



News Release

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How Developers' Contributions are Spent

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Every year, South Hams District Council receives money from developers that it uses to support communities in which development takes place. This money, known as Section 106 money, is often spent on things like parks, sporting facilities, affordable housing and other community infrastructure.

South Hams District Council has now laid out plans to improve the process it goes through when spending the money that is gets from developers. This includes plans to keep communities up-to-date on how the money is spent and a redesigned process of how funds could be spent on affordable housing projects.

There is currently over £4 million in South Hams District Council's current Section 106 fund, which has been given to the Council by developers during the planning process, often when the development reaches key milestones.

Cllr Simon Wright, Executive Portfolio Holder for Support Services said: "We are keen for local communities to understand how these contributions are collected, distributed and spent.

"While £4 million does sound like a lot of money, S106 contributions are constantly being added to the pot and then spent on improvements such as sports pitches, play parks and affordable homes. This is not a new pot of money, it's continually being collected and distributed across the district.

“What is new, is how we’re striving to improve this process. Until now, what has been missing is a constant method of sharing the details of when money is collected and how it is spent, so the money can go to the local communities it is intended for.

“We will be consulting with town and parish councils and ward members on when contributions are due for payment from developers. We will also be asking local councils, members and neighbourhood planning groups to come forward with specific proposals for affordable housing.

“If communities come forward with applications for affordable housing, we can really put this money to good use. We will shortly be contacting town and parish councils, groups and members with how they can apply.”

Projects which have benefitted from S106 contributions, include:

- The KEVICC all weather pitch in Totnes. The new facility for Totnes was funded from S106 monies amounting to over £320,000. This will be ready for use during the school summer holidays and start of the September school term. This is a project the Council has supported both in the Playing Pitch Strategy and subsequent collection of S106 funds.
- £82,500 of S.106 money supported the development of affordable housing in Derby Road, Kingsbridge.
- Yealmpton – £90,000 went towards building a new Multi Use Games Area for use by the school and community. These areas are designed for varied sports use including football, netball, tennis and basketball.
- £84,000 helped purchase an affordable home in Salcombe in partnership with South Devon Rural Housing Association.
- In Loddiswell – £30,000 paid for improvements to the tennis courts.

The council is also putting forward plans in the near future for communities to get involved in planning open space, sport and recreation projects, paid for by S106 money, such as improving sports pitches or play parks. Information for communities on these plans will be coming soon.

ENDS

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