

The Knowledge



Rockbeare
Photo: Ben Chesters

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7 March 2008

International men's tennis returns to East Devon

Men's international tennis returns to Exmouth in March - at the East Devon Tennis Centre in Withycombe Village Road.



The Men's \$10,000 ITF Futures Tournament is an international event that forms part of the professional tour. The tournament starts with practice on Friday 28 March and runs through the following week, with the finals on Friday 4 April.

These tournaments are held throughout the world and are co-ordinated by the ITF (International Tennis Federation). Sixty-four players with a world ranking from 250 to 800 will be taking part.

Tournament director Jo Louis said: "The competition will provide local players and tennis enthusiasts with a wonderful opportunity to experience close up the drama and skills of top players in action".

Jamie Murray (2007 Wimbledon Mixed Doubles Champion) won the doubles event in Exmouth in 2006 and last year's Exmouth event singles semi-finalist and doubles champion Aisam Quershi (Pakistan) qualified and won his first round match at Wimbledon 2007.

The venue for the tournament is owned by East Devon District Council and managed by Leisure East Devon.

<http://www.leisure.co.uk/index/ETIT.asp>



Council Offices
Knowle
Sidmouth
Devon
EX10 8HL

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

New Councils for Devon - Have your say

Invitation to all Town and Parish Councillors

I apologise for the short period of notice given in respect of the meetings but this is a consequence of the timetable that we were notified of by the Boundary Committee on 3 March.



As you may be aware the Government has asked the Boundary Committee of the Electoral Commission to carry out a structural review of local government in Devon with the intention of formulating recommendations for a structure of unitary local government within Devon by the end of this calendar year.

The Council met with the Boundary Committee on 3 March 2008 where the timetable for the review was outlined, as were the steps that the Council is expected to take by way of participating in the Structural Review.

The Council has been asked to identify concepts for new unitary councils which relate to the 5 statutory criteria of strategic leadership, neighbourhood empowerment, value for money in the provision of services, affordability and a broad cross section of support.

In order to facilitate this requirement the Council will be hosting 3 information and feedback evenings on Thursday 13 March, Tuesday 18 March and Wednesday 19 March, all to commence at 7.00pm at the Knowle, Sidmouth.

Invitees to the meetings include all District Councillors, all Parish Councils and a range of stakeholders within East Devon. It is hoped that a selection of invitees will attend all the meetings and therefore they are open to all invitees rather than a selection of invitees being invited to one particular meeting. I am particularly keen to get as many Town and Parish Councils to attend following the success of the recent celebration of Town and Parish Council achievements.

By way of background information, I can confirm that the Council has placed on its website a copy of the presentation made to the Council on 3 March by the Boundary Committee together with a copy of the request made by the Government to the Boundary Committee to advise on this matter. The links for these 2 documents are:

http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/new_councils_for_devon_-_have_your_say.htm

I very much look forward to meeting you at one of the meetings on either 13, 18 or 19 March 2008, all commencing at 7.00pm.

Mark Williams
Chief Executive

New documents in the Members' Area

- ❑ NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) has forwarded a copy of their public health guidance on [smoking cessation](#) and also on [community engagement](#).
- ❑ **Representing the future** – the report of the Concillors Commission, December 2007.
- ❑ **Getting better all the time?** An independent assessment of local government improvement and its future prospects (commissioned by the Improvement and Development Agency). Also available [online](#).
- ❑ **Enjoy England** – Celebrate St George's Day on 23 April. www.celebratestgeorgesday.com

Little pink booklet is your essential Council Tax guide

A booklet packed with helpful payment hints and details of what your money pays for will be enclosed with Council Tax Bills for 2008-09 next week.

The booklet explains where the money goes and makes it easier for householders to understand the charging system and the many ways in which people can get help with payments. It has lots of useful information about the services that are paid for through council tax and examples of how this works in practice in everyday life.

Included are contributions from:

- ❑ Devon County Council
- ❑ Devon and Cornwall Police Authority
- ❑ Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority
- ❑ East Devon District Council

The joint council tax and performance summary is produced by the organisations listed above working together and sharing the costs. Government legislation requires these authorities to inform council tax payers about many aspects of the council tax. The booklet is considered to be the most user-friendly way of presenting the information at a reasonable cost (15p per household) and also makes it possible to pass on other useful facts about the work these organisations do throughout the year.

There are sections on:

- ❑ coping on a low income
- ❑ helping pensioners or people who are disabled
- ❑ dealing with financial or legal problems
- ❑ how the council tax "cake" is shared out across Devon
- ❑ how each authority spends the money it gets
- ❑ what services you get from EDDC
- ❑ how these match the Council's priorities

and useful phone numbers.

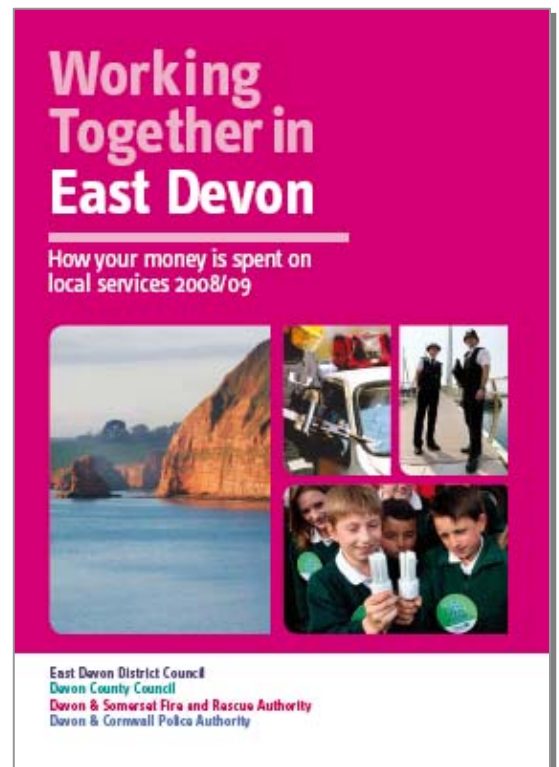
The booklet is available on EDDC's website at:

http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/ctbooklet_april_2008.pdf

Every telephone call is important to us, but we expect to experience above average call volumes in the immediate period after bills are received. So we ask customers to please be patient and bear with us.

**The direct line for Council Tax and Benefit enquiries is:
01395 517446.**

With their Council Tax Bill, householders will also receive a notice giving details of changes to Refuse and Recycling collections over the Easter, May and August Bank Holiday weekends.



Chairman's engagements

Friday 7 March

Mid Devon Civic Dinner at East Devon College, Tiverton

Charisma and collaboration: the politician as community leader

What makes a really good local politician? What skills do they need to lead your community effectively? What distinguishes those who are outstanding in service delivery?

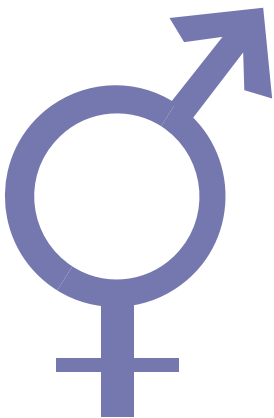
Effective political leadership is critical to developing, 'strong and prosperous' communities. Hay Group's latest research paper 'Charisma and collaboration: the politician as community leader' draws on interviews with 41 Councillors to offer some insights into what makes the best successful.

The research paints a different picture from the traditional view of the local politician as just a charismatic leader and provides some suggestions for development for current and aspiring politicians. It also offers some thoughts on how the findings of the research can be used to help other leaders in local government think differently about their role.

A copy of this report can be downloaded from the Hay Group website: www.haygroup.com. From this webpage you can also link to a short video which discusses the report and its findings in more detail.



Transgender issues



We have recently received guidance from within the NHS about supporting transgender people. Although we are all born with a genetic sexual identity, some people feel different to this and have a different 'gender identity'. This is not the same as sexual orientation (that is, whether we are heterosexual or homosexual). The feeling of discomfort with biological gender is sometimes called 'gender dysphoria' and can become particularly acute around puberty.

Gender dysphoria is a recognised medical condition for which medical treatment is appropriate in some cases. Research studies have indicated that small parts of babies' brains can progress along a different pathway from the sex of the rest of its body. This predisposes to a later mismatch. This is not a mental illness.

There are many different individual responses as to how such people manage their lives, sometimes cross-dressing, sometimes having surgery and hormone treatment, but not necessarily either of these.

The guidance emphasises the sensitivity some transsexual people can feel about their status and biological gender, and the need to confidentially check how they would prefer to be addressed and which gender they would wish to be accommodated with. The sense of confusion around gender dysphoria may also lead to a lack of confidence.

Evidently transgender people can be prejudiced against and harassed at work or in public, and they have some protection in law. There are a number of organisations who can help and support transgender people.

Anyone requiring a copy of the guidance should contact Peter Jeffs (Corporate Director):
Tel: 01395 517452 (or Ext 2652) Email: pjeffs@eastdevon.gov.uk

Forthcoming meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 10 March	9.30am	Council Chamber
Development Control Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 11 March	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Elizabeth Hall Advisory Forum	Chris Lane	Tuesday 11 March	7.00pm	Town Hall, Exmouth
Seaton Town Hall Advisory Forum	Chris Lane / Hannah Jarvis	Wednesday 12 March	7.00pm	Town Hall, Seaton
Local Joint Panel	Hannah Jarvis	Thursday 13 March	9.30am	CANCELLED
Exmouth and Seaton Gateway Centres Task and Finish Forum	Debbie Meakin	Thursday 13 March	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Capital Task and Finish Forum	Diana Vernon	Friday 14 March	4.30pm	Members' Area
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 17 March	9.30am	CANCELLED
Parish Remuneration Panel	Chris Lane	Tuesday 18 March	9.30am	Committee Room
Independent Remuneration Panel	Chris Lane	Tuesday 18 March	10.00am	Committee Room
Standards Committee	Diana Vernon	Tuesday 18 March	10.00am	Room 1
Corporate Overview Committee	Chris Lane	Thursday 20 March	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.

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, reports and minutes on the Council's website, choose Quick Links (Committee Papers) on the front page of the website.

To view planning applications online, choose Planning on Quick Links, then click the Planning Online logo.

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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Licensing Act 2003

http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/applications_received

Access to new applications received relating to the Licensing Act 2003. On this page you can download information on licensing applications which have been received by the Licensing Authority and are currently within the 28 day period for receipt of representations / objections.

News from the IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency)

It's people, stupid...



Workforce and people issues are not just the province of managers and human resource specialists. Elected leaders and councillors also play a vital role.

Find out from 7 elected leaders how political leaders can help build a skilled and committed workforce. www.idea.gov.uk

The Local Government Delivery Council

In 2007, the Local Government Delivery Council was set up to drive local service transformation. Find out more about how the council is helping the public sector deliver services that meet the needs of citizens and business. www.idea.gov.uk

Public health on the agenda



Could we be about to see a resurgence in public health breakthroughs? Angela Mawle, UK Public Health Association chief, has a hunch we may see an advancement in how health

inequalities are tackled - on a scale not seen since Victorian times. www.idea.gov.uk

Improvement Express: February 2008 edition

Radical change, transformation and innovation are key to the ongoing improvement of local government, argues Lucy de Groot, Executive Director of the IDeA. Read this and more in her monthly overview of the key issues facing the sector. www.idea.gov.uk



Innovative approaches to rural services

This resource contains examples of innovative approaches to rural service provision that have emerged from Defra's Rural Pathfinders initiative. This ran in 8 areas of England between 2005 and 2007.

www.idea.gov.uk

Local charters: a step-by-step guide

The Young Foundation recently developed new guidance on local charters. These form part of the Government's action plan on community empowerment. Read extracts from this guide describing the 10 essential elements of an effective local charter, and a step-by-step guide to drawing one up.

www.idea.gov.uk

In the press

Battle of the binge

Ministers have pledged a 'wholesale withdrawal' of licenses for pubs that cause problems in a bid to tackle binge drinking. The review of the licensing laws concluded there had been no overall increase in violent crime. The pub and alcohol industry implored the government not to take further regulatory action. [Independent](http://www.independent.co.uk)



Supermarket alcohol price 'fix' to curb binge drinkers

Ministers are preparing to approve plans that would allow supermarkets to collude in alcohol price rises as part of efforts to stem Britain's binge drinking epidemic. The new arrangement, which would be secured through amendments to licensing laws, will enable supermarkets to get around existing competition rules that impose hefty penalties for price collusion.

[Guardian](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

In the press (continued)

Crack down on off-licenses

Off-licenses selling alcohol to under 18s will be shut down to tackle binge drinking, the Prime Minister has announced. Gordon Brown will be implementing a 'two strikes and you're out' rule against shops caught selling booze to minors.

[Mirror](#)

Councils to have power to regulate utility works



Workmen dug two million holes in our roads last year, one for every 200 yards of highway. Gas, electric and water firms excavated an average of 12,500 trenches in each local authority. The

Department for Transport is now considering plans to give local authorities the power to regulate utility road works by granting permits. [Mirror](#)

Energy giants told to help poor or face levy

The heads of the biggest gas and electricity companies are being ordered by the Government to hand over part of their multi-billion pound profits or face a new windfall tax. The chief execs of the utility giants are being told that unless they agree to subsidise a new nationwide 'fuel poverty' scheme aimed at the 4.5 million poorest households, a levy will be put on their profits. It is understood that fuel poverty programme is to be unveiled by Alistair Darling as part of the Budget on March 12. [Times](#)

Energy firms tell treasury not to bring in windfall tax



Energy companies launched a pre-emptive strike on the Government ahead of next week's budget, warning that any

windfall tax on the industry would undermine investment in green power projects and other measures to combat climate change. The companies fear ministers are considering a windfall tax on the industry after a public outcry greeted moves to raise household bills by as much as 15 per cent in recent weeks. [Guardian](#)

Brown to curb second homes



The Government is preparing to impose drastic curbs on second home ownership that would stop people buying in sought-

after rural areas. An inquiry commissioned by Gordon Brown will recommend that local authorities be given the power to prevent outsiders buying properties they do not intend to make their main residence. People would have to win planning permission to change the house from fully occupied to a second home. [Times](#)

Council rules out 'unlawful' CCTV

South Hams District Council in Devon has decided not to install CCTV cameras in a crime-ridden areas on the grounds they would 'contravene the Human Rights Act'. The council said it prefers to tackle the issue by improving lighting and visibility in problematic areas. [Telegraph](#)

Post Office closures put on hold during elections



Post Office managers have agreed to suspend the closure programme in the run up to the local council elections, as the closures could become a local political issue. [Telegraph](#)

Hospital smokers rapped

Patients, visitors and even nurses smoking outside hospitals are undermining NHS attempts to promote healthy lifestyles. Visits to 22 hospitals found patients smoking in the grounds at 94 per cent of acute sites - in clear breach of NHS policy. [Sun](#)

Surge in private school applications

Private schools are reporting a surge in applications in areas where school admissions are being decided by lottery, fuelling speculation that the new admissions system, being used by councils such as Brighton, is forcing wealthier parents to leave the state system. [Guardian](#)

Sure Start to be revamped



Sure Start, which supports parents in deprived communities, is to be revamped after research revealed the services are making only modest

improvements to children's lives. Centres in the most deprived communities will have two new outreach workers and all centres are being ordered to do more to address the needs of ethnic-minority families. [Guardian](#)

Local Democracy

Simon Fanshawe's column in Society Guardian discusses the debate on the Councillors Commission at an Local Government Association conference and the "X Factor" search to find councillors of the future in London. Councillors should not just listen, but accept the responsibility to decide, he says. [Guardian](#)

Darling's first budget focuses on eco-taxes



Supermarkets, airlines, car-makers and property developers will bear the brunt of a series of green measures to be announced in Alistair

Darling's first Budget next week. The Chancellor is believed to be drawing up a range of proposals to make good his commitment to tackle climate change. [Times](#)

Unhappy GPs will extend surgery hours

Doctors are expected today to condemn



Government proposals for reforming the NHS after reluctantly agreeing to extend GP surgery opening hours. The British Medical Association will unveil the results of a poll which is expected to reveal widespread disenchantment among doctors.

[Telegraph](#)

Council Chief plans to evict unruly families

Westminster Council has proposed a "carrot and stick approach" to improve the behaviour of around 600 families responsible for much local crime. The scheme could see tenants who persistently misbehave evicted from council homes. [Times](#)

Plans for twenty new university towns



Towns will be invited to enter a 'university challenge' bidding for the right to have a new campus or college in their area, University Secretary

John Denham will announce. The move is as much about regenerating towns with high areas of unemployment as it is about giving more adults the chance of gaining a degree. [Observer](#)

Tesco in census on migrant numbers

Tesco and other supermarkets have been asked to help councils work out how many migrants are coming to Britain. They believe supermarkets, which use hi-tech systems to monitor customer numbers, can estimate more accurately than Whitehall how much populations have grown. LGA chairman, Sir Simon Milton, said: "Understanding how many visit shops may help ministers to get a better understanding of numbers." [Sun](#)

Multi-million pound project to restore old footpaths scrapped



A £15 million project to restore forgotten countryside rights of way is to be scrapped after six years after failing to reopen any footpaths. Discovering Lost Ways was developed after the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 which required all historic rights of way to be recorded by 2026 or lost forever. [Times](#)

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.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/readmain.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, please contact Democratic Services.

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