

The Knowledge



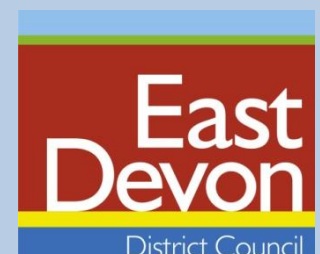
Beer • Photo by Lynne Jones

9 October 2009

This week in The Knowledge

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Meeting	DSO	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee	CL	Tuesday 13 October	9.30am	CANCELLED
Assessment & Hearings Sub/Review Sub-Cttee	CEH	Tuesday 13 October	TBA	CANCELLED
COUNCIL	DV	Wednesday 14 October	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Standards Assessment and Hearings Sub Committee	CEH	Thursday 15 October	9.30am	Room 66
Local Development Framework Panel	HJ	Thursday 15 October	10.00am	Room 1
East Devon Flood Recovery Group	DM	Friday 16 October	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	CL	Tuesday 20 October	9.30am	Council Chamber
Development Management Committee	CEH	Tuesday 20 October	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Overview/Scrutiny Service Delivery/ Performance Committee	CEH	Wednesday 21 October	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Seaton Town Advisory Forum	CL	Wednesday 21 October	7.00pm	Seaton Town Hall



Council Offices
Knowle
Sidmouth
EX10 9BL

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Democratic Services Officers:

Diana Vernon 01395 517541	Christopher Holland 01395 517543	Hannah Jarvis 01395 517542	Chris Lane 01395 517544	Debbie Meakin 01395 517540	Rachel Perram 01395 517542	Alethea Thompson 01395 517540
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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 don't forget to check your pigeon holes whenever you are visiting Knowle.

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.

Executive Board: 7 October 2009

 Members are notified of the following decisions

	Item	Decision
68	<p>Minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Housing Review Board</p> <p>Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 September 2009</p> <p>Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee 16 September 2009</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny – Co-ordinating Committee 23 September 2009</p> <p>Service Delivery/ Performance Overview & Scrutiny 24 September</p> <p>Housing Review Board 10 September 2009</p>	<p>1. that the following decisions be noted:</p> <p>Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minute 8 Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes 8, 11, 13 Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee Minutes 11, 12, 17 Service Delivery / Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 Housing Review Board Minutes 20, 22, 24, 31</p> <p>2. that the following recommendations be approved:</p> <p>Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes 6, 7 Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes 7, 9, 10, 12 Service Delivery / Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minute 11 Housing Review Board Minutes 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30</p> <p>3. that the following recommendation be referred to Council for approval:</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee Minute 13 Service Delivery / Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minute 13 Housing Review Board Minutes 20, 29, 30</p>
69	<p>Member Development Working Party</p>	<p>1. that the role and remit of the Member Development Champion be agreed and supported,</p> <p>2. that the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder – Resources and Member Development Champion, present a report to the Strategic Management Team to identify the contribution member development has made and is making to the organisation,</p> <p>3. that progress in respect of the Council's Member Development Charter application be noted,</p> <p>4. that Councillors be encouraged to take part in the six monthly development reviews,</p> <p>Continued...</p>

Executive Board: 7 October 2009 (continued)

	Item	Decision
69	Member Development Working Party	<p>Continued...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. that future key officer contact lists sent out quarterly to Councillors include Officer room numbers and , unless requested otherwise, be sent as paper copies to Councillors, 6. that Councillors be asked which Committee agendas they need to receive as paper copies at the same time as reminding them of the high print cost involved. 7. that the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to consider whether the Scheme of Allowances in respect of travelling should be amended to address the cost of Ward Councillors having to travel significant distances to attend local parish meetings within their rural wards.
70	Financial Monitoring report 2009/10 – Month 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the variances identified as part of the Revenue and Capital Monitoring process up to month 5 be noted and that the corrective action taken by managers be endorsed, 2. that the savings identified by the Head of Housing of £173,000 be agreed.
71	Installation of Tunstall PNC 5/6 alarm monitoring system – Home Safeguard system up-grade	<p>that the acquisition and implementation of the Tunstall PNC5/6 system be approved.</p>
73	Development Brief for the Port Royal/Ham Area of Sidmouth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that a Steering Group, supported by the Council’s Estates’ Officer, be set up to assist with the production of a development brief for the Port Royal/Ham area of Sidmouth. The composition of the Steering Group to be no more than eight people comprising the Council’s Design Champion, at least one representative from both Sidmouth Town Council and Sidmouth Vision, with Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce being invited to identify people (including a nominee from the hospitality sector) with a knowledge of the development industry to make up the remaining positions, 2. that the Corporate Director be tasked to ensure that the ongoing work of the Steering Group is reported to the Sidmouth Ward Members and, for the sake of clarity, it should be understood that the content and ownership of the development brief will reside with EDDC and any decision on whether to adopt the development brief is entirely at the discretion of the District Council. 3. that the recommendations of the Steering Group be referred in the first instance to the Sidmouth Working Group before being considered by the Executive Board.

Executive Board: 7 October 2009 (continued)

	Item	Decision
74	Land at the Underfleet, Seaton	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the Council advertise its intention to dispose of public open space in the form of an easement to be granted to Tesco Stores Limited, for the benefit of Tesco Stores Limited's land, as required under the Local Government Act 1972, 2. that a review of the consultee objections to the suggested disposal, along with an update on the easement negotiations and the Visitor Centre project, be presented to Members in a separate report at the December meeting of the Executive Board. 3. that notice be served on Seaton Town Council to terminate the lease held on the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) premises to ensure the delivery of the Visitor Centre project within the timescales currently envisaged, 4. that, while it is currently envisaged that the TIC will be incorporated into the Visitor Centre, it be noted that the Town Council is due to review the options for the interim provision of the TIC facility on 19 October; the findings for which to be reported to the Executive Board in December with a recommendation for an agreed interim solution in partnership with the Town Council.
75	Absence Management – Quarterly report	that the information relating to absence and the actions being taken to deal with these current high levels be noted.
76	Performance Monitoring report for August 2009	that the performance and proposed remedial action against these Performance Indicators for the 2009/10 financial year until August 2009 be noted.
78	Exemption to Contract Standing Orders for the Maer environmental play trail scheme	that the appointment of Andy Frost Designs Ltd to deliver the Maer environmental play trail scheme be approved as an emergency under Section 1.13 of the Council's Contract Standing Orders for the purposes laid out in the report.
80	Exmouth Regeneration Programme Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the Council prepare a Development Brief for the Exmouth Gateway Development, 2. that, for reasons given in the minutes, no bid be made for support for the production of the Exmouth Town Plan although the possibility of appointing a post graduate student to assist with its preparation be investigated.
81	Exeter Science Park – Progress up-date	that the different roles that will be played by the Economy Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director in their participation in the Science Park be noted together with the progress being made in delivering the Exeter Science Park in East Devon, with the release of the remaining funding to be paid into the Exeter Science Park Company being agreed.

The above decisions will become effective on 15 October 2009 at 9.00am unless "called in". The published procedure for a "call in" is on pages 133-135 of the Council Constitution , 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".

Portfolio Holders' decisions

Decision put to Portfolio Holder A decision will be published in a future edition of The Knowledge

Resources

Andrew Moulding

Littleham Churchyard – Wall rebuilding

That a £5,000 grant is made available to Littleham Churchyard to be met from the existing cemetery grant.

Further details: Simon Davey, Head of Finance, Ext 2690

Decision by Portfolio Holder Members are notified of the following decision

Environment

Graham Brown

Authority to open negotiations with Exmouth Town (2006) AFC for a licence to use Knappe Cross playing field for youth football

That Exmouth town (2006) AFC be granted a licence to use Knappe Cross playing field for youth football for a trial period of one season, upon terms and conditions to be agreed.

The above decision will become effective on 15 October 2009 at 9.00am unless "called in". The published procedure for a "call-in" is on pages 135-137 of the Council Constitution, or contact Democratic Services for assistance or explanation.

Chairman's engagements

Sunday 11 October

Chairman and Mrs Liverton to attend the Mayor of West Devon Borough Council's Civic Service at St Eustachius Church Tavistock.

Wednesday 14 October

Chairman to hold a reception and present Long Service Awards and Recognition Awards at Full Council.

Thursday 15 October

Chairman's Civic Evening. Dinner at the Knowle followed by a tour and presentation at the Norman Lockyer Observatory.

New documents in the Members' Area

- ❑ **Empowering Communities in Devon** – Copies of the conference report for parish and town councils are now available in the Members' Area.

Feedback from outside bodies

- ❑ **The East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership** – Minutes of the Steering Group Meeting held on 16 September at Mid Devon District Council, Tiverton.
- ❑ **CPRE Devon (Campaign to Protect Rural England)** – Minutes of the Advisory Meeting held on 14 September at Stover School.

The above documents are in the 'Feedback from Outside Bodies' file on the bookcase in the Members' Area.

Donate Don't Dump!



Staff and Members at EDDC are invited to take part in a charitable event called 'Donate Don't Dump' Day. This is all about donating a good quality item to charity. The charity being supported is Save the Children, which was featured on a recent BBC series 'Mary Queen of Charity Shops'.

Charity shops are suffering from their success in this economic downturn. They have plenty of customers, but have nothing to sell.

Members and EDDC staff are being asked to look in their cupboards for unwanted gifts,

clothes in good condition and other items for sale. These will be collected at the Council offices and passed on to Save the Children in Sidmouth. See posters around the building for further details.

So remember Donate Don't Dump Day - **5 November**.

Rachel Perram (Democratic Services Officer)
01395 517525 (Direct Line) or Ext 2725
rperram@eastdevon.gov.uk

We Save the Children Will you?

Don't lose the right to vote



About one-third of households in East Devon (22,000 in total) have not yet registered to vote and with a General Election due before 3 June next year, it is important that residents don't lose their right to decide who should lead the country into the next decade.

EDDC's Electoral Registration Officer, Mark Williams, is urging anyone who is eligible to vote to make sure their name appears on the Register of Electors, which is published on 1 December.

Registration forms have been sent to every household in the district and, by law, these must be returned with details of everyone living at the property who is eligible to register and who will be resident at that property on 15 October. Registrations can be made by post or online.

The Council will accept completed forms as an email attachment or by fax; you do not need to follow up with the original. Details are on the form. If you have any questions, please ring the Helpline on 01395 517402.

You can also register by phone or online if:

1. There are no changes to your registration details.
2. You want to apply for a postal vote.
3. You want to exclude your names from the "Edited Register" which can be bought by anyone.

To confirm your details by Freephone call 0800 197 4901.

To confirm your details by internet go to the front page of the Council's [website](#): Please ensure you have your security code handy (it is printed in the top right hand box of your registration form). It is completely secure and only the Electoral Registration staff have access to your security code and the information provided. If there are any additions, deletions or other changes to the printed details, please **do not** use this method; please return the printed form by post.

Affordable Housing Policy: give your views



A new Housing Policy has been drafted by EDDC to encourage more affordable house building in East Devon. And the Council now wants residents' views on the draft before it is implemented.

The new policy will allow landowners and developers to build a mix of open market and affordable housing on small sites that abut, or are close to, existing villages and settlements. Two thirds of the houses built under the policy will need to be affordable, with at least one third of the houses being available as social rented properties. By allowing for open market houses alongside the affordable homes the new policy aims to ensure that landowners will have a financial return on their land, whilst at the same time helping to meet the needs of those in greatest housing need.

You can view the consultation on the Council's [website](#). Comments must be received by 5pm on Friday **30 October**. The Council will consider all the comments received and, where appropriate, amend the policy to reflect the issues raised. The intention is that the new policy will become operational in 2010 and will remain in place, in the first instance, until the end of 2010.

Click [here](#) for further details.

News from the IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency)

► Climate Change Adaptation Online Forum – summary



July's forum consisted of two facilitated sessions: one on what the UK Climate Change Projections 2009 mean for local government, the other on

approaches to adaptation and National Indicator 188. If you missed it – or just want to refresh your memory – you can catch up with all the details here.

► RIEPs* - transforming social care

Providing individuals with choice and control over how public services support them lies at the heart of the move towards personalisation in the public sector. Discover how Harrow Council's focus on self-directed support is transforming its provision of social care services. *regional improvement and efficiency partnerships



► Boost productivity and efficiency levels now!

Cambridgeshire County Council has taken strong and wide-ranging action to raise levels of productivity and make efficiency savings. Read how its innovative approaches to flexible working, use of office space, absence management, and IT systems are producing significant and lasting benefits.

► Introducing the new Local Innovation Awards Scheme

After 10 years of celebrating and sharing, the Beacon Scheme is ending. It is being replaced by the new and exciting Local Innovation Awards Scheme. The scheme rewards partnerships which can demonstrate how their innovative services bring real benefits to citizens. This new scheme is now open for entries, and applications close at 5pm on Tuesday **27 October**.

► Is the tide turning? Putting health first in coastal communities



Coastal communities can do more to exploit the health opportunities afforded by being close to the sea. This was the message coming out of a recent conference held by Sefton Council and supported by the IDeA. Read a review of the event and find out what the typical health issues are that affect coastal regions.

Wind power: facts and fiction



Sid Valley Energy Action Group (SVEAG) presents a "Wind power: facts and fiction" - a presentation by Steve Allen and Neil Harris of The Cornwall Light and Power Company. Friday **16 October**, 7pm, All Saints Hall, Sidmouth EX10 8ES.

The answer is blowing in the wind... maybe. The UK has an energy supply problem, so what's to be done? Oxford City Council's response is to begin making land available for windfarms from August 2009. The local green energy generated will shelter the city's businesses, and eventually the wider community, from total

dependence on imported oil and gas at ever-increasing prices. It will literally generate additional revenues on their land assets, too. So should East Devon follow their lead?

To answer that and similar questions, we need to know more facts. That's why SVEAG, a branch of The Vision Group for Sidmouth, is holding a series of Information Evenings on energy-related topics affecting our lifestyle and our pockets! The next event will investigate whether wind turbines are a serious option.

Put your questions to a panel of experts. Free event. (Donations welcome to cover costs.)

Refreshments available. For more information please phone Jackie on 01395 578089.

News from the Rural Services Network (RSN)

► Poverty blights rural England

Much of rural England suffers significant poverty and social exclusion, reveals a report. Almost one in five households - equivalent to 3.4m people - have a low income, according to the study. Some 19% of the population in rural districts live in households with incomes below 60% of the English median, it says.

► Rural broadband unfit for purpose



Britain's broadband network lags behind European countries such as Bulgaria and Latvia, reveals a study. When it comes to speed and availability, Britain's broadband network ranks just 31st out of 66 countries world-wide. The study was carried out by Oxford University's Said Business School and Oviedo University's Department of Applied Economics.

► Post Office to double as rural bank



The Government has finally confirmed plans to allow the Post Office to offer banking and other financial services. Experts say the move could help to save rural branches from closure.

Bringing banking services to rural communities will increase the number of reliable financial products for consumers and small businesses, the Government believes.

► £10m for low carbon communities

The Government has launched a £10m fund to encourage communities to reduce carbon emissions. Local authorities, charities and social enterprises are all being urged to take up the challenge to help communities fight climate change. Communities can apply for a share of the money as part of the Low Carbon Communities Challenge, building on low carbon schemes.

Note: Members of RSN (which includes Councillors and Council staff) can gain free and full access to RSN Online by [registering](#).

Good news for The Glen



The Glen regeneration project in Honiton has received a £1500 grant from Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust.

Volunteers are always welcome. If you would like more information, please give Councillor Alf Boom a ring on 01404 548745.

Blackdown Hills Welcome Pack



A new Welcome Pack for visitors has been produced by the Blackdown Hills Business Association (BHBA) with funding from the Blackdown Hills AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

The pack takes the form of a folder that can be stocked with leaflets containing information on attractions, activities and local businesses in the area. The pack will be distributed to accommodation providers in the Blackdown Hills over the next few weeks.

Photo: Bob Buxton (L) of Court Moor Farm is presented with a Welcome Pack by Partnership Chairman Cllr Paul Diviani and BHBA Chairman Heather Stallard www.blackdown-hills.net

In the press

▶ Social workers to check pets and fridges



Harrow Council has introduced a new contract for social workers that requires them to check families' fridges for adequate food, take pictures inside the home and ensure pets are healthy when investigating suspected child abuse cases, in the wake of Baby P. Thought to be the first of its kind, the contract

will be signed by parents and will serve as a tick-list reminder for social workers. The council believes pets' health is an indicator of a family's ability to care.

▶ Recession fuels huge rise in theft and violent crime

Burglary, domestic violence and anti-social behaviour are rocketing in a recession crime wave, a new study by the Local Government Association (LGA) has found. The findings were blamed on the recession by more than 4 out of 5 town halls. Les Lawrence, Chairman of the LGA Safer Communities Board, is quoted: "With public funds set to become increasingly scarce, it is vital that councils and the police can concentrate their efforts on fighting crime without excessive central Government interference."



▶ Return of the drink fountain

London may soon follow in the footsteps of Bundanoon, the Australian town that banned bottled water and set up drinking fountains for thirsty locals. The capital's first water stations will be set up this month in a move that could have serious repercussions for the £1.5bn-a-year water industry with companies finding it increasingly hard to justify their carbon footprint as the quality of tap water improves.

▶ 70% of care home residents given the wrong prescriptions



Seven out of 10 care home residents have suffered prescription blunders according to a study by the University of London school of pharmacy.

▶ 'Citizen spies' to win cash for spotting crime on CCTV

A network of citizen crimewatchers will be given the chance to win up to £1,000 by monitoring CCTV security cameras over the internet. The cameras' owners will pay a fee to



have users watch the footage. The scheme, Internet Eyes, is being promoted as a game and is expected to go "live"

next month with a test run in Stratford-upon-Avon. Eventually the consortium behind the idea hopes to offer cash prizes to people around the world for monitoring Britain's 4.2 million security cameras.

Production information

Democratic Services 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:** ☎ (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: ☎ (01395) 517542 or Extension 2742. Email: knowledge@eastdevon.gov.uk