

# The Knowledge



Storm clouds at Budleigh Salterton  
Photo: Ben Chesters

2 May 2008

## Grand opening of Neroche Herepath Trail



The Neroche Scheme is working to create a 40km network of promoted multi-use "Herepath" Trails on the Blackdown Hills by improving existing bridleways and developing new routes and other improvements with landowners. The aim of the trails is to provide safe off-road recreational routes for walkers and riders whilst also providing a boost to the local economy. After the major surface and drainage improvement work in 2007, the first Herepath trail around Staple Fitzpaine will be officially opened on **Saturday 10 May** at Bickenhall Farm between 10am and 4pm.

Debbie Criddle, Paralympic Gold Medalist and international dressage rider will officially open the trail at 10.15am and send off the first group of riders and walkers, who will be following the trail during the course of the day.

It will be an event for all the family with lots going on. Tea, coffee and local cakes will be available throughout the day along with various family activities. There will be a 'fun ride' and walk of the whole route (shorter option available) with activities for children at Bickenhall Farm. All those taking part will receive a Neroche Scheme rosette or badge!

The Staple Fitzpaine Herepath will form a continuous 13.5 mile (22km) loop. There are two public car parks on the route at Castle Neroche and Staple Hill and horsebox parking can be arranged at local farms, pubs and livery yards. A map and route guide to the new trail will be available on the website at the beginning of May.

**Places on the walks and rides are limited so please contact the Neroche Office on 01823 680846 for more information and to book places.**

<http://www.nerochescheme.org/eventInfo.php?id=20>

## This week in The Knowledge

- ❑ 12 ways to help you reduce fuel consumption
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## 12 ways to help you reduce fuel consumption

### 1. Air conditioning

Having air-conditioning switched on can add as much as 14% to fuel consumption.

### 2. Drag factor and lightening loads

Remove roof/bike racks if not in use. They create drag and are an unnecessary weight when not in use causing increased fuel consumption. Having windows open over 40mph will also create drag.

### 3. Tyre pressure

Under-inflated tyres have increased rolling resistance and increase fuel consumption.

### 4. Green credentials

Car dealers are required to display, in new car showrooms a 'fuel label', which gives an energy efficiency rating and the running cost that an owner can expect over a year.

### 5. Drive gently

Avoid harsh acceleration and heavy braking. Pulling away too fast uses up to 60% more fuel. Anticipate what is ahead and keep a constant speed.

### 6. Gear changes

Changing gear at a modest engine speed - between around 2,000 and 2,500 rpm - can reduce fuel consumption by up to 15%.

### 7. Speed limits

Make your fuel go further. Driving at 70mph uses 30% more fuel than at 50mph. Driving at 70mph along a motorway instead of 80mph can save 40% every 10 miles.

### 8. Start up and go

Drive off immediately when starting from cold. Idling to heat the engine wastes fuel and causes rapid engine wear.

### 9. Avoid short or unnecessary journeys

A cold engine uses as much fuel and catalytic converters can take miles to become effective. If you live one or two miles from work why not walk or ride a bike or consider car sharing with colleagues.

### 10. Switch off

If you're stuck in a jam turning off the engine after 2 minutes will save fuel and cut all emissions. Turn off the ignition if you are waiting.

### 11. Maintain your car properly

A poorly tuned engine can increase fuel consumption by up to 50%. Properly maintaining your car can maximise fuel efficiency. You'll also minimise engine wear and tear.

### 12. Plan your journey

Sitting in traffic will reduce your vehicle's fuel economy. If possible, avoid travelling at peak times.

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

[www2.uwic.ac.uk](http://www2.uwic.ac.uk)

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com>



**Executive Board: 30 April 2008** Members are notified of the following decisions:

	Item	Decision
207	Minutes of the meetings of the <a href="#">Corporate Overview Committee</a> and <a href="#">Scrutiny Committee</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. that the following decisions be noted: Corporate Overview Committee Minutes 33, 34, 36. Scrutiny Committee Minutes 67, 68, 70, 71, 72.</li> <li>2. that the following recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee be approved, (Recommendation 2 of Minute 70 was not supported and has been deleted as, following a vote, the Board agreed that the current working arrangements of the Asset Management Forum matched its purpose, with Ward Members already being included in the decision-making process at the appropriate time. In addition Recommendation 3 of Minute 69 was not supported and has been deleted as the Board felt that the service and budget process worked well, starting as early as practical during the year and involving all Councillors): Scrutiny Committee Minutes 69, 70, 71.</li> <li>3. that the following recommendation be referred to Council for approval: Corporate Overview Committee Minutes 32, 34, 35. Scrutiny Committee Minutes 68.</li> </ol>
208	Member Development Working Party	The report of the meeting held on 3 April 2008 and the action points included were approved.
211	Exeter and East Devon New Growth Point Funding Allocation 2008/08 – Growth Area Projects Capacity and Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. that Executive Board note the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) award for 2008/09 of £1,252,000 capital and £250,848 revenue funding for the Exeter and East Devon New Growth Point and the indicative allocation of £3,626,000 capital and £351,187 revenue for 2009/10 – 2010/11.</li> <li>2. that, subject approval of the Exeter and East Devon New Growth Point Steering Board of the communications officer job description, authority be given to the New Growth Point Projects' Director to recruit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ a project manager on a 2 year fixed term contract</li> <li>❑ a communications officer on a 2 year fixed term contract (maximum of four days per week)</li> </ul> <p>The cost of which shall be funded from the New Growth Point funding</p> </li> </ol>
212	Civil Parking Enforcement – Progress report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. that the Council's current position regarding the potential delivery of on-street car parking enforcement be noted,</li> <li>2. that the application of the higher charging band to Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued for off-street parking contraventions under the provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004 be endorsed and it be noted these charges are consistent with those applied by Devon County Council for on-street parking,</li> <li>3. that application be made to the Secretary of State for consent to retain, beyond 5 May 2008, the existing EDDC arrangement whereby vehicles that have over-stayed their allowed ticket time in an off-street car park can purchase a £5 ticket within one hour of the expiry time of the parking ticket resulting in the Penalty Charge Notice being cancelled,</li> </ol>

## Executive Board: 30 April 2008 (continued)

	Item	Decision
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. that the new staffing structure for Car Park Enforcement be approved,</li> <li>5. that the Council enters into a memorandum of participation or similar to join the Joint Committee Agreement to enable it to become part of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal (formerly the National Parking Advisory Scheme) which deals with adjudications on Fixed Penalty Notices and that the Portfolio Holder (Economy) or such other person as the Council may from time to time appoint be its representative on that committee,</li> <li>6. that the Head of Streetscene be given delegated authority to carry out the Council's statutory functions under the Traffic Management Act 2004,</li> <li>7. that the Chief Executive or his nominated deputy be the Council's representative on the County Parking Board.</li> </ol>
213	Results of the Public Consultation on Street Trading on the Esplanade and Promenade at Sidmouth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. that the results of the public consultation undertaken in respect of the possible designation of the Esplanade and Promenade, Sidmouth as a consent street for street trading under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 be noted,</li> <li>2. that the Chief Executive advertises notice of intention to pass a resolution at a future meeting of the Executive Board, effectively changing the street designation from 'prohibited' to 'consent' and to serve a copy of the notice on the Chief Officer of Police and on the Highway Authority, in time for this being in place before this year's Sidmouth Folk Festival.</li> </ol>
214	Control of seagulls and pigeons	that as there was no proof that seagull and pigeon populations could be effectively controlled by the methods outlined in the report, the Board agreed that none be pursued and would rely on the introduction of lidded bins and gull sacks, which were being rolled out as part of the recycling and refuse initiative, as having the greatest potential for control.
216	Seaton Regeneration Project, Development at the Underfleet and Harbour Road, Seaton	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. that the Council continues to negotiate with Tesco in respect of the redevelopment of land at the Underfleet and Harbour Road, and that any decision on an exclusivity agreement will be taken when the planning position has become clearer,</li> <li>2. that officers be authorised to continue negotiations with Sainsbury's on the planning and property implications of their redevelopment proposals on the explicit understanding that if the Council was to resolve to bring forward land at the Underfleet for the development of a supermarket on its land it would be done on the basis of a full marketing exercise.</li> </ol>
217	Land at Harepath Road, Seaton	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. that the preparation and submission of an Outline Planning Application on land identified in East Devon Local Plan Policy LSE2 and a 2.5 hectare extension be authorised to provide employment land and outdoor recreational facilities at Harepath Road, Seaton,</li> <li>2. that the identification of potential commercial partners and negotiations with them be authorised to establish the scope for a Joint Venture partnership approach to the delivery of the extended mixed use development site at Harepath Road Seaton,</li> </ol>

## Executive Board: 30 April 2008 (continued)

	Item	Decision
		<p>3. that the commencement of negotiations on the acquisition by the Council of the development land referred to in this report be authorised. The progress of these negotiations and the financial and legal implications that flow from them to be the subject of a further more fully detailed report to the Executive Board,</p> <p>4. that a grant (as detailed in the report) be made available to Seaton Development Trust to enable it to commission research into the demand for employment land and buildings in Seaton, conditional upon the specification of and funding for this work being formally agreed by Devon Renaissance and subject to their contract monitoring arrangements.</p>
218	Riverside Workshop, Seaton	<p>1. that the commencement of negotiations on the disposal of the Riverside Workshops to Axe Riverside Ltd., be authorised to facilitate the realisation of proposals for the comprehensive redevelopment of the most easterly portion of the Seaton Regeneration Area,</p> <p>2. that negotiations with Axe Riverside Ltd., the owners of the former Racal factory, for release of restrictive covenants, be authorised to the benefit of the Council, in relation to the future redevelopment of this property.</p>

The above decisions will become effective on Friday 9 May 2008 at 9.00am unless "called in". The published procedure for a "call in" is on pages 133-135 of the Council Constitution (as amended at the Annual Meeting of the Council), or contact Democratic Services for assistance or explanation. Recommendations by the Executive Board to Council are not included above, as they are not subject to "call in".

## Forthcoming meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee	Chris Lane	Tuesday 6 May	9.30am	CANCELLED
Development Control Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 6 May	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Scrutiny Committee	Debbie Meakin	Wednesday 7 May	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Audit and Corporate Governance Task and Finish Forum	Christopher Holland	Thursday 8 May	2.00pm	Committee Room
Community Fund Panel	Chris Lane	Thursday 8 May	5.30pm	Room 1

Would Councillors please pass their apologies to Democratic Services whenever they are unable to attend a meeting so that post can be sent or withheld as appropriate. **Please check your pigeon holes for any post whenever you visit the offices.**

If you would like a copy of the papers relating to any of the above meetings, please contact the relevant Democratic Services Officer. (All the above meetings are at Knowle, unless otherwise specified).

To view agendas and minutes on the Council's website, click [here](#).

Click [here](#) to view planning applications online.

Click [here](#) to view new applications received relating to the Licensing Act 2003.

Diana Vernon 01395 517541	Christopher Holland 01395 517543	Hannah Jarvis 01395 517542	Chris Lane 01395 517544	Debbie Meakin 01395 517540	Rachel Perram 01395 517542
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## Application for membership of Standards Committee

As you maybe aware this Council has a Standards Committee whose role it is to promote and maintain a high standard of conduct by both district and parish councillors helping them to observe the Code of Conduct.

We now require an independent member to sit on our Standards Committee. Training will be given to assist you in this role. Meetings are held in the daytime. We offer an allowance and travelling expenses to the successful candidate.

For further details and an application form, to be returned by Monday **2 June**, please contact Chris Lane, Democratic Services Officer on 01395 517544.

## New documents in the Members' Area

### Feedback from outside bodies

- Norman Lockyer Observatory Management Committee – Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April and Agenda for meeting to be held on 17 June.

The above document is in the 'Feedback from Outside Bodies' file on the bookcase in the Members' Area for your information.

## New email address



Please note that newly elected Councillor Buxton (Conservative Party) now has an email for Council business. His full contact details are: R J Buxton, Courtmoor Farm, Upton, Honiton EX14 9QA. Tel: (01404) 861481

Email: [rbuxton@members.eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:rbuxton@members.eastdevon.gov.uk)

## Funding

**UnLtd Sport Relief** have grants of up to £500 for individuals or small groups who come up with an idea to bring people together through sport or recreation. Examples of projects include a skateboarding competition aimed at reducing tensions between local groups or workshops in music and drama that explore different cultures. UnLtd are currently focusing their attention on trying to encourage 11-16 year olds to apply to the scheme. Further details:

[www.sportreliefawards@unltd.org.uk](http://www.sportreliefawards@unltd.org.uk)



### The Museums, Libraries & Archives Council



(MLA) has released funds for a small grants scheme to support story events in museums, libraries and archives. The grants will support activities to bring alive the stories in collections - using story-tellers, music, dance and poetry. The events will coincide

with the launch of the Cultural Olympiad September 26 to 28, 2008, and will form part of MLA's Literature and Storytelling programme. Museums, libraries and archives will have the opportunity to secure funding for events to engage children, families and general audiences. The deadline for applications is noon on Friday **16 May**. <http://www.mla.gov.uk>

## Chairman's engagements

### Tuesday 6 May - 1pm

Vice Chairman, Cllr Pauline Stott, will be attending the cutting of the first sod of the land for the new lifeboat station, Exmouth followed by tea.

### Friday 9 May - 12.30pm

Chairman attending the President's Lunch at the Axe Yacht Club in their Club House.

## Rural Services Network (RSN)

Here are the latest news items from the [Rural Services Network](#):

### Skills shortage 'threatens buildings'



A shortage of specialist craftworkers is putting thousands of old rural buildings at risk, say experts. Many people responsible for repairing older properties lack the necessary skills.

Traditional craft workers including stonemasons, thatchers, dry stone-wallers and slate roofers

are in short supply. [www.rsnonline.org.uk](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk)

### Countryside is a 'creative powerhouse'

Business are relocating to the countryside due to a lack of creativity in cities. [www.rsnonline.org.uk](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk)

### Recycling: Find out which local council tops league table

A rural local authority with a recycling rate of 55% fends off competition from 74 other councils. [www.rsnonline.org.uk](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk)



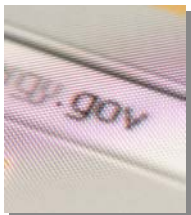
### Council moves to improve mobile libraries

Mobile library services are being improved in Lincolnshire following a consultation with rural residents. [www.rsnonline.org.uk](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk)

Note: Members of the Rural Services Network (which includes Councillors and Council staff) can gain free and full access to RSN Online by registering at <http://tinyurl.com/2y7ssp>

## News from the IDEa (Improvement and Development Agency)

### Local Government Information House (LGIH) opens its online doors



Much of local government's work is affected by the standardisation of data. Find out how LGIH, as a conduit between the public and private sector, is helping to deliver faster and more effective

services through its national geographical information projects. Key beneficiaries include the emergency services, national parks, conservation boards and local authorities. [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

### Uplift in rural health

People often imagine a rural idyll when they think of the Lake District and Cumbria. However, there are numerous pockets of deprivation in the region. Find out how health champions plan to stamp out poverty and improve areas where disadvantage exists. [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

### Improvement Express: April edition

As the 'credit crunch' continues to take its toll on the global economy, the IDEa's Executive Director Lucy de Groot reviews the ramifications for the local government arena. Plus read details on developing councillor capacity, leadership development and key dates for your diary. [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

### Local Area Agreements: business support study



In the wake of the well publicised 'credit crunch' it will become increasingly important for new businesses and entrepreneurs to access the right kind of support. This case study looks at Stoke-on-Trent's successful Business Brokers project. [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

## In the press

### Councils using powers to snoop on residents

Thousands of people have been monitored by councils using the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) with a survey revealing that 46 councils have invoked the law 1343



times. Civil liberty groups have demanded changes to the law to make it a requirement for councils to apply to judges for the power to use surveillance techniques. Amongst those being targeted, according to reports, are dog walkers, planning rule violators, and those misusing disabled badges. Chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA), Sir Simon Milton, was quoted as saying that councils are using "every weapon in their arsenal to catch the rogue traders, doorstep criminals, and scam artists who cheat the taxpayer and prey on the vulnerable and elderly". [Mail](#)

### Lollipop ladies lick road rage

Lollipop ladies are being armed with video cameras that record instances of "lollipop rage" which include dangerous driving, swearing and spitting. Around 1400 instances of abuse were recorded last year and councils across Britain are fighting back with this new measure. Cllr. David Sparks, of the LGA, is quoted as saying, "It's unbelievable that we have to take this action, but the lives of children are at risk from increasing numbers of drivers who are so selfish that they are unwilling to stop for thirty seconds at a school crossing." [Times](#)

### School dinner price rise imminent



The price of school dinners is set to rise above £2 for the first time this year, leading to a £390 a year bill for parents. The Local Authorities Caterers' Association has warned of "increases above the norm" as food prices continue to rise.

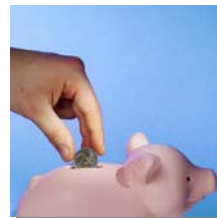
[Mirror](#)

### £800 million in fines for motoring offences

Tickets given out by council parking attendants make up two thirds of all motoring offence penalties according to the Daily Express, with a total of 12.7 million offences committed in 2006. 1 in 3 drivers is caught each year by a parking warden or speed camera. The total rises to more than 4 in 10 when the number of motorists trapped by the police is included. The number of more serious offences punished by the courts, such as dangerous or drink driving, has slumped however. The official figures gave rise to claims that drivers are being used as cash cows in a surveillance society. The TaxPayers' Alliance has commented, "Councils are abusing the system. This is extra council tax dressed up as a law and order measure". Between them, cameras and council staff trapped 9.8million drivers in 2006, the equivalent of 1 in every 3 licensed vehicles. [Mail](#)

### 10% town hall budget cut advocated by taxpayers' alliance

Cutting 10% off town hall budgets could save

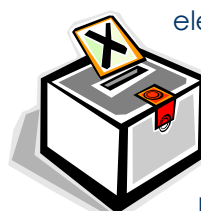


families £40 a year according to the Taxpayers' Alliance who have launched their "Ten Per Cent Challenge" campaign. As well as recommending a decrease in "pay and perks",

the TPA state that, "Councils should use fewer glossy leaflets, put up fewer annoying adverts and employ fewer press officers". [Sun](#)

### Low election turnout due to lack of council powers

Low knowledge of, and turn-out for, local elections is the result of the insufficient powers wielded by councils according to a Telegraph editorial. The newspaper advocates increased fiscal and legislative autonomy for local authorities to tackle this apathy and improve voter turnout. [Telegraph](#)



## In the press (continued)

### Windfall tax for energy giants



Campaigners are calling for a windfall tax to be placed on energy companies that are expected to announce significant profits. MPs are voicing concern at excessive profits being made by the industry at the expense of consumers. [Guardian](#)

### "Happy list" published

The Independent on Sunday has compiled a 'happy list' partly in response to the Sunday Times's publication of this year's 'rich list'. The paper thanks local authorities for enthusiastically returning to them via the LGA with stories about local heroes that ran into the hundreds. [Independent](#)



### Secret bail hostels opened across Britain

About 150 hostels run by a private company under a Government contract will open over the next month, despite there having been little or no consultation with local people. The hostels, in major cities and market towns, will house offenders released before the end of their sentences and suspects awaiting trial. The hostels will be run by Clearsprings, a property management firm based in Rayleigh, Essex. Sites for hostels include Bath, Rochester, Dudley, Durham and Stafford.

Ertan Hurer, a councillor in Enfield, north London, said he was furious that his council had not been consulted about the 13 hostels being set up in the area. Residents would feel "absolute horror" about the plans, he said. [Telegraph](#)

Please note that links to some websites will only work correctly if you have Adobe PDF Reader Version 7 or 8 on your computer. You can download this free from the Adobe [website](#).

If you require further assistance please contact Democratic Services on 01395 517546.

You can access press items by going onto the secure Members' web page of EDDC's website and clicking on the 'In the Press' link. This is updated every Saturday.

Please note that the Express & Echo web site for press coverage is: [www.thissexeter.co.uk](http://www.thissexeter.co.uk)

For Western Morning News stories the web site is: [www.thisisdevon.co.uk](http://www.thisisdevon.co.uk)

For Archant news stories the web site is [www.devon24.co.uk](http://www.devon24.co.uk)

### Production Information

The Democratic Services team produces this weekly information sheet every Friday for Members of East Devon District Council. Please contact Diana Vernon if you have any comments about the newsletter. **If you wish to reproduce any of the images used in The Knowledge, please contact the editor who will seek permission from the contributor.**

Telephone: (01395) 517541 or Extension: 2741. Email: [dvernon@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:dvernon@eastdevon.gov.uk)

**Submissions:** If you have items that you wish to be included in the next issue, please contact Democratic Services.

Telephone: (01395) 517542 or Extension 2746. Email: [knowledge@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:knowledge@eastdevon.gov.uk)