



This is the third edition of the South Hams Strategic Partnership (SHSP) newsletter designed to keep you informed on the progress of the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy and its action plan. We hope you are finding these short up-dates useful.

The new South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted by SHSP on 25th September and launched at the Community Partnership Forum on 27th September. It is now available to view on-line, hosted at www.southhams.gov.uk

Working Group Project Updates



Affordable Housing

This group has been reviewing partner assets (buildings and land) in and around Totnes that may be suitable for affordable housing development when they are no longer required. Work is also being undertaken to develop a protocol to ensure that when a partner sells an asset its viability for affordable housing is considered a priority.

Competitive Local Economy

Partner organisations are looking at how they can support the local economy by purchasing more local goods and services. The group wants to develop a 'Local Buying' Initiative aimed at employees within the partner organisations and their customers. First steps have been taken in promoting Farmers Markets and Late Night Shopping events in staff pay packets and newsletters. You should even see posters in police stations and health facilities!

Did you know?

- When you choose to buy locally produced foods from a farm shop or farmers market you reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions associated with distribution by 99.8%.
- Every £10 spent with a local food initiative is worth £25 to the local economy, compared with just £14 when spent in a supermarket



Environment South Hams

This group is looking at how to better support community-led environmental projects as well as showing leadership by improving environmental management practices within their own organisations. The group has recommended that SHSP and individual partner organisations sign up to the Devonwide Declaration on Climate Change and Fuel Poverty. A developing Climate Change Strategy for the South Hams will help the partners focus their actions.

Active South Hams

Funding has been secured for 'Youth Leisure Evenings' in all 4 leisure centres between October–March. This initiative hopes to encourage active lifestyles amongst young people and provide them with 'something to do' on Friday nights. The Healthy Walks initiative in Ivybridge is proving successful and work is starting on schemes in Totnes and Kingsbridge. A new Public Open Space Strategy is out for consultation from 13th November at www.southhams.gov.uk and all comments are welcome.



South Devon Rural Transport Partnership

This partnership has developed and supported many successful initiatives over the last 3 years including a Transport Information Booklet for Totnes, supporting community bus services and the new South Hams Shopmobility Service (due to launch next Spring). A 'Wheels to Work' project providing transport for young people to get to work or college is also under development.

Community News

We would like this newsletter to include information from the many community-based planning groups across the South Hams so that people can be kept up to date with town and parish plans, and the projects and initiatives that result from them. Please e-mail your news, including important meeting dates and events to community@southhams.gov.uk

Totnes Community Plan

Totnes and District Community Strategy Group is a hive of activity at the moment to drive forward the projects in the community plan. To promote and support the local business community, a website and database is being planned and a joint project with the Dartmouth community plan group is under development. This project will help both towns to capitalise on the River Dart as an economic resource.

The Totnes Festival was a great success with 5,000 people attending over 80 events. The Festival helped to promote out of season tourism, as well as encourage the local community to get involved in artistic and cultural activities. The project team are planning to hold a similar Festival next September.

The Transition Town Totnes group has run a series of very successful presentations, events and workshops to raise awareness of why society needs to use less energy. The events have been well attended and have resulted in many new ideas evolving to encourage and enable more sustainable lifestyles. Please visit their website for more information <http://www.transitiontowns.org/Totnes/>.

South Hams CVS Newsletter

The South Hams Council for Voluntary Service produce a really useful bi-monthly newsletter 'The Voluntary Vine' which contains information on local projects, community initiatives and funding information. You can view the newsletter online at www.southhamscvs.org.uk/news/voluntaryvine.htm or for more information please contact their Information Development Officer Kate Findlay on 01803 862266 or kate@southhamscvs.org.uk.

Dates for your diary

What's On	Date and details
Voluntary Sector Forum	Friday 26th January 2007 , Chapel Place Community Centre, Ivybridge The Forum is open to representatives of all local voluntary and community organisations. Telephone: 01803 862266 or Email: cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk for further information about the forum and their meetings
Community Partnership Forum	5th March 2007 , (venue to be confirmed). The Forum is open to community groups and stakeholders with an interest in the delivery of the new South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy. Telephone: 01803 861234 and ask for Community Development or Email: community@southhams.gov.uk for more information.
Training Course: Recruiting and keeping volunteers	14th March 2007 , 10am - 4pm, Newton Abbot Discussion and activities to help you recruit and manage volunteers, as well as keep them motivated. Telephone: 01803 862266 or Email: cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk for further information.

Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year