Hams CVS**

Attached is an update report on the activity of South Hams CVS. This Council supports the role of Ivybridge Community Connector by providing a grant to SHCVS.

##### **Christmas Day**

A group of community-minded volunteers and the Town Council team coordinated an opportunity for those that would otherwise be alone at Christmas to come together on Christmas Day.

As well as Christmas carols from the Ivybridge Salvation Army, a festive food spread was put on in The Watermark by volunteers who gave up their own Christmas day to spend time with others.

For those that weren't able to attend, the Town Council team coordinated volunteers to deliver gift bags packed with festive food treats to those at home, and even included a cracker so the volunteer could share a bit of festive fun on the doorstep.

This would not have been possible without the support of over 25 volunteers, they all deserve a huge thanks for what they did to bring joy to others. Thanks also go to the Mayor Cllr Sara Hladkij, Cllr Ray Wilson and SHDC Cllr Louise Jones and their families who also helped out on the day.

Over 60 residents benefited from the activity, most otherwise may not have seen anyone on Christmas Day.

The food and hampers were funded with generous support from Cllr Karen Pringle and the Sustainable Communities Fund and a kind donation from the Erme Lodge Freemasons. Other donations were received in kind from R D Johns Foodservice, MJ

Baker Foodservice Ltd, Caterfood SW LTD, the Co-op Ivybridge and Diamond Disposables. The Town Council staff time was provided to coordinate in advance, and The Watermark was used to host the event.

It is anticipated that the event will need to continue to evolve and so planning will need to start earlier this year to ensure volunteer coordinators are available, a detailed plan for the day is put in place to ensure The Watermark is left in an operational condition for staff returning after Christmas, and potential attendees are aware of the event and what it will consist of.

## **Active Travel**

SHDC have achieved funding to produce a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This will have planning implications and help with securing S106 monies to deliver schemes. However, the tender process for the contractor to produce the plan is not complete and it will take up to 2024 to be fully implemented. By which time most town development will have gained consent or been completed.

PL:21, Sustrans and Graham Wilson have worked tirelessly to create the Ivybridge Street Design Study, which is essentially a LCWIP for the town (<https://pl21.weebly.com/active-travel.html>). Sadly, DCC and SHDC say that they are unable to adopt this.

Graham Wilson has successfully gained the support of Sir Gary Streeter in this matter and a meeting was held in December at which this point was raised. Another meeting is due soon, chaired by Sir Gary, to enable DCC to come back to the group with some more background on what can and cannot be done.

## **Town Plan**

The Town Clerk met with officers from South Hams District Council including a new officer who will support the five towns in creating a 'Town Plan'.

This is part of SHDC's Better Lives for All policy (page 30 - <https://southhams.gov.uk/article/8246/Better-Lives-for-All>). However despite the thematic plan (<https://southhams.gov.uk/article/8247/Thematic-Delivery-Plan>) stating work would have started in 2021, and by early 2023 be at the point of reviewing the first plans, SHDC have marked themselves as 'On Track' (<https://southhams.gov.uk/article/9206/Thriving-Economy>) despite the Town Plans officer only starting work this week and no discussion, criteria, scope or support having been offered to any of the five Town Councils in developing a plan to date.

However, the meeting with the officers was extremely positive and constructive and offers an exciting opportunity for town stakeholders to get involved in developing a plan to compliment the Neighbourhood Plan. The plan will be a strategic one of smaller projects that would enhance the town as a place to live, work and enjoy. These would be

ready then to put into funding bids of funded by the town or district when possible. Projects for example could include public realm, transport, economy and tourism. Ivybridge will be the pilot town and the officers are keen to get underway as soon as possible.

Jonathan Parsons  
Town Clerk

## Town Hall

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 December 2022 13:14  
**To:** townhall@ivybridge.gov.uk  
**Subject:** South Hams CVS  
**Attachments:** SOUTH HAMS CVS narrative.pdf

Dear South Hams Parish & Town Councillors

I am writing to share with you the South Hams Community and Voluntary Services (SHCVS) Impact Report for the year 2021/22 (a more detailed version is available on request), which we hope you will find of interest, and to ask if your Parish / Town Council would consider providing a donation to SHCVS to support its services in 2023.

As a charity, we rely on funding to enable us to work with your community organisations and to help groups with advice on governance, funding and volunteering. We provide training, online forums and networking opportunities, and promote volunteering across the district. Our services enable people and communities to help themselves, through their organisations and the activities they provide. We also support individuals – signposting them to services and volunteering opportunities – or to turn community ideas into beneficial projects and groups.

Throughout the Covid pandemic SHCVS continued to provide this wide-ranging and highly-valued support. Currently, we are working to help groups deliver services around the cost of living crisis – not just disseminating information, but also targeting our support to work with communities on their projects. The cost of living crisis has also impacted our funding at a time when our services are really needed by new and existing community support groups. We would like to do more to help support your communities and groups in many other key areas of need, for example those identified by our social prescribers, who work with your GP practices, which include volunteering (particularly post-Covid), transport to social activities and befriending for our lonely and vulnerable residents. Also, those identified by Cluna, our community connector who works with many groups in Ivybridge.

In 2018 South Hams district had 790 voluntary community and social enterprise organisations, and we estimate there to be around 8,000 recognised volunteers in the South Hams, a substantial number of people on which so many crucial services depend. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like any further information about our work, and you can also find information on our website [www.southhamscvs.org.uk](http://www.southhamscvs.org.uk).

Many of you have enabled our work to continue through regular donations, and we thank you warmly for the support provided. This is an essential source of funding to SHCVS. We would like to do more to support your local community groups and we hope very much that your Parish /Town Council might be able to consider making a contribution to help our valuable work in 2023.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself, Susannah Hunter, the new CO of SHCVS – email: [REDACTED] – or my colleague Jackie Wesley, our new Community Groups Development Officer – [communitydevelopment@southhamscvs.org.uk](mailto:communitydevelopment@southhamscvs.org.uk) – for any information or advice.

Yours sincerely

Susannah Hunter  
Chief Officer

**South Hams CVS – supporting community groups, charities and voluntary organisations to flourish.**

E: [REDACTED]  
W: [www.southhamscvs.org.uk](http://www.southhamscvs.org.uk)



#### DIARY DATES

**Supporting health and social care:** *not for profit & statutory organisations are invited to attend:*

**Erme & Yealm Area Caring Alliance meetings 10am – 12.30pm (Face to face or Zoom)**

Tuesday 13 December

**Kingsbridge and District Caring Alliance meetings 10am - 12.30pm – (Zoom)**

Wednesday 14 December

<https://devonconnect.org/south-hams-and-west-devon>

*Your community hub for South Hams and West Devon. Here you can make connections, share information and access opportunities within your local community.*



## Our work during 2021-22

As with the previous year, April 2021 to March 2022 was dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic and its repercussions.

Like other community and voluntary groups across the South Hams district, SHCVS has had to respond to the changing environment, helping groups to find ways of adapting to local needs, so they are able to help more people, especially the most vulnerable and isolated.

While responding to the changes, we have maintained our core services. These ongoing pressures have made our services more important than ever.

We have worked with many individuals and partners to help support new initiatives, including:

- Support to establish a climate and biodiversity networking group which became Sustainable South Hams and has become a vibrant community support network.
- Support to South Dartmoor Community Energy – Redress project to reach more people.
- The development of home help and hospital discharge support services.
- Work with Devon Partnership Trust to establish monthly drop-ins supporting VCSE organisations and others supporting people with mental health issues.

More information on our work is shown on the next page.

**Throughout the pandemic and with the ongoing cost of living crisis, SHCVS has continued to be a voice for the voluntary and community sector to engage with and influence the work of our public sector partners.**

South Hams Community and Voluntary Services (SHCVS) is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. It was established in 1995 as a membership organisation.

For over 25 years we have been working to serve voluntary and community organisations—of which there are around 800 in the South Hams.

In early 2021, SHCVS developed a new Strategic Plan for 2021-2024, which provides the overarching framework to guide our work. This plan has been informed by the views of the groups we support and draws on the findings of a 2021 survey of South Hams voluntary and community groups.

Find this and more information at [southhamscvs.org.uk](https://southhamscvs.org.uk).



“ South Hams CVS played a key role in advising and supporting the unique project of Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm. Building on that success, it continues to support and advise the Four Rivers Dementia Alliance, promoting inclusive dementia-friendly communities across the parishes around Ivybridge and with Ivybridge Town Council. ”

Liz Hitchins, Chairman, Four Rivers Dementia Alliance and Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm. Brixton Parish Councillor.

# Highlights of our work during 2021-22

40

We provided more than 40 voluntary and community social enterprise (VCSE) organisations with one-to-one development support and advice.

More than 150 people were supported to access community resources by SHCVS Social Prescribing link workers.

150

122

We held 12 training events with 122 people attending, benefitting more than 60 VCSE organisations.

Support was provided to VCSE organisations to recruit and support volunteers. More than 35 VCSE organisations received one-to-one support in promoting their volunteering opportunities.

35

150

Over 150 VCSE organisations received regular bulletins, updates and newsletters providing information, including through resources on the Devon Voluntary Action (DeVA) website.

More than 60 organisations benefitted from SHCVS networking opportunities.

60



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