

Hi all

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New year and that you managed to spend some time with your families. This is a good time of the year to reflect and plan for the future.

If you have any good guidance for new clerks about the budget setting process in a Parish Council it would be good to share, in fact if you have any advice for your fellow clerks please do let me know and I will be happy to share around our Parish Community.

Carole

Section 137 spending limit for 2020/21

The Ministries of Housing, Communities and Local Government have advised the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137 (4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for parish and town councils in England for 2020-2021 is £8.32.

This is the amount that results from increasing the amount of £8.12 for 2019-2020 by the percentage increase in the retail index between September 2018 and September 2019, in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

The NHS in Devon is reminding people that there are new and innovative ways to access GP services at a time that is convenient for them this winter.

- Many practices in Devon are now offering online consultations
- All patients can now access evening, weekend and bank holiday GP appointments

The new NHS App is providing a secure and simple way for patients to contact their practice, book appointments and order repeat prescriptions

The short [film is available to view](#) and an accompanying press release and digital assets are attached. Please share amongst your networks.



Did you know, mobile phones, ink and toner cartridges are recycled as part of your kerbside collection?

Ink and toner cartridges can have a detrimental impact on our environment as the materials they're manufactured from can take up to 1,000 years to decompose. What's more, if they come into contact with water they can leak ink, potentially polluting our watercourses.



Sales of ink and toner cartridges increase each year, however, only 30% of the cartridges sold are recycled, which leaves a staggering 350 million ending up in general waste.

The fact is, ink and toner cartridges are a great item to recycle as most of them can be reused 4 and 6 times before they need to be reprocessed, and for those that can't, up to 97% of their constituent parts can be recycled.

Every second around the world, 8 printer cartridges are thrown away. If just 4 of these were recycled, it would help to produce 20 more cartridges, whilst using 80% less energy than producing from new using virgin materials.

To help combat this problem, the Council collects used ink and toner cartridges as part of residents' kerbside recycling collections. Used cartridges can be placed in the green recycling box along with cardboard and cartons. They should be put inside a carrier bag (not black in colour), to reduce the chance of leaking ink.

In addition to ink and toner cartridges, mobile phones can also be recycled at the kerbside. Mobile phones are made from an array of precious metals. For every million mobile phones recycled, we can recover up to:

- 16,000 kgs of copper
- 350 kgs of silver
- 34 kgs of gold
- 14 kgs of palladium



Mobile phones also contain tin, zinc and platinum.

These materials are becoming increasingly scarce, yet they can be recovered if recycled. By recycling just one mobile phone, the energy saved is the equivalent of charging a laptop for about 44 hours.

Annually, up to 130 million mobile phones are thrown away, but if they were recycled, they could produce enough energy to power

over 24,000 homes for a year!

The same as ink and toner cartridges, unwanted mobile phones can go in the green recycling box using a non-black carrier bag to protect the components from water ingress.

Mobile phones, ink and toner cartridges can also be recycled at your local recycling centre.

All used mobile phones and ink/toner cartridges will be collected regardless of their condition. It should be noted however, that a factory reset should be performed on a mobile phone to wipe any personal data before leaving out for recycling.

Recycle Devon launches new online recipe book to help reduce food waste

Recycle Devon has launched a new online recipe book to help Devon residents waste less food and save up to £800 a year.

The free book [“Have Your Food And Eat It”](#) shares tips on buying, storing and preparing food and contains recipes for using up leftovers to help make food stretch further.



In the UK, we throw away 6.7m tonnes of food a year which is a third of the food we buy. Nearly half of that is fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, dairy, rice and pasta.

Research also shows that we throw away more food than we think we do, with common reasons including buying too much in the first place, improper storage, not eating things in time and cooking too much, especially pasta and rice.

If this sounds familiar, there are plenty of tips to help. With a few small changes, the average family of four could save as much as £800 a year!

The first half of the book looks at ways to save you money and time, from smarter shopping to meal prepping for the week ahead. Perfect for busy families and lifestyles!

The second half provides a selection of recipes suited to using up ingredients in the fridge, or leftovers from previous meals.

There are a range of recipes in the recipe book, which are suitable for all, whether you are a beginner, or a kitchen whizz looking for some inspiration.

If you've ever wondered about reheating rice or you're unsure about use by dates, "Have Your Food And Eat It" has all the answers. Packed with facts, tips and advice, it's the ideal go-to for making food go further and money last longer.

Now we are in the New Year why not make a New Year's resolution to help improve your recycling.

Many people make resolutions that are supposed to improve their lives or help them become better people. There's nothing wrong with doing something to better yourself but, why not choose a New Year's resolution that benefits the entire world as well? If you choose to recycle, your efforts will benefit billions of people. Helping others is much more gratifying than only helping yourself, so make recycling one of your resolutions this year.

Please feel free to share the attached information on recycling this New Year.



Two free tree planting initiatives have been launched by Devon County Council.

The County Council has teamed up with the Woodland Trust and the Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum to encourage communities and landowners to plant more trees.

Ten trees were planted in the grounds of County Hall last week by pupils from St Leonard's Primary School and members of the Devon Youth Parliament as the Council marked National Tree Week and joined the Woodland Trust's Big Climate Fightback.

It was also an opportunity to launch the new schemes. Devon County Council, in association with the UK's leading woodland conservation charity the Woodland Trust, is offering a limited number of packs of 45 sapling trees to give away to landowners who may be interested in establishing a small copse or planting-up a field corner. The packs contain a mix of native oak, rowan and birch – 15 of each. Spiral guards and canes are provided to protect against damage and planting instructions are also included.

Stocks are limited this winter, so those interested should apply early. However, future extension of the scheme should ensure opportunity for all to participate.

Applications need to be made online via the Devon Ash Dieback website by **Monday 6 January 2020** and applicants will be notified if they have been successful before the end of January. Planting must be carried out by Easter 2020.

A limited offer is also being made to Town and Parish Councils that may be interested in a commemorative planting of 'landmark trees' in prominent and accessible locations. This is to encourage community awareness of the vital role of tree planting in tackling environmental threats, particularly climate change, but also the huge loss of native ash trees through ash dieback.

Devon County Council, in association with Perrie Hale Nursery near Honiton, is offering a maximum of two trees per parish or town council. Communities can register their interest by emailing nature@devon.gov.uk stating name, parish/town council, contact details and- if you already know– a description of where you'd like to plant the tree.

Mid Devon Local Plan Review – Proposed Main Modifications

Council invites public comments on proposed main modifications to help finalise the new local plan

The Mid Devon Local Plan Review was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in March 2017 for examination. Public hearings were held in September 2018 and February 2019 which provided an opportunity for people to have their views heard by an independent Inspector. The Council has now published a package of 55 proposed main modifications to the plan following the Inspector's advice for changes to make it 'sound' and capable of being adopted. These include bringing forward development sooner at Higher Town, Sampford Peverell and also at Colebrook, Cullompton where there are no restrictions on timing, to address his concerns about housing supply in the early years of the plan, and providing a more flexible approach for Gypsy and Traveller sites.

The proposed main modifications, together with updates needed to the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment, and additional (minor) modifications are published for a 6 week consultation. Comments on these documents must be made in writing and reach the Council by 5pm on the 17th February 2020. With the exception of comments on the additional (minor) modifications which will be considered by the Council, the consultation documents and comments received will be sent to the Inspector for him to decide whether further hearings are needed and help him prepare his final report.

Comments are not being invited on the unchanged content of the Local Plan that was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

An online form will be available for comments. More information about the consultation will be on the Council's website www.middevon.gov.uk/LPRMainMods

About this consultation:

Consultation takes place from 6 January 2020 to 17 February (5pm) 2020.

The Council's Proposed Main Modifications, the Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal, Addendum to the Habitat Regulations Assessment, Addendum to the Equalities Impact Assessment and all comments made on these will be sent to the Inspector for his consideration. Comments on the Local Plan Review Additional (Minor) Modifications will be considered by the Council.

The consultation documents, response form and supporting guidance will be available to view online at middevon.gov.uk/LPRMainMods and at Mid Devon Phoenix House and at public libraries (including the mobile library) during normal opening hours from 6th January – 17th February 2020.

Committees!

The Committee for the Reduction of Redundancy and the Antiproliferation of Repetition has decided not to meet until they have their first meeting and thus will not be meeting until the first time. Their Pre-meeting Statement wanted to make this clear before they had their first meeting, so that it would not be confusing. So their first meeting will actually be their first meeting and they will not have a meeting before the first meeting. This should avoid having people show up for their first meeting before it is held, since to do so would be confusing to those who did so and this is what they want to avoid by reducing the confusion and lessening the repetition.

Keeping up to date

Press Releases Issued

<https://www.middevonnewscentre.info/>

Dates for Mid Devon District Council Meetings

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

6th January—Scrutiny Committee –2.15pm

8th January—Council—6.00pm

14th January—Environment PDG—5.30pm

15th January—Planning Committee—2.15pm

16th January—Cabinet—6.00pm

21st January—Homes PDG –2.15pm

23rd January—Economy PDG—5.30pm

27th January—Scrutiny Committee—2.15pm

28th January—Community PDG—2.15pm

28th January—Audit Committee—5.30pm

Dates for Devon County Council meetings:

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx>