

South Hams District Council Report to Ivybridge Town Council

12th March – 9th April 2024

A short report this time, with the end of the Council year, Easter break and preparations for the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall on Thursday 2nd May 2024. We will be back to full steam ahead continuing to implement Council plans in May.

Bigbury car park change of ownership

The Council have occupied and operated Bigbury-on-Sea car park for many years, at least since 1997.

The landlord has sought a significant rental increase, which would have resulted in the Council operating the car park and toilets at a significant loss of which the Council has a fiduciary duty not to do so.

The Council has therefore surrendered its interest in both the car park and toilet leases, as of Sunday 24 March.

The good news is that the landlord has entered an agreement as of Monday 25 March with a private operator who will continue to take on the full management of both the car park and toilets which mean for visitors to the Bigbury-on-Sea car park, the current parking and public toilets will remain available for use.

Advice for postal voters

For residents voting by post in any of the upcoming elections, there are some changes to be aware of:

- Voters need to reapply for a postal vote every three years
- Voters can now only hand in their own postal vote, and those of up to five others
- Voters now to prove their identity as part of the application process. Both online and paper applications require ID verification

More information can be found on the Electoral Commission website -

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/news-and-views/elections-act/changes-postal-voting>

Free energy retrofitting guide for residents

Almost 25% of Devon's greenhouse gas emission come from homes. Retrofitting homes is vital to reducing carbon emissions.

Partners Energy Saving Devon have launched a free retrofit guide.

Residents can find out how to retrofit their homes with energy efficient methods. The guide will help residents reduce their bills, create a comfortable, healthy home and lower carbon emissions.

<https://www.energysavingdevon.org.uk/document/devon-retrofit-guide/>