

Queens Platinum Jubilee Oak planting completed.



Our amazing StreetScene team now draws breath, after planting

an amazing 70 Jubilee Oaks in towns and parishes across the length and breadth of East Devon. Oaks celebrate HRH the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I will be liaising with Parish Councils to present commemorative plaques.

£150 council tax rebate letters sent to residents of Band A to D properties.

East Devon District Council is administering this programme on behalf of Central Government. Payments are designed to help residents mitigate the effect of sharp rises in energy prices, coupled with an increase in inflation.

Residents, who pay council tax via direct debit, will soon be receiving their letters if they meet the following conditions, as of 1 April 2022:

- Their property is banded A-D or band E with a disablement reduction
- They are liable to pay council tax at the address
- The property is their sole or main residence

What if you don't pay council tax by direct debit?

East Devon District Council will soon be writing separately to eligible residents, who do not pay through direct debit. They will then be able to apply for a rebate.

Find out more about the scheme here - <https://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/council-tax-rebate/>

When will you get your payment?

If your direct debit for your council tax was set up before 31 March 2022, EDDC will pay the £150 direct to your bank account. The aim is to do this within 15 working days of successfully receiving your April council tax instalment. EDDC's direct debit instalment dates are on 1st, 17th and 25th days of the month; your date will be shown on your bill.

If there is a reason why you would not want EDDC to use the bank details it holds, contact the authority by Monday, 11 April, online at <http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/council-tax/contact-us> or

call 01395 517 446 and select option 4 for Council Tax Rebate – EDDC is expecting high call volumes so you may have to wait to speak with an officer.

What if your April council tax direct debit instalment is unpaid?

To make sure your bank details have been verified, EDDC must successfully collect your April instalment before paying the rebate direct to your bank account.

This means that if there is a problem with your April direct debit payment, EDDC will write to you and invite you to apply for the payment instead; you will not need to contact the authority yourself.

East Devon District Council grant funding to help reduce local poverty.

The new 'Action on Poverty Fund' is designed to help support projects to reduce financial pressures on those in need, within the limited resources of the District Council.

Council welcomes applications for between £500 and £5,000, from properly constituted and not-for-private-profit organisations or groups, including, voluntary and community sector groups and organisations, Parish Councils, Charities and other groups such as Community Interest Companies who are recognised as well placed to deliver innovative and valuable projects.

What sort of project may secure funding?...

- Tackling hidden poverty for those struggling but not currently seeking help.
- Providing recognised and qualified advice on budgeting, money and debt issues.
- Helping people access support from the council and others, to see if they are entitled to welfare benefits and other financial help and support.
- Supporting low-income residents to access the internet and develop digital skills.
- Encouraging volunteering for local voluntary and community groups.
- Projects that seek to understand and address the causes of food poverty.
- Helping residents in fuel or water poverty reduce energy and water costs.
- Supporting young people in reaching their employment potential.
- Improving health outcomes for people due to financial hardship and debt, including access to good diet, cookery classes, healthy lifestyles and ill health prevention.
- Helping to manage mental health issues arising from any impact of poverty.

Applications close on 30th September 2022 with available funding limited.

To find out more and to apply: <https://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/grants-and-funding/grants-available-from-us/east-devon-action-on-poverty-fund/>

Cllr Ian Thomas

Independent Ward Member for Trinity

Chair - East Devon District Council

Phone: 07884 494474

email: ian.thomas@trinitymatters.co.uk

Facebook: @ianthomas247

Twitter: @ianthomas247