

**15. Correspondence.**

- 15.1. 20240110 #01 2024 DALC E-bulletin *For information* Cllrs are informed that this e-bulletin includes news that the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 has amended the Local Government Act 1894 to clarify the powers of a parish or town council to fund church repairs or improvements. The government's view is that its amendment clarifies that the 1894 Act does not affect the discretionary powers of parish councils in England to fund church repairs or improvements or property held for an ecclesiastical charity.
- 15.2. 20240115 Bus Stop *For consideration* Cllrs are informed that correspondence was received from a Tally Ho bus driver asking for any assistance that could be offered. Bus drivers often come across parked vehicles in the Kingsbridge Bound bus stop, which forces drivers to block a very busy road whilst picking up and dropping off passengers because inconsiderate drivers believe it acceptable to park in a clearly designated bus stop in constant use, including on Sundays. The bus driver would greatly appreciate any help in discouraging this abuse of the highway.
- 15.3. 20240124 #03 2024 DALC E-bulletin *For information* Cllrs are informed that this e-bulletin notes that the s.137 expenditure limit for 2024/25 has been announced and will be £10.81 per elector. The expenditure limit remains at £9.93 per elector until the end of the current financial year. The bulletin provides dates of available 'Being a Good Councillor' course, should cllrs wish to book onto this training. It also shares news that the Emergency Resilience Grant Scheme has been extended until end of March 2024, and that it is no longer a requirement for applicants to have an Emergency Plan in Place.
- 15.4. 20240126 District council supporting the community *For information* The Parish Council has been informed by press release that the Executive Committee of the District Council has set four priorities for the next four years, funded by an investment of £4.59m. The four key policy areas tackle housing challenges, address climate change and biodiversity loss, support the economy and deliver good quality services to South Hams communities. A specific 12-month action plan focused on Housing and Homelessness prevention includes working with partners and communities to create good quality, genuinely affordable, energy efficient housing and making the best use of housing that already exists.
- 15.5. 20240130 Web camera upgrade - Yeolands screen *For information* Cllrs are informed that the web camera at Yeolands screen has now been upgraded to take pictures every 15 mins. Images can be accessed via <http://www.eathorvertonwebcam.org.uk/Webcammenu/EAFrameset.html> This also means the telemetry is connected up to the mains supply which should provide some resilience to the alarm system. The Environment Agency is keen that this information is shared with local residents. The Clerk has requested that information is published in Harbertonford Village Life.
- 15.6. 20240131 Composting Pilots *For consideration* Sustainable South Hams is undertaking a series of composting pilots. A Community Composting Fact Sheet is available as is a Home Composting RoadShow, Home Composting Demos, a Neighbourhood Food Waste trial and courses on community composting and repurposing brown bins are available for booking. Sustainable South Hams is looking to engage people who want to see change in their communities and who are prepared to share the skills they learn and initiate local projects. Further information on how to be involved is available via [this google form](#). (HTML)
- 15.7. 20240131 #04 2024 DALC E-bulletin. *For information* Cllrs are informed that this e-bulletin includes information on the Devolution Deal for Devon announcement, which would transfer powers and funding from Government to a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority. Before proposals can be confirmed, they need to be supported by the cabinets of both Devon County Council and Torbay Council, followed by a six-week public consultation. DALC encourages parish and town councils to familiarise themselves with the proposals and to respond to the consultation in due course. Information can be found on the following website: <https://www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk/> (HTML)
- 15.8. 20240201 DAA CLS - 3G Switch Off and GSM Testing *For information* Cllrs are informed that BT switched off the the existing 3G network across Devon as of the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, which means that there is no 3G network reaching the GSM units at Devon Air Ambulance Landing Sites. In theory this shouldn't matter as the existing 2G network is still operational and the GSM Units will simply connect to the 2G network and the lights will work as normal at each site. Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT) conducted a light test on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, turning the lights on and off remotely, to make sure the system is working as it should. If the GSM unit doesn't work as expected, the air ambulance will still continue to use the site if required at night as a temporary dark site. Visits are being booked at all sites to undertake a software update. Devon Air Ambulance Trust is in conversation BT and other suppliers about a suitable long term solution to ensure that the network of lights across Devon can be used as and when they are needed. In time this may mean that the GSM units are replaced with units able to work with 4G or 5G.
- 15.9. 20240207 Council launches new housing support for communities *For information* The Parish Council has been informed by press release that in its drive to tackle the housing crisis, South Hams District Council has launched the South Hams Housing Offer, which will help local communities deliver more affordable homes in their area. One of the most challenging problems residents face is a shortage of

properties which they can afford, and the South Hams Housing Offer will help remove some of the barriers for communities trying to bring housing projects forward. The South Hams Housing Offer provides funding and support to help communities kickstart housing projects, connect with Registered Providers (of social housing) and deliver homes where and how they are needed most. For communities showing appetite in delivering homes in their local area, funding and practical help is available through the Housing Offer. This could be for communities just starting out who need help with setting up and exploring sites, or for more established groups such as Community Land Trusts who may already have a site in mind and need help with the next steps. Landowners wishing to support their communities deliver much needed affordable housing can also receive practical help on how to donate or sell land. More information, including how to apply can be found at [www.southhams.gov.uk/SHHO](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/SHHO)

- 15.10. **20240207 #05 2024 DALC E-bulletin** *For consideration* Cllrs are informed that the most recent e-bulletin includes the update that Devon and Torbay Cabinets discussed government proposals at their meetings on Friday 2nd February. Both cabinets have formally confirmed their support for the proposed Devon & Torbay Devolution Deal and a public consultation will be carried out between 12 February and 24 March. The consultation will invite views on the draft proposals to establish the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA). This is the opportunity for parish and town councils to review the content of the deal, indicate to what degree councils support the delivery of the deal via a new CCA, and to add comments. Whilst this deal involves highly strategic topics such as education, the economy, housing, transport and more, this is an opportunity for the sector to express its aspirations for the new CCA to engage with parish and town councils, ensuring decision making reflects community need. DALC urges all councils to consider the proposals at an upcoming meeting.