



Welcome to the sixth edition of the South Hams Strategic Partnership (SHSP) newsletter, designed to keep you informed of the progress towards delivering the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy and its action plan.

We're pleased to welcome Vaughan Lindsay, CEO of The Dartington Hall Trust, as the new independent Chair of the Partnership. Vaughan takes up the post following the departure of Ruth Bagley, former Chief Executive of South Hams District Council (SHDC), earlier this year. Vaughan brings a wealth of experience, gained in the private and voluntary sectors, to the Partnership and will chair his first meeting on 17 September.

Working Group Project Updates

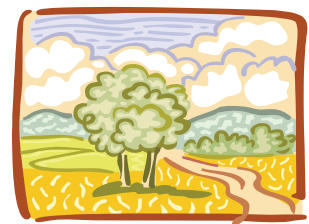


Affordable Housing

Partners have commissioned consultants to prepare a plan highlighting redevelopment opportunities in the Riverside area of Totnes (Bridgetown). This plan will feed into the Totnes Development Plan Document. Devon County Council is considering reviewing its assets within the South Hams on a ward by ward basis to enable its councillors to consider how the SHSP can assist with the delivery of affordable housing. As a result of SHDC's award from the Beacon Peer Support Fund, progress has been made on the following 3 projects: Research work has started on the impact of second homes on local communities, a survey has been sent out to over 4,000 second home owners, and a series of focus groups are planned. The final report is expected later this year. Secondly, work is being undertaken with a number of parishes regarding the potential for developing Community Land Trusts; and thirdly, a piece of work will be commissioned to look at ways of delivering affordable housing on land that is leased rather than purchased, in order to address the under-supply of land in rural areas.

Environment South Hams

This group has further developed its community support package and has captured the latest environmental project progress from the 22 parishes it contacted regarding their parish plans / appraisals. Partners are now working to add value to a number of individual projects and on several of the common themes which came out of this exercise.



Community Vibrancy

Devon Wheels 2 Work scheme has been extended into the South Hams thanks to funding from Devon Renaissance and SHDC. The project will deliver 32 transport packages (moped loan, training, personal protective equipment and maintenance) over 2 years, to enable people to access training and employment opportunities. Since July, 7 transport packages have been provided to South Hams residents. Further information is available at www.devonwheels2work.co.uk or by calling 0845 0944308.



Research for the Devon Rural Carers Project has been completed. It focused on the needs of rural carers and how to improve support to them. The findings will be used to develop a range of projects including setting up support groups, training to enable carers to return to work and promoting rural community transport.

Funding has been secured for 'Communities in Action' - a database of community plans and projects from across Devon. Testing will be carried out shortly on a prototype version and the final version is expected later this year. Community planning groups are encouraged to get involved in putting their plan details into the new database and should contact the Community Development Team in the first instance.

Active South Hams



The successful award of a £200,000 Big Lottery grant for play facilities means that projects such as a new skate park in Totnes can start.

The Health Walks Scheme continues with volunteer walk leaders and the South Devon AONB is organising a walking festival for October.

Have your say on Council spending

SHDC is reviewing its budget and spending priorities for the future. These things are never easy and there is always a balance to be found between keeping Council Tax low and spending money on everything that everyone wants. The Council is inviting residents to help them make some of these tough choices on Council spending by completing an on-line questionnaire which will be available at www.southhams.gov.uk later this month and during October. The results will be used when the annual budget is set in December.

Dates for your diary

What's On	Date and details
Voluntary Sector Forum	Thurs 20 September, 9.30am-1pm, Community Centre, Yealmpton This Forum is open to representatives of all local voluntary and community organisations. For further information please contact the CVS on 01803 862266 or cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk .
Community Partnership Forum: 'Healthy Communities' theme	Tues 2 October, 10am-12.30pm, Flavel Centre, Dartmouth This Forum is open to community groups and stakeholders with an interest in the delivery of the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy. The Forum will include presentations from 5 local agencies and community groups. For further information please contact Community Development on 01803 861234 or community@southhams.gov.uk .
An Introduction to Sustainable Funding Workshop, NCVO & CCD	Wed 3 October, 9.30am-4pm, Boniface Centre, Crediton This workshop is designed to provide an overview of sustainable funding for frontline community organisations. For further information and to book a place please contact Gail Hickson, CCD, on 01392 383443 or gail@devonrcc.org.uk .

Community Group News... South Devon Community Supported Farming works with the local community to provide access to farms, small holdings and land projects in the South Hams. Details of the group's events and courses can be found at www.devoncsf.co.uk.

If you have any news from your community that you would like to promote in this newsletter or you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please email community@southhams.gov.uk or call the Community Development Team on 01803 861234