

The 5th Annual East Devon Tenants Conference was held at Exmouth Pavilion on Wednesday 15th June 2011.

96 people attended the all day event, the theme of which was Anti-Social Behaviour.

This annual conference is arranged by East Devon District Council tenants for tenants. It gives them the opportunity to meet and speak to managers, officers and staff from the Council's Housing Service. District Councillors including the Councils Portfolio holder for Housing Councillor Jill Elson were there to chat with the tenants, listen to their concerns and offer advice.

The Councils Head of Housing, John Golding, in his speech entitled 'Achievements and the Challenges to Come' highlighted the problems faced by Council Landlords during this difficult period of Government cut backs and the radical changes the Council has implemented, to deal with them. He also spoke about the unprecedented challenges which lie ahead, although daunting, they also offer exciting possibilities for the future.

Guest speaker, housing expert Mr Brian Moore, spoke about the growth of anti social behaviour, the breakdown of traditional values and the fragmentation of communities. In his summing up he blamed today's 'I Want and I Want it Now' mentality for the total lack of respect and consideration shown to others, not just by youngsters but by people of all ages. His speech seemed to echo the views of many there.

By far the largest part of the day was given over to a drama group 'Platinum Media', directed by Ben Hunt. These talented young actors from across the country realistically enact anti social scenarios.

We met the perpetrator called Sasha, her young daughter Chloe, the witness called Paul and the gay neighbour Steve who felt threatened.

The actors stayed in character throughout the day and even reacted as their character would to the questions and remarks from the audience.

The actors were so convincing, their behaviour triggered some heated exchanges and evoked several contrasting solutions to the problem of anti social behaviour.

On hand to answer the technical questions concerning the legal processes used to deal with anti social behaviour were local PCSO Malcolm McGuire and Gerry Moore, who is employed by EDDC to handle reported cases of anti social behaviour.

The Pavilion proved to be a first class venue, the staff worked hard to ensure everything was perfect. A tasty lunch was enjoyed by everyone and really put the finishing touch to a great day. A big thank you to all the businesses that supported our Conference by donating raffle prizes is:

All Sorts	Seaton
Byrne Jones Chemist	Seaton
Co-Operative Store	Seaton
Boots Chemist	Seaton
W.H. Smith	Exmouth
Co-Operative Store	Exmouth
Little Eves Games & Puzzles	Exmouth
Housewares,	Sidmouth
Boots Chemist	Sidmouth
Gliddons Cook's Corner Cookshop	Sidmouth
Boots Chemist	Honiton
The Co-Operative	Honiton

Sue Saunders
Chairperson of the Tenant & Leaseholder Customer Panel