

Parish Council News December 2019

Climate Change Emergency - the Parish Council has joined forces with North Devon Council and 16 other parishes across the region to identify actions we can take to adapt to the climate change challenges we face, reduce our carbon footprint and to reverse the loss of biodiversity. Amongst the measures discussed is the promotion of energy efficiency within the homes in the area.

Free Energy Advice for Home Owners - [361 Community Energy](#) is the North Devon Not-For-Profit organisation helping to reduce the carbon footprint of North Devon and Torridge. 361 Energy work with the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) to provide free home energy visits. Their advisors can help review your energy usage, energy tariffs, give you free energy- saving equipment such as LED lightbulbs and draught excluders. They can also help you access funding for loft and cavity insulation, combi boilers, solar panels and more. The home energy visits have some very broad eligibility requirements and 69% of residents in North Devon qualify for a free energy visit. 361 Energy want to help as many people as possible by extending the service to anyone that either is already in, or is at risk of falling into fuel poverty. It is open to all types of householders – homeowners, private renters and social housing tenants.

Last year the team completed 500 home energy visits but they have the capacity to complete much more across North Devon and Torridge. To book a home energy visit go to their website <http://www.361energy.org/save/> or call 01271 599361.

Affordable Housing in Morteohoe and Woolacombe - The Parish Council has worked over a number of years to secure affordable homes for local people to be built in Woolacombe and Morteohoe. They are optimistic about this now being possible. A Public Meeting was held on 10th October to promote the idea of setting up a Community Land Trust (CLT) to bring forward such homes in the next few years. Over 80 people attended, and 29 volunteered to help set up the C.L.T. The Council are grateful for the expert guidance on this matter from the Wessex Community Land Trust, Devon Communities Together and North Devon Council.

Steering Committee - a second meeting was held to provide more information about the setting up of the organisation. If anyone else is interested in joining, please contact the Parish Clerk on 870247 or email: sallyatmorteohopc@gmail.com

Importance of Registration - It is important that anyone needing affordable rented housing is registered with www.devonhomechoice.com as this will be how homes will be allocated. Homes will be prioritised for local people, so it is essential to make clear what local connection you have to Morteohoe and Woolacombe, mainly through living or working in the parish for five years or more, or having parents or children living in the parish, and you should give as much detail as possible when completing the registration. Length of time being on the register is one factor that gets taken into account when homes are allocated, so it is important to register as soon as possible, and to make sure that the registration is kept up to date. If you are interested in these homes please also email your name and contact details to the Rural Housing Enabler Colin Savage csavage@devoncommunities.org.uk who will keep you informed of progress.”