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District Councillor Report

Crisis and Resilience Fund

Pleased to announce a new government funded scheme called The Crisis and Resilience Fund is now available and has replaced the Household Support Fund 7. The Crisis Resilience Fund is £453,055 and for Heating Oil, £121,463. More details about the Scheme including eligibility and getting help now is available on the Torridge District Council Website. The Crisis and Resilience Fund is designed to help low-income households experiencing a sudden financial crisis or loss of income. **Also included is helping you with Heating Oil for low-income households, Food, Energy, Essentials, Appliances and Housing.** Like the previous Household Support Scheme, Encompass are partners of TDC (Torridge District Council).

To apply to the **FUND: For HELP**

ONLINE: www.torridge.gov.uk/crisisandresiliencefund

OR

You can telephone Encompass Southwest on 01271 371 499

Southwest Water Councillor Briefing Session

I attended a recent councillor briefing session presented by Alan Burrows, Head of Local Government Affairs Pennon Group who own Southwest Water regarding their priorities and new business plan -

4 Top Priorities -

- 1 -Water Quality and resilience
- 2- Storm overflows and pollution
- 3- Net Zero and environmental gains
- 4- Delivering for customers and affordability

Priority 2 - To transform their sewer network by 2040 starting with all sites which affect our most loved places.

This needs to happen now not 2040!

North Devon Biosphere - Taw and Torridge Water Quality Project

Recently I attended the North Devon Biosphere Project Meeting with Rob Jordan - CEO at North Devon Biosphere providing an enlightening presentation.

Rob presented the latest developments on building a smart Biosphere covering water quality data, flood data, biodiversity, soil,

Carbon emissions, energy use, land-use, visitor, grid connections. The Biosphere is working on new Data Platform hopefully going live in 2 months' time. It will operate as a dashboard, and I have seen the latest prototype though more work is needed!

We hope to see rankings of the water quality of the 92 River bodies as 1 per dashboard. Expanding the network of river champions and citizen science. Provide analysis to get each river waterbody to a good ecological status.

Integrating other data on each dashboard to include Land use data, urban, farmland, woodland, highway, water company data- storm water overflows duration(Treatment Works), septic tanks data, highways data, others including risk data landfill, mines and quarries, industrial discharges, and others. The catchment for the River Torridge in which Shebbear and Langtree is part of will be most beneficial information to have once the dashboards become available.

The Biosphere is also working with South Westwater, dairy industry, woodland owners the EA (Environmental Agency) and planning authorities, West Country Rivers Trust, Taw, and Torridge River Champions, National and Devon Wildlife Trusts, Devon County Council, North Devon Council, Torridge District Council.

Other projects include the smart Biosphere approach to key bathing areas with monitoring in Croyde and Westward Ho integrating the Environment Agencies weekly monitoring data (May- September).

External Overview and Scrutiny Committee

We recently received a proposal from Robert Blake National Director and Network Director for Rail Future Ltd regarding the potential of a new Bideford to Exeter via Barnstaple and beyond Railway service. Of course, this is very much at its infancy stage,

and Councillors and some members of the public raised potential red flag concerns and issues that would need to be considered.

Bideford to Barnstaple:

The Tarka Trail widening and access needed

Huge cost! £ 300 Million plus as an approx. estimate

Instow sea wall

South Westwater sewage pipes.

Tarka trail rerouting to use underpasses and over bridges and being moved away from existing scenic route.

Bideford station car parking and potential huge congestion with traffic issues.

Bideford Station Short platform and an important heritage area

Near to a site of scientific interest.

Brunswick Wharf development- parking and congestion

Noise and Traffic

Stagecoach

FULL COUNCIL

Play Zones -Using Extra Funding (£38,000) for shortfall projects was discussed and adopted by Council for Holsworthy (Stanhope Park) and Great Torrington(derelict tennis courts). Pollyfield was withdrawn due to concerns over viability and local opposition.

PlotBox PRO was proposed and adopted by Council which provides a modern cloud-based cemetery management system.

PlotBox provides a modern digital system with digital maps and online portals for staff, funeral directors, cemeteries, crematoria, memorial masons, funeral homes and public.