

The Knowledge



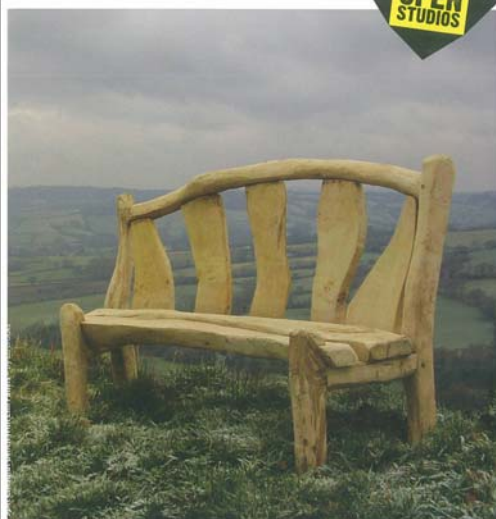
View from Seaton
Photo: Ben Chesters

5 September 2008

Inspirational East Devon arts trail

devon open studios 2008

EAST DEVON 13 - 21 SEPTEMBER VENUES 142 - 166
INCLUDING HONITON, SIDMOUTH AND EXMOUTH



Devon
County Council

a devon artist network event
www.devonartistnetwork.co.uk

trail 9

Artists taking part in the Devon Open Studios event throw open their doors to the public on Saturday **13 September** with 25 venues showing the work of almost 50 East Devon artists.

The event gives artists and artist groups the opportunity of opening their homes and studios to visitors and showing work that ranges from traditional painting and ceramics to installations and performance pieces.

New for this year are the trail maps, with copies of all 9 maps available from The Thelma Hulbert Gallery in Honiton, South West Arts in Sidmouth, Tourist

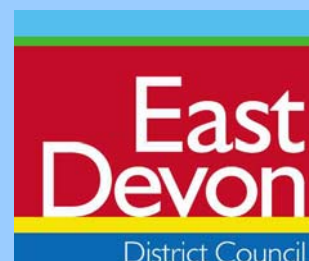
Information Centers and Libraries. So follow the distinctive black and yellow arrows and enjoy a complete day out or just a short visit, see the countryside and the best of East Devon's flourishing arts scene.

Ishbel Ramsay, Arts Development Officer for EDDC said "We are so fortunate to live in a beautiful and inspiring part of the country and it is no surprise that as a result we have some of the best artists around living right here on our doorstep. This is your chance to have a look at new work in the studios of artists you already admire and also to visit other artists for the very first time. The Arts Trail is the perfect opportunity to stop off and enjoy wonderful local food and hospitality on the way, what could be better?!"

The East Devon studios event runs from open from 13 - 21 September.

This week in The Knowledge

- ❑ Executive Board decisions
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Executive Board: 3 September 2008

Members are notified of the following decisions:

	Item	Decision
57	Minutes of the Corporate Overview Committee and the Housing Review Board	<p>(1) that the following decisions be noted: Corporate Overview minute 2 Housing Review Board minutes 1, 2, 9, 15, 17</p> <p>(2) that the following recommendations be approved Corporate Overview minutes 2, 3, 4 Housing Review Board minutes 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16</p> <p>(3) that the following recommendation be referred to Council for consideration: Corporate Overview minute 4</p>
58	Minutes of the meeting of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board	that Devon County Council be asked how it could help this Council in recycling the increasing volume of collected recyclable waste being generated.
61	Financial Monitoring report 2008/09 – Month 4	that the variances identified as part of the Revenue and Capital Monitoring process up to month four and the new financial performance indicators for 2008/09 be noted, including the effect on the Council's Reserves and Balances.
62	Planning and Housing Delivery Grant – 2007/08 provisional settlement	that the provisional settlement that the Council would receive for 2007/08 under the new Housing and Planning Delivery Grant scheme be noted.
63	Ottery St Mary: Footbridge and Cycle Route	that the County Council's Executive be requested to review this matter and actively support, both financially and practically, the implementation of the Ottery St Mary Footbridge and Cycle Route.
64	Participatory Budgeting	<p>(1) that a representative from the Government's Participatory Budgeting (PB) Unit meet with East Devon District Council Officers within the next month to explore where PB methods could be employed, with the Council applying for 5 days free expert support if a project in a rural area could be identified,</p> <p>(2) that that the idea of Section 106 funds being spent using PB methods be explored with the PB Unit, and brought in for appropriate future Section 106 monies, including an initial project to be started within the next 6 months, if possible,</p> <p>(3) that the PB approach be promoted internally, and if appropriate, PB being used for other suitable 'pots' of money when they arise.</p>
66	Place Survey	<p>(1) that the Place Survey being undertaken by East Devon District Council on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government be noted,</p> <p>(2) that Members be asked to complete the survey (on line if this could be arranged) so that they would have a better understanding of what it would achieve and its value in future service planning.</p>

Executive Board: 3 September 2008 (continued)

	Item	Decision
67	Performance Monitoring Report – April, May and June 2008	<p>(1) that the list of Performance Indicators for monitoring against each month during 2008/09 be approved and performance and proposed remedial action against these Indicators for the months of April, May and June 2008 be noted.</p> <p>(2) that the Corporate Overview Committee be invited to consider in detail how the Council's economic priority was being dealt with and what further action could and should be taken to support the economic health of the district.</p>
68	Additional Training for Staff	<p>(1) that additional expenditure associated with extra training to assist EDDC staff, should there be a local government reorganisation, be agreed in principle,</p> <p>(2) that the up-dated Redundancy Policy and locally adopted discretionary enhancements to be included in the training along with information regarding employment rights in transfer situations, be approved,</p> <p>(3) that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive and Head of Organisational Development to develop training and provide additional support and other resources for EDDC staff to deal with change in the event of local government reorganisation.</p>
69	Exeter International Airport Draft Master Plan (June 2008)	<p>(1) that the expansion of Exeter International Airport, as set out in the draft master plan of June 2008, be supported in principle in recognition of the economic benefits this will bring but without prejudice to the Council's role as Local Planning Authority in considering any proposals for development,</p> <p>(2) that in view of the environmental and climate change implications of the expansion of the airport Exeter International Airport should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Provide robust evidence outlining how sustainable transport (including ambitious targets for a modal split in adequate favour of public transport) is going to be achieved, having regard to the position of the terminal to the south of the runway further from the proposed high quality public transport link between Cranbrook and its station, Skypark, the Intermodal Freight Terminal, Science Park and Exeter. (ii) Make clear in the master plan how the proposed new frequent public transport service connecting the Airport terminal to the new rail station will be delivered. (iii) Provide further information on: noise modelling and levels; the incidence of high power engine tests at night, the effect on noise levels of the existing ground running pen and what measures are proposed to minimise noise when the engine test facility moves to the south side of the runway; assumptions on charter flight growth and possible consequences for night time activity; and car parking forecasts. (iv) Produce a 'Quiet Operations Policy' identifying procedures, targets and monitoring relating to continuous descent, take-

Executive Board: 3 September 2008 (continued)

	Item	Decision
	Exeter International Airport Draft Master Plan (June 2008) continued	<p>(v) off and flight paths.</p> <p>(vi) Consider offering noise insulation assistance to occupiers of properties in East Devon experiencing airborne aircraft noise above 57dB LAeq, 16h</p> <p>Exeter International Airport be requested to engage with officers in a detailed analysis on the implications for the Airport and its expansion of the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy with respect to Cranbrook and other strategic developments to the east of Exeter.</p>
70	Standing Orders Exemptions – Domestic Energy Assessors	that approval be given to exemption from Standing Order 1.13 in respect of use of accredited Domestic Energy Assessors to comply with the Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings for the reasons set out in the report.
72	LED Service Charge discussions and loan proposal – Key Decision	<p>(1) that Leisure East Devon (LED)'s proposal for a (interest repayable only) "capital loan" from EDDC be agreed in principle,</p> <p>(2) that potential future capital costs of the Axminster Sports Centre referred to in the report be noted,</p> <p>(3) that Diccon Pearse, Corporate Director be requested to recognise the effects of a possible increase in service payment to LED in the medium term financial projections in 2011</p> <p>(4) that Diccon Pearse Corporate Director also examines the financial justification for increased revenue for the next contract period as submitted by LED, and the details of a loan.</p>
73	Construction of 2 bungalows – Manstone	<p>(1) that option 1, detailed in the report, allowing EDDC to build, then rent to individuals on EDDC's Housing Register that meet the requirements for disabled living, be approved,</p> <p>(2) that funding from the Capital Fund/commuted sum payment to meet the construction and associated costs of option 1, be approved.</p>
74	Up-date on Legal Challenge to Local Government Reorganisation	that the refusal of the Secretary of State and Boundary Committee to compromise potential court action be noted, together with the current position in legal proceedings.

The above decisions will become effective on 11 September 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".

Post Office Ltd Network Change Programme - Devon Area Plan Supplementary Decision Booklet Summary

In May 2007, following a national public consultation, the Government announced a range of proposed measures to modernise and reshape the network of Post Office branches and put in on a more stable footing for the future. Post Office Ltd has now commenced a Network Change programme to implement the measures prescribed by the Government.

Following the conclusion of the six-week local public consultation for the Devon Area Plan, which set out the changes the Post Office Ltd proposed to make, Postwatch, the independent watchdog for postal services conducted a further review. The review has now been concluded and Post Office Ltd has published their final decisions in respect of each individual proposal listed below. Following the conclusion of this further review Post Office Ltd's decision is final and there is no appeal procedure to Post Office Ltd.

Post Office Millwey Rise branch, Axminster
Post Office Offwell branch, Offwell
Post Office Queen Street branch, Exeter
Post Office Bridestowe branch, Okehampton
Post Office Lustleigh branch, Newton Abbot
Post Office Shebbear branch, Beaworthy
Post Office Widecombe in the Moor branch, Newton Abbot



Post Office Ltd has decided to proceed with the closure of Millwey Rise, Offwell and Queen Street, with the replacement of Bridestowe, Lustleigh, Shebbear and Widecombe in the Moor with Outreach Services, and to retain a total of 333 branches across the Devon area. The remaining network of 333 branches supports the minimum access criteria prescribed by the Government and ensures that 99.4% of the Devon Area will see either no change or will remain within one mile (by road distance) of an alternative branch.

Posters will be on display in each of the branches that will be closed or replaced by an Outreach Service to inform customers. Further information will be provided to confirm actual dates the closures or changes will take place.

Reasons for closure of Post Office Millwey Rise branch:

- ❑ Customer numbers are relatively low at the branch.
- ❑ Post Office Axminster branch is less than one mile away, providing a wider range of Post Office products and services and is located in the main retailing centre for the area.
- ❑ There is a two-hourly bus service that runs between the two branches.
- ❑ The limited retail services in the area mean that most residents are likely to be travelling to access the wider range of retailing facilities outside the Millwey Rise area already.

Post Office Ltd is currently intending to introduce a new Post Office outlet at this location, on a trial basis, immediately following the closure of this branch. Full details of any such proposed new trial service will be communicated as soon as possible.

Reasons for closure of Post Office Offwell branch:

- ❑ Although public transport in the local area is very limited, customer numbers at the branch are relatively low and car ownership levels in the area are high
- ❑ The limited retail services in the local area indicates that residents are likely to be travelling to access the wider range of retailing facilities outside of the area already
- ❑ Post Office Honiton branch has restricted parking close to the branch and a car park less than 300 yards away

Post Office Ltd Network Change Programme - Devon Area Plan Supplementary Decision Booklet Summary (continued)

- The Honiton branch has a level entrance, is open longer hours and offers a wider range of Post Office products and services than Post Office Offwell branch
- Post Office Ltd has reviewed the capacity of Post Office Honiton branch to absorb the expected increase in customer levels arising from the proposed closure of Post Office Offwell branch and is satisfied that good service levels can still be maintained

It is proposed that 15 branches within the Devon area will have improvement works in order to provide better disabled access or increase the number of counter of counter positions to ensure that they have sufficient capacity for customers migrating from other branches.

In line with the Code of Practice agreed between Post Office Ltd and Post Watch, any closures or other changes will take effect not less than four weeks after the decision is announced.

A copy of the Supplementary Decision Booklet is available on the Post Office Ltd website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

Croatians visit Blackdown Hills projects



Croatian officials enjoyed a visit to the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) on 28 August as part of a South West tour to learn more about the region's successful implementation of European funding programmes.

The 20 officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, visited a variety of local projects funded by Leader+, a European Union programme which supports producers and small businesses in rural areas, and a project funded through the England Rural Development Programme. The party heard how the two programmes have

improved the social and rural economy in the Blackdown Hills.

The tour took in the Leader+ funded Eco Business Park, Blackdown Hills Schooling and Eventing Course, and Beech Hayes farm, a participant of the Blackdown Hills Food & Drink Festival. In the morning the visitors met members of the Stockland Victory Hall Improvement Team to see the Hall's improvements funded through England Rural Development Programme.

Croatia is a candidate country for membership of the European Union and the visit to the region is being funded by an EU programme to help potential member countries understand how the union works. The visits were hosted by Paul Diviani, Chairman of the Blackdown Hills AONB Management Group and Chairman of East Devon District Council; Mrs Heather Stallard, MBE, Chairman of the Blackdown Hills Business Association and member of the Leader+ Steering Group, and Ms Allison Wallis, Natural England adviser.

<http://www.blackdown-hills.net/>

Find out more about funding



▶ Supporting the elderly through music

The Concertina Charitable Trust has grants of approx £500 available to improve the quality of life for the elderly through musical entertainment.

▶ Are you part of a community group in East Devon? Does your group need cash?

You could get up to £5,000 from the Grassroots Grants fund for anything from volunteer and staff costs to outdoor play equipment and computers, things that will make a real difference to the lives of people in your local community.

The grants fund has over £290,000 they have to give out to Devon community groups before March 2009. If you answer YES to all the following questions then you could soon be getting money to help people even more than you already are:

- Is your community group led by volunteers?
- Do you help local people and your local community?
- Do you have an annual income of less than £20,000?
- Have you been meeting since December 2006?
- Do you have a governing document like a constitution?

The next closing date for applications is 13 October so please apply as soon as you can, you will get a quick decision and will soon be able to put the money to good use.

This money comes from the Governments Office of the Third Sector. A total of £1.4million is available up until March 2011 from the Devon Community Foundation across Devon for small community and voluntary groups that are meeting a local need.

For more information contact the Devon Community Foundation by visiting www.devoncf.com or phoning (01884) 235887.

▶ Grants for young artists and performers



The European Cultural Foundation has grants available for young artists and performers to collaborate and network with other young Europeans. The

STEP beyond fund will make a contribution to travel costs, visa costs, and, in certain cases, accommodation costs (through an allowance) of those awarded a grant. Applications can be made anytime.



▶ Funding for electronic musical events

The Performing Right Society Foundation has grants of up to £5,000 available for one-off performances of electronic music. The deadline for applications is 17 October 2008.

▶ Music makers and performers

The BBC Performing Arts Fund has grants available to help aspiring music-makers and performers looking for a way to get ahead.

▶ Money for Exmouth communities

Exmouth Town Council have grants available of up to £4,000 per Exmouth Ward to help residents make a real difference to their streets and neighbourhoods. Community groups, local charities and groups or individuals can apply. The deadline for applications is 30 September.

Jamie Buckley (Engagement and Funding Officer)
Tel: 01395 517569 (or Ext 2769) Email: jbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk

Chairman's engagements

Chairman attending the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Rural Conference from **8 - 10 September**.

Tuesday 9 September (morning) - Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs Pauline Stott, to attend a Civic Breakfast followed by the Tour of Britain Cycle Race, Chard

Tuesday 9 September (evening) - Vice Chairman to attend the Adventure Trust for Girls' Open Evening at the Exmouth Community College

Wednesday 10 September - Vice Chairman to attend the West Dorset Civic Day.

Two EDDC gardens win prestigious Green Flag Award – again!



A record 743 parks and green spaces across the UK have been awarded a prestigious Green Flag Award in 2008 – and among them for the fifth time in a row are Exmouth's Manor Gardens and Sidmouth's Connaught Gardens.

The Green Flag Award scheme has been running for 12 years and is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. Award winners are judged to be welcoming, safe, well-maintained and involve the local community.

Opened in 1896, Manor Gardens is the perfect example of a Victorian town park that has been updated with contemporary features and plantings to meet modern expectations. Manor Gardens has a mixture of traditional Victorian style walkways, lawns, shrub borders and a carpet bedding display along with modern influences such as the sub-tropical plantings, vibrant floral designs and subtle herbaceous bed. The modern performance stage in the gardens is the centre of focus for the annual Exmouth festival and offers entertainment in the form of music, theatre and community events.

Connaught Gardens offers a unique experience to sample the delights of a 1930s 'Arts and Crafts Movement' garden which has been maintained in its original form since 1934. The gardens were designed and constructed by the famous arts and crafts centre at Dartington Hall near Totnes and consist of a series of small secluded 'garden rooms', each with its own character. There is something for all keen gardeners in Connaught Gardens, including collections of exotic plants which thrive in the mild climate, cacti and carnivorous plants in the recently rebuilt traditional greenhouse and award-winning bedding displays.

Photo: Pictured at the flag raising ceremony are (back row left to right): Team Leader Shane Luscombe, Exmouth Town Clerk John Wokersien, EDDC Parks Development Officer Mark Pollard, Gardener Ian Ladbrook, Exmouth Councillor Richard Turner. Front row left to right: EDDC Councillor Pat Graham of Exmouth in Bloom, Exmouth's Mayor Councillor Joy Whipps, and EDDC Councillor May Hardy.

New documents in the Members' Area

- ❑ **Devon Association of Parish Councils** – Two copies of the Annual Report 2007-08 are now available in the Members' Area.
- ❑ **Post Office Ltd Network Change Programme** – Copy of the Devon Area Plan supplementary decision booklet.

Feedback from outside bodies

- ❑ **The East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership** – Minutes of the meeting held at Ottery St Mary Town Council on 14 August.

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

Latest news from the Rural Services Network (RSN)

▶ Noise pollution 'blights the countryside'

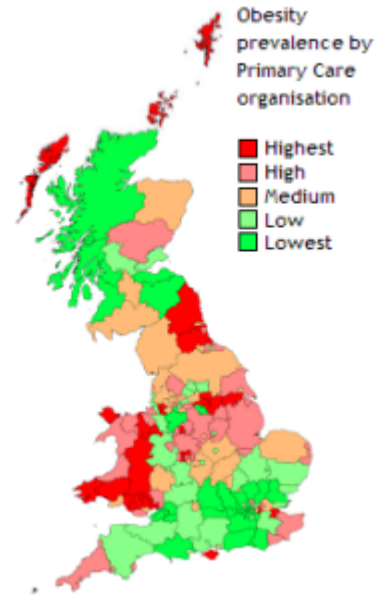


Traffic noise in rural areas is much worse than the government is prepared to admit, claims a report. Many parts of the UK suffer from "severe levels of noise disturbance", reveals the study by the Transport for Quality of Life consultancy. The 200-page report examined looked at five areas of the country, finding that many people were "significantly disturbed" by traffic noise.

▶ Demand set to soar for rural social care

Stakeholders must work together to ensure social care meets rural needs, says the Government's rural watchdog. The Department of Health and local partners must "rural proof" their approach to social care, says the Commission for Rural Communities. The voluntary sector will play a vital role in the provision of social care as the number of rural older people increases, it added.

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>



▶ Obesity map called into question

A map suggesting rural residents are more likely to be obese has been branded misleading. Conducted by Dr Foster Intelligence, the map highlights obesity hotspots across Britain, providing an overview of the nation's health. But some experts have questioned the map's accuracy - and the methodology used in drawing it up.

News from the IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency)

▶ LAAs drive sustainable development



Birmingham's local strategic partnership (LSP) is recognised as the first to lead on the development of a climate change strategy. This case study, developed in partnership with the Sustainable Development Commission, looks at Vision 2026, Birmingham's overall community strategy for the next 20 years.

▶ Mainstreaming community cohesion

Community cohesion is one of the few areas of council activity that is not driven by statutory obligations. Find out how Leicester City Council used a scrutiny review process to mainstream cohesion across its main service areas.

▶ Healthy communities: pioneering partnerships in Plymouth

Plymouth has been blighted by stark health inequalities for some time. But thanks to effective joint working between the primary care trust and Plymouth City Council, some of the major issues affecting this coastal town can now finally be put to bed.

▶ Plan and deliver: working in partnership for better places



Planners are essential to shaping local places but success requires collaborative working with partners. This case study shares five successful examples of collaborative working. Learn from how the partners dealt with challenges and achieved successful outcomes.

Meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Christopher Holland	Monday 8 September	9.30am	Council Chamber
Asset Management Forum	Chris Lane	Monday 8 September	9.30am	East Devon Business Centre
Joint meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committees re Service Planning	Debbie Meakin	Wednesday 10 September	6.30pm	Council Chamber
East Devon Business Forum	Chris Lane	Thursday 11 September	6.00pm	Flybe offices, Exeter Airport
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 15 September	9.30am	CANCELLED
Standards (Referrals & Hearings) Sub Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 16 September	10.00am	CANCELLED
Special Meeting of the Development Control Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 16 September	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Scrutiny Committee	Debbie Meakin	Wednesday 17 September	6.30pm	Council Chamber

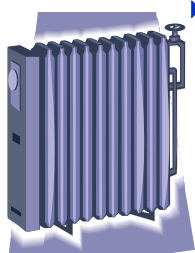
Would Councillors please pass their apologies to Democratic Services whenever they are unable to attend a meeting so that post can be sent or withheld as appropriate. **Please check your pigeon holes for any post whenever you visit the offices.**

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).

Click [here](#) to view agendas and minutes on the Council's website. 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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In the press



► Energy firms resist plans to help fuel poor

Energy companies warn they'll pull back on a £10bn investment in renewables and nuclear power if they're forced to use their profits to ease the plight of the fuel poor. Ministers are looking for the big six energy companies to fund a new home insulation and efficiency drive.

► Council tax to be abolished in Scotland

Council tax in Scotland is to be replaced by a levy based on income tax, according to plans announced by First Minister Alex Salmond. He said: "Abolition of council tax will lift 85,000 individuals out of poverty. It will save the average Scottish family between £350 and £535 a year." The Sun newspaper says that this further highlights the raw deal received by the English.

In the press (continued)

▶ Tesco pulls out of eco town plans



Tesco has withdrawn from one of the proposed eco-town developments at Hayley Grange near Cambridgeshire. The project had been heavily opposed by residents and local councils.

▶ Flagship child database delayed again

The launch of the Government's flagship database of every child living in England has been delayed just days after serious concerns about its purpose were exposed. ContactPoint will include the names, ages and addresses of all 11 million under-18s in the country, as well as detailed information on their parents, GPs and schools. The £224million computer system was meant to come into operation in April 2008 but was delayed.

▶ Unions plan joint strikes on pay

Trade unions are planning a rash of strikes this autumn that could bring chaos to public services. Schools, councils, nursing homes and other services could be hit by the proposed joint strikes, which will be discussed at the annual TUC conference in Brighton.



▶ Plans for councils to buy up homes

Councils are to be given central Government cash to help them offer financial assistance to homeowners. But town halls have demanded greater freedom to set their own interest rates for loans because present rules make it almost impossible for them to help many, as they are uncompetitive. The LGA's Paul Bettison is quoted: "There would also be concerns that the money made available may not be enough to make a significant difference in the current housing climate."



▶ Red phone boxes can be saved by councils

Thousands of red telephone boxes could be "adopted" by local councils after BT reviewed its policy of removing them from the streets.

▶ Schools urged to drop British Bulldog ban

Children should be allowed to play traditional playground games such as British Bulldog as a way of tackling obesity, officials say. Cllr Les Lawrence from the LGA is quoted: "Children benefit from physical activity and even some rough and tumble."



▶ Carers should get better benefits

The benefits system for unpaid carers is outdated and the Government should provide extra financial help to support them, MPs have said. The Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee said people who care for relatives and friends saved the taxpayer an estimated £87 billion every year.

▶ Environmental volunteers branded 'snoopers'

Councils are recruiting "citizen snoopers" to report litter louts, dog foulers, graffiti and fly-tippers. In fact, the volunteers are not encouraged to spy on neighbours or report them. An LGA spokesman is quoted: "Environment volunteers care passionately about their area and want to protect it. They are not snoopers. They will help councils cut crime and make places cleaner, greener and safer."



▶ OAPs confused over free bus travel

A survey by the Department for Transport has found that two out of three pensioners are confused about their new right to free bus travel. Only 32% knew exactly when and where they could travel free. Mirror – 01/08/08

▶ Credit crunch to send crime soaring

Crime, violence, illegal working and terrorist numbers will surge because of the economic downturn - according to a leaked letter from the Home Secretary Jacqui Smith to Gordon Brown.

In the press (continued)

► Measures to save property market



The Prime Minister announces £1 billion worth of policies designed to keep struggling families from losing their houses and to help sustain the flagging property market. The measures will include a

Mortgage Rescue Plan which will allow people to sell part of their home to the council, and a scheme which will allow housing associations to buy homes from people facing repossession and then rent the homes back to them. Further plans will include giving councils enough money to build 5,500 new homes over the next 18 months as well as £200 million for urban regeneration. The Financial Times notes that any policies will be stunted by the fact that there will be very little, if any, new money on the table to support them.

► Government's housing announcements do not go far enough

Housing plans announced by the Government do not go far enough to solve the growing crisis being faced by first time buyers and homeowners. According to the charity Shelter, the plans, which include the ability for councils to pay off debt for those who can no longer afford mortgage repayments will only help a third of those facing repossession this year.

► Couple refuse to pay Olympic council surcharge



A couple from Barnet, north London, are refusing to pay the £33.33 council tax add-on placed on London homes to help cover the cost of the 2012 Olympic Games, risking three months in jail.

► Resurgent cities



Britain's north-western cities have significantly increased their attractiveness as places to do business in recent years,

according to the annual UK Competitiveness Index.

Please note that the Express & Echo web site for press coverage is: www.thisisexeter.co.uk
For Western Morning News stories the web site is: www.thisisdevon.co.uk
For Archant news stories the web site is: www.devon24.co.uk

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:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html>

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

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

Submissions: If you have items that you wish to be included in the next issue, contact Democratic Services. Telephone: (01395) 517542 or Extension 2742. Email: knowledge@eastdevon.gov.uk