

£1.8 million for Communities in South Hams

The Government allocated £60 million to support national community-led housing developments in areas where the impact of second homes is particularly acute.

The Council provided a very robust case requesting a good proportion of the identified funds and Dr Wollaston tabled a Parliamentary question on the matter.

South Hams District Council is delighted that their efforts have been recognised and the District will receive a £1.8 million boost for affected communities.

Cllr Simon Wright, Portfolio Holder for Support Services, explained: “We have been pressing for a share of the Fund from Central Government for some time.

The fund will really help boost affordable housing provision for communities affected by second home ownership in the South Hams.”

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP added: “I am really encouraged that South Hams will be receiving £1.8 million from the Community Housing Fund. The issue of affordable housing is clearly a priority for residents in the South Hams.”

Often, second homes stand empty for a large proportion of the time which can affect communities, the demographics of an area and distort local housing markets.

The South Hams has just under 4,000 second homes which makes up over 9% of the total households, therefore the impact of second homes is acute in the area.

Local residents find it increasingly difficult to get on the housing ladder. This money will help to support local community led housing initiatives.

Once full details of the scheme have been released, South Hams District Council will be in a position to plan for the next steps.