



By Sara Randall Johnson,  
Leader of East Devon  
District Council

## Service that's worth saving

AS we went to press, councils across Devon were awaiting the outcome of a court hearing affecting unitary local government in Suffolk.

The Suffolk case is an appeal by the Boundary Committee, who favour a single unitary council in Suffolk. A High Court Judge has ruled that the Boundary Committee used a defective process in coming up with the proposal. Under the same process, the Boundary Committee propose a single unitary council for Devon, or a dual unitary Devon with an inner Exeter City Unitary, so scrapping EDDC and the other eight district councils.

If the appeal succeeds, the threat to the nine councils returns, as ministers would then be able to impose the form of Unitary Devon they want. If the appeal fails, local government in Devon may continue into an uncertain future until close to the date of the General Election.

EDDC has been fighting the Unitary proposals – not because we wish to save our jobs, but because we believe the best way of delivering local services in East Devon is locally.

As you read through this magazine, I hope you will agree that your district council is continuing to deliver high quality, cost effective services and deserves the right to stay in business.

# Affordable homes get £1m boost

**EAST Devon District Council's housing service has been successful in its bid for a social housing grant to enable it to provide new homes.**

The Housing Minister, John Healey MP, has announced an investment of over £1 million which now has to be matched by EDDC to enable 17 new council homes to be built.

The announcement in September followed hot on the heels of a decision by the Council's Housing service to hold a 'Housing Summit' to look at issues affecting the delivery of affordable housing in East Devon.

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Work has started on 12 new affordable homes at Bonners Glen, Axminster.

## Website offers a warm

IF you have recently moved to East Devon and are wondering where your local health centre is; when your refuse will be collected; or want to find out more about volunteering to help out at a local nature reserve, EDDC's new online Welcome Site is for you.

By using the links within the site it will be easy to access useful and

interesting information which will help make your move to the district as easy as possible. You can access the site by going to EDDC's website at: [www.eastdevon.gov.uk](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk) There is a link to the Welcome Site on the front page.



# Arthur is king of tenant gardeners



ONCE again, East Devon District Council tenants excelled themselves with their creative gardening, with over 40 people taking part in this year's Tenants' Garden Competition.

Overall winner Mr Arthur Kellaway's garden in Liverton Close, Exmouth, is pictured left.

The Gold and Silver level winners celebrated their efforts with a prize-giving tea at the Council Offices in Sidmouth in September.

Sponsors of the annual competition – organised by EDDC's Housing and Social Inclusion Service – were this year Connaught Partnership Ltd, Skinner Construction, Kieron Bewes Horticultural Consultant, Sidmouth Garden Centre and Jardine Lloyd Thompson Insurance.



How the planned new homes at Bonners Glen, Axminster, will look.



## Affordable housing makes great strides in East Devon

*Continued from page one*

A group discussion "The sky's the limit – blue sky thinking for new housing ideas" was designed to stimulate new ideas for increasing affordable home provision.

For the first time in 20 years, EDDC is leading the way with new council homes being built in the district.

Two new bungalows for local people with disabilities are due for completion in spring 2010 at Sidmouth. Using sustainable materials wherever possible, as well as renewable energy supplies, the

bungalows will be cost-effective to live in.

The Council is also working with Housing Association Sanctuary Shaftesbury to build 12 new affordable homes in Axminster with funding from the Homes and Communities Agency.

These will meet the Code for Sustainable Homes and will be ecologically sound and economical to run.

EDDC's Portfolio Holder for Communities, Councillor Jill Elson, who chaired the Housing Summit, said: "Provision of affordable housing is the Council's number one priority. We need to

be innovative in our approach to identify more suitable social housing.

"The bungalows at Manstone Avenue in Sidmouth and the homes at Bonners Glen in Axminster are a positive way forward and the Social Housing Grant from the Homes and Communities Agency will provide a much-needed boost to our plans.

"All these initiatives demonstrate our determination to meet our commitment to provide the type of homes people want. There is still a long way to go, but we are heading in the right direction."



# Residents given zero waste challenge



Waste Management Officers Steve Joyce and Naomi Firth with the pink bra they "found" in BBC Radio Devon presenter Matt Woodley's domestic rubbish.

**EDDC's drive to reduce landfill and increase recycling across the district is going from strength to strength.**

With around 24,000 households now receiving a full recycling service – with weekly collections of food waste and dry recyclables – it was time for a special challenge to be thrown down to residents in the Axe Valley, Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary areas.

Two members of the team handling the big changes on waste collection went along to BBC Radio Devon's Exeter studios to launch Zero Waste Week and were set their own challenge by presenter Matt Woodley.

Matt suggested that EDDC Waste Management Officers Steve Joyce and Naomi Firth should go through his domestic waste sack to demonstrate what could have been recycled. In the

process, the two "found" a pink bra which they quickly pointed out could be recycled to make insulation material – just like that lining the studio walls!

Meanwhile, four residents took up the challenge and, as we went to press, we were waiting to find how they had fared with trying to go for a week without throwing anything away in their landfill bin.

That means they could only use things that can be re-used, recycled or composted, and should avoid using anything that they would normally throw away, either by choosing an alternative or by doing without it altogether.

The prize of garden centre vouchers will go to the household that produces Zero Waste. The idea is to encourage households in East Devon to minimise landfill by taking care to avoid packaging when shopping, and recycling or re-using everything possible.

**Visit our website for ideas:**  
[www.eastdevon.gov.uk/recycling\\_and\\_refuse](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/recycling_and_refuse)



## chosen as regeneration partner

MEMBERS of EDDC's Development Management Committee deliberated long and hard before choosing Tesco as a regeneration partner for Seaton.

The decision came after careful consideration of rival regeneration proposals from Sainsbury's and Tesco.

By a clear majority, Members approved planning applications from Tesco for a supermarket and for residential development on land within the regeneration area off Harbour Road, owned by Tesco.

Again by a clear majority, they refused a proposal by Sainsbury's for a store on EDDC-owned land in the northern part of the Regeneration Area.

Members also approved an application from Axe Riverside Company for a residential development offering 90 apartments and including 36 affordable units along the riverside.

The Committee approved a larger-scale outline application from Tesco for redevelopment of

land in the regeneration area to include housing, tourism, townscape improvements, petrol filling station and an hotel, as well as a supermarket.

Tesco are proposing to bring in large quantities of fill material by sea to raise the level of the site to guard against flooding.

These engineering works will have to be the subject of a separate planning application at a future date. No works on the Tesco store can commence until this issue is resolved.

## Exciting expansion plans for gallery

HONITON'S Thelma Hulbert Gallery, which has become a well-loved landmark on the cultural map of the South West, is to undergo expansion and improvement in the next few months and will emerge next May with an exciting programme of exhibitions, workshops and events to appeal to all ages and tastes.

This elegant Grade II listed building, Elmfield House, thought to be early Georgian, was once the home and studio of artist Thelma Hulbert, whose work is found in collections nationally and internationally, including the Tate in London.

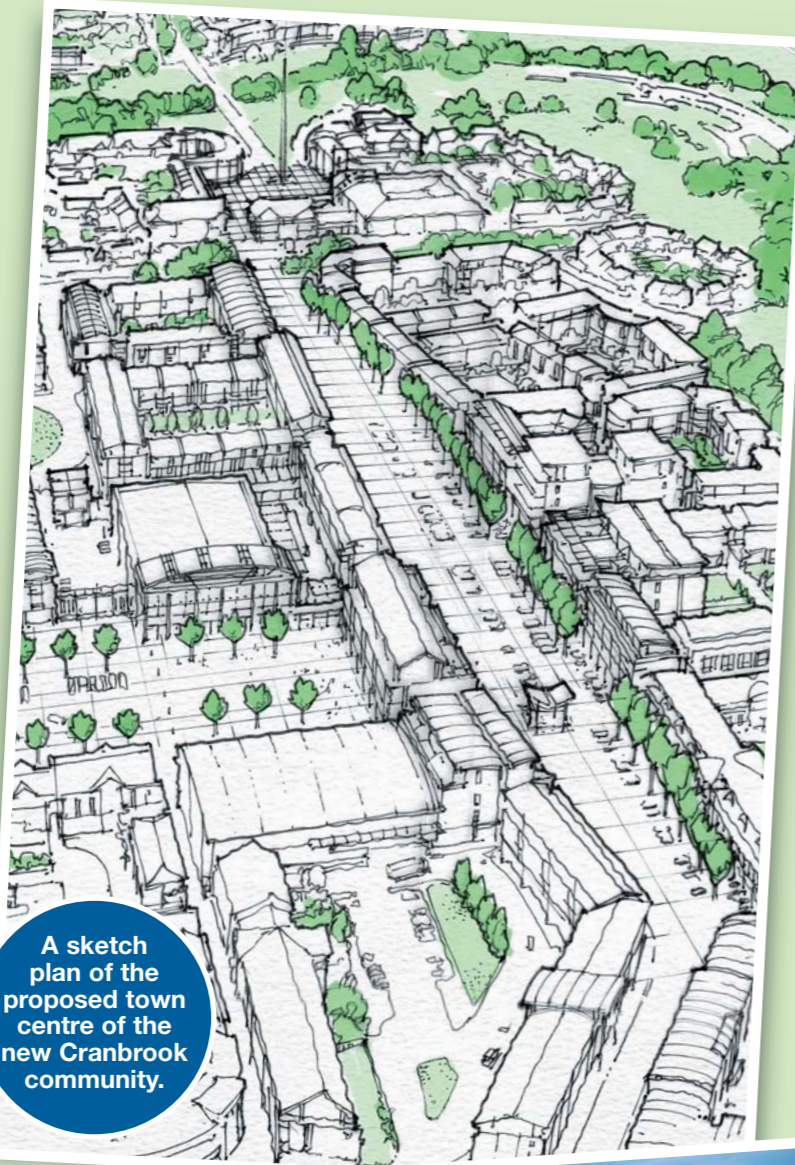
The gallery will close temporarily on Christmas Eve 2009, when its final exhibition of the year, Present Makers 09, comes to an end. During the next few months the interior of the building will be sensitively reorganised by expert architects and conservationists to allow a much larger general exhibition space on the ground floor.

Provision is also being made for a cafe and shop downstairs with a delightful view of Thelma's former courtyard garden through original shuttered glass doors.

It is hoped that a Sculpture Garden may eventually be developed in the grounds at the front of Elmfield House.

The expansion is funded by East Devon District Council and through a grant from Arts Council South West.

## Good news for the local economy as major development projects start taking shape despite the recession



A sketch plan of the proposed town centre of the new Cranbrook community.



An architect's drawing of the planned Exeter Science Park development.

### These are exciting times for the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point Team

– the group tasked with delivering the various projects designed to give housing and employment opportunities in this corner of the region a massive boost. Here *East Devon Talk* highlights how the area is riding out the stormy waters of the recession and, thanks to millions of pounds of investment from the public and private sectors, is preparing to be on the crest of a wave when the economic upturn arrives...

# Sky's the limit for growth area



Sustainable locally sourced biomass fuel will power the Cranbrook community.



An artist's impression of the planned Flybe Skills Academy.

**WORK on East Devon's long-awaited new community of Cranbrook could finally be about to start, thanks to a series of successful funding bids. What's more, it could become a "zero carbon" trail-blazer!**

The planned new community of Cranbrook could become the first mass open market development in the country to provide all its residents with a combined heating and power (CHP) district heating scheme, powered from a locally-sourced sustainable wood fuel known as biomass.

For the new residents of Cranbrook, many of them living in Affordable Housing, this would mean reduced energy bills and unlimited hot water.

This is thanks to a £2.5 million grant from the Homes and

Communities Agency's (HCA) Low Carbon Infrastructure Fund, designed to encourage "zero carbon" development in line with Government targets.

The installation of a biomass district heating scheme for the first 2,900 homes at Cranbrook could save an estimated 10,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year.

Colin Molton, Regional Director for the Homes and Communities Agency, said: "This is a great example of how the HCA can push boundaries to help make the South West a leader in the promotion and delivery of truly sustainable development solutions."

Although there are other district heating and low carbon schemes around the country, Cranbrook would be the first to install combined heating and power on

this scale in the open market.

The HCA's investment is just one part of a much bigger package of support for Cranbrook from the public sector, which includes over £6 million from the Growth Fund and £7 million from the Community Infrastructure Fund.

In addition to this, the South West Regional Development Agency (RDA) recently agreed a further £12 million from its Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) to help kick-start the Cranbrook development.

The RDA will provide funding towards the Clyst Honiton Bypass, the first primary school, and a main access road into the new community. This new investment brings the total amount of funding through the RIF to £22 million.

Ian Piper, Director of

Development and Regeneration for the South West RDA, said: "It means work to create thousands of new jobs and new homes can get under way, delivering the environmentally sustainable growth that is vital to our long-term economic future and putting the region in a great position to make the most of the economic recovery when it comes."

In total, over £50 million worth of public sector funding has now been made available to help deliver all the developments in the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point area.

Together these funds will not only enable building work to begin at Cranbrook, but they will unlock the other key projects in the growth area, such as Skypark, the Flybe Skills Academy and Exeter Science Park.



## In the pink at Seaton

ONE of the highlights of the first Minibeasts on the Marshes event associated with Seaton Carnival was the discovery of a pink grasshopper.

Staff and volunteers from East Devon District Council's Countryside team worked with Seaton Visitor Centre Arts group and Windrush Willow to provide activities involving pond dipping, minibeast hunting, wetland crafts and willow dragonfly weaving.



Daniel Tate, who went to the event with his great grandfather, said: "I was looking for grasshoppers when I saw something pink. I thought it was a flower but I saw it moving, so I tried to catch it. It jumped and I then knew it was a grasshopper."

## Taxi plan

EDDC has been seeking views about proposed improvements to taxi rank provision in Honiton town – with three times the spaces on offer. The plan is for two ranks in Honiton's High Street – one, for four vehicles, would be near the Manor House and the other, for three vehicles, to the east side of the entrance to the Baptist Church.

# Play highlights scam problem

**By Gerry Moore**  
Community Safety and Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator

A POPULAR event, which highlights issues around unwanted salespeople both on the doorstep and by post or phone, took place at the Elizabeth Hall in Exmouth.

The Solomon Theatre Group, based in Hampshire, performed a play centred on scams and bogus callers to an audience of more than 50 people.

The theatre group are no strangers to East Devon, having taken their production to Honiton, Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary over the past year, where they have put across their message about coping with bogus callers in a musical play based on real situations. This has proved a very effective way to give advice on this problem to members of the public.

The event at Exmouth was run by the East Devon Community Safety Partnership in conjunction with Devon Trading Standards, Devon & Cornwall Police, Devon Care & Repair, Devon and



## DOT your yacht

TO help reduce thefts of boat and yacht equipment, especially outboard motors, the local police have embarked on a new security initiative in the Seaton area which encourages boat owners to mark their property with 'selectaDOT'.

This is a solution which glows under UV light and which has unique individual characteristics. In the event of a theft, the item can be traced.

A special cover is being introduced to go over an outboard motor in place of the hard top cover, which is removed and kept safe. This carries both the Police and selectaDOT logos.

This initiative has received recognition in a national community safety publication and will shortly be available to boat owners in the Exe estuary.

Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, Age Concern and EDDC Home Safeguard.

Following the production, the audience had the

opportunity to ask agencies questions and obtain advice from the Police Crime Prevention Officer and Trading Standards staff.

## Action days to reassure residents

SEVERAL community action days have been held in recent years across East Devon and the most recent event was held in Axminster where a number of agencies turned out to help.

In teams, they visited almost 400 properties in the area between Lyme Close and Musbury Road. There were a number of referrals made, the highest number being made to the Police for home crime

prevention checks, followed by a number for Fire Safety checks from the Fire Service.

Some referrals were made to the other agencies. As a result of the action day, it is hoped that residents might feel even more reassured that their safety needs are being met.

**Contact: 01395 273802;**  
gmoore@eastdevon.gov.uk

# Students star in sea food film



EDDC launched its latest educational resource for schools in October with a premier screening of the film *Think Deep*. The DVD will be distributed free to all secondary schools in the South West.

*Think Deep* is a collaborative project with Exmouth Community College and Natural England produced by local media production company Pangaea TV. It looks to bring the undersea world of the South West into the classroom. Principles of consumption and sustainability, to be taught in the Key Stage 3 Geography, Science and Citizenship curricula, are illustrated in the film by local business case studies.

The film is presented by three Exmouth Community College students and stars local celebrity chef Michael Caines, who sets the students a challenge to find out more about where

Filming *Think Deep* on location at Beer beach.



the fish they eat comes from. During this challenge, the students visit Beer crab fisherman Kim Aplin, Exmouth mussel farmer Myles Blood Smyth and Ebford fishmonger Dave Kerley.

EDDC Chairman Graham Liverton said: "This film will bring East Devon's

proud fishing heritage into classrooms throughout the region.

"We all realise the need to provide food, including seafood, sustainably and it is fantastic to be able to showcase local examples of how this is currently being achieved."

## Would-be tenants can bid for a home anywhere in county

EDDC council house applicants have until the end of November to register for a new county-wide choice-based lettings scheme to be launched later this year.

Devon Home Choice will enable would-be tenants to bid for homes that meet their needs but, rather than restricting the choice to the district in which they are registered, from the end of January 2010 they will be able to bid for a home anywhere in Devon.

First, the council needs to ensure that all the data held on its Housing Register is completely up-to-date so that anyone needing a home can be sure that their correct details appear on the new



Devon Home Choice system.

If anyone fails to re-register, then their application will no longer be considered for housing and they will not be able to bid for properties when they become available.

Letters have gone out to existing Gold, Silver and Bronze Band applicants, explaining the re-registration

process, asking people to register by the end of November 2009, either by using the Devon Home Choice website at [www.devonhomechoice.com](http://www.devonhomechoice.com) or by going to EDDC's website [www.eastdevon.gov.uk/dhc](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/dhc) and following the link to Devon Home Choice.

## New play schemes

A NEW play area chosen by residents will be installed in Norman's Crescent at Budleigh Salterton by the end of November.

This is just one of several schemes, many paid for by funding from developers and which local people have helped EDDC to design. Other schemes are at

The Maer in Exmouth (equipment currently being designed following local consultation) and at Carter Avenue, Exmouth – which has now had replacement play equipment installed.

# Go-ahead for £3m Strand plan

A £3 million regeneration plan for the Exmouth Strand has been approved by Devon County Council and EDDC. Work is expected to start next February.

The county and district councils have been working in partnership with Exmouth Town Council on the scheme and, following a series of consultation events since June 2008, the final design has been developed with the help of the local community and businesses.

Devon County Council will fund £2 million of the scheme, with East Devon District Council providing £1 million.

The main features include a vibrant space at the heart of the Strand, suitable to host markets, outdoor cafes, performances and remembrance services, with an enhanced setting for

the listed War Memorial.

The enhancement of The Strand is just part of a wider regeneration masterplan for Exmouth, which is being developed by a partnership of councils and community representatives.

This artist's impression shows how the new Strand could look with a farmers' market in place.



Contact us if you need help

EDDC is getting lots of positive comments about the helpful way it assists customers struggling with council tax or in need of housing benefit.

Our message is: If you're having difficulty paying your council tax or rent, contact us now. For rent, please ring 01395 517444. For council tax ring the number below.

Help is also available for families with children and for pensioners from 2 November, 2009.

If you receive child benefit, it will no longer be taken into account when assessing housing and council tax benefit.

If you are receiving housing benefit and child benefit, we will automatically calculate your benefit under the new rules – unless you are already getting full council tax and/or housing benefit.

If you are not currently receiving housing or council tax benefit from us AND you get child benefit, AND you are on a low income with less than £16,000 in savings, you should apply now for help by phoning 01395 517 446.

There's also help for pensioners. The first £10,000 of savings (previously £6,000) will not be taken into account when considering housing or council tax benefit. If you are already claiming benefit, the switch will be automatic. If not, please contact us.

## Action to reduce flood risk

THE Environment Agency and its partners on the East Devon Flood Recovery Group have teamed up with farmers to reduce the future risk of flooding to homes and other properties.

A year ago flooding hit properties in 30 towns and villages throughout the district. The vast majority were flooded by small streams or surface water run-off, rather than the main rivers flowing through the area.

Since then, extensive research by the Environment Agency has shown that compacted soil in farm fields contributes to a high-level of run-off.

Farmers are now working with agencies to tackle soil compaction so that more water soaks into the soil and less runs off onto roads, which could reduce the risk of flooding in East Devon.

Soil compaction happens when wet soil is compressed, especially by the weight of livestock or machinery. Farmers have been



using "sub-soiler" machines to break up their land following harvest.

● Councillor Graham Brown, EDDC's Portfolio Holder Environment, took part in a press launch of the sub-soiler initiative. He is pictured above, right, with farmer Andrew Down.