

The Knowledge



Branscombe Mouth
Photo: Ben Chesters

11 July 2008

Rangers welcome the patter of tiny feet

Rangers working on East Devon District Council's nature reserves on the Axe Estuary have been delighted by the patter of tiny feet. Redshank chicks were seen feeding around a newly constructed lagoon, directly opposite the bird hide at Colyford Common, and were photographed by local birding enthusiasts.



Redshank are one of a very few waders to breed in the county, and the three pairs at Colyford Common represent half of the entire breeding population in Devon.

"Redshank only breed on two estuaries in Devon," explained Nature Reserve Officer Fraser Rush. "Thanks to improvements to the wetlands we were

able to see and photograph these youngsters right outside the bird hide, without disturbing the birds at all – perfect!"

"Four newly emerged chicks were seen," said the Council's Education Ranger, James Chubb, "which is typical for redshank nests as their eggs fit neatly in fours. These were very young birds, and there is normally a high mortality rate as they are vulnerable to predators while young and flightless. We will have to hope that as many of these chicks as possible survive in the marshes. To be able to see the chicks from the bird hide, without venturing out onto the marsh and adding to the birds' early stresses is a real benefit, as people can get the chance of great views from the Local Nature Reserve."

EDDC has big plans for the west side of the Axe Estuary; to improve wetland habitats and increase access provision through five kilometres of paths and boardwalks. www.eastdevon.gov.uk/countryside

Photo: Steve Waite - Redshank chicks at edge of the Colyford Common lagoon

This week in The Knowledge

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**East
Devon**

District Council

Council Offices
Knowle
Sidmouth
Devon
EX10 8HL

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Find out more about funding

More Money for Young People



The Young People's Fund 2 Local Grants has grants of between £10,001 and £500,000 available for projects led by young people. It puts young people aged 10 to 18 at the heart of local issues and services that affect their lives in England. It's the chance for young people to lead on developing the activities and services that they want in their local area. It will support activities for 1 to 5 years. Organisations can apply for up to £50,000 to develop land or buildings. The land and building developments should cost no more than £200,000 in total. They will also support projects working with young people up to the age of 25 if they are finding the change to independent living difficult. The submission deadline is 16 October 2008. For more information: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Funding for Young People



The Hilton Foundation has grants of up to £50,000 available to support local charities working with young people's education, awareness and training, and relieving suffering and supporting young people undergoing treatment and care. Submission deadline: 4 August. For more information: www.hilton-foundation.org.uk

Jamie Buckley (Engagement and Funding Officer)

Tel: 01395 517569 (or Ext 2769) Email: jbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk

Young Volunteers

V, the charity for youth volunteering has up to £15 million of funding available for youth volunteering projects. This is a match funded scheme whereby V will give grants to match up to 100% of any new private sector investment. The submission deadline for projects that start in January 2009 is 29 August. For more information: www.wearev.com or phone 02079 607000

Grants for work with learning disabled



The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund has grants from £250 for voluntary organisations that are actively engaged in the care of people with learning disabilities. Awards are given for a wide variety of purposes including play schemes, swimming pools, support for families and employment schemes. To be eligible for an award, applicants must demonstrate that they belong to a voluntary organisation that is a registered charity or is associated with a registered charity. Submission deadline: 1 October 2008. For more information: www.bailythomas.org.uk

Adult Learning

The Adult Learning Grant is a weekly grant of up to £30 per week for learners who are studying for their first Level 2 or Level 3 qualification. Applications are currently being invited for the 2008/09 academic year. For more information: www.direct.gov.uk or phone 0800 100 900

New documents in the Members' Area

Feedback from outside bodies

- ❑ **Community Council of Devon (CCD):** Report on CCD Outputs within East Devon 2007-08. A short page summary of some of the key outputs achieved.

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

Leisure East Devon (LED)

A number of our more recently elected Councillors have asked for more information about Leisure East Devon's role and remit. This is a brief explanation.

Through a Best Value review, and a subsequent consultancy study, the Council realised that there could be benefits from creating a Leisure Trust to manage Leisure Centres in East Devon.

An organisation with charitable aims (Leisure East Devon - LED), was set up to run the centres. LED is entirely and legally independent of the Council, though as with many other local charitable bodies we have representatives on the Board (as a minority).

LED took on the staff previously employed in EDDC's Leisure Service, and EDDC has leased its Leisure Centres to LED. EDDC has a 'contract' with LED, for them to provide a leisure service. As a landlord for the buildings we retain legal responsibility for major repairs. We also, as with any other contractor, have regular monitoring meetings with LED to check adherence to the 'contract'.

As LED's income for the sports centres (largely from charges on users) does not meet the full cost of running them (partly due to the range of social and charitable objectives LED must meet), EDDC makes a fixed service payment to LED each year as part of the 'contract'. This 'subsidy' situation also occurred when the Council ran its own 'Leisure and Lifestyles Service'.

As a freestanding body LED have independence to run their business in the way they best see fit, providing they meet the basic principles set out in our 'contract'. They do this through their own Board and Trustees. Each of the Leisure Centres still has a 'Steering Committee', as they did when the Council ran them. These are a way for the community to get involved and we have Councillor representatives on each.

Through establishing LED there have been financial savings (rates and VAT). LED have been freed of the constraints of the complex local government financial regime, and they have opportunities to seek funding sources unavailable to a local authority. As a 'single purpose' body they find there are less distractions to managing their core business. However through the 'contract', the charitable aims of LED, and the Steering Committees they are restricted from taking free-market business decisions that are not in the community's interests.

LED purchase a small number of contracts for services from East Devon District Council. So for instance we are still paid by LED to provide payroll services to them.

Whilst LED manages most of our Leisure Centres, they do not provide the full range of leisure advice and co-ordination that the Council's Leisure and Lifestyles services previously provided. There are also some historic anomalies. For instance they do not manage most outdoor recreation facilities, nor the Manor Pavilion Theatre, though they do manage outdoor facilities at Phear Park, and run the Exmouth Pavilion.

Peter Jeffs (Corporate Director) acts as the 'client officer' for the Council in overseeing the 'contract' with LED, and remains responsible for the residual Leisure Services, and strategy, which were left when LED was formed.

<http://www.ledleisure.co.uk>



Minister presents prestigious Social Enterprise Mark to COSMIC

The Minister for the Cabinet Office, Ed Miliband MP, has presented COSMIC with the Social Enterprise Mark. COSMIC is a Social Enterprise based in Ottery St Mary and is the first IT company to receive this prestigious award.

Customers can be sure that companies carrying the Social Enterprise Mark are using their profits to tackle a social or environmental need and are governed in a way that benefits their communities.

The Social Enterprise Mark is the only label of its kind and is being pioneered in South West England. Well known examples include The Big Issue, The Eden Project and Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Cornwall, but there are many other social enterprises operating in a wide range of industries from farmers markets and recycling companies to transport and childcare providers.



COSMIC has now moved its office operations into the centre of town at Pendennis House on Gold Street. Chief Executive, Julie Harris explained: "We are delighted to take-up the opportunity to locate our offices closer to the town centre and look forward to forging stronger links with local traders and organisations as a result. We enjoyed being at Ridgeway House for the past 6 years and are very excited and proud at having assisted the East Devon Volunteer Support Agency to relocate to Ottery St Mary and all the benefits which that is bound to bring to the town. COSMIC is now looking at its forward plan and how we can build further on our success in business, community development and support for the local community and economy."

www.socialenterprisemark.co.uk www.cosmic.org.uk

Funding secured for Blackdown's projects

Projects in the Blackdown Hills will continue to be supported under the Government's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) has been awarded £61,000 this year for projects which bring social, environmental or economic benefits to the area. Natural England, the Government agency with responsibility for the countryside, recently confirmed the funding for the fourth year running.



Examples of projects which received funding last year include the refurbishment of Dalwood Community Shop. A grant meant the shop could buy new freezers and a till, and could stock more local produce. Villagers also bought cloth to make smart shoulder bags - as a result Dalwood declared itself plastic bag free in June.

Nickie Moore, project officer at the AONB said: "Time and again, SDF funding has shown that even a small grant can give a project the boost it needs to get off the ground. I'm delighted that we have secured this funding again for the coming year, and I'd encourage anyone with an idea to get in touch and have a chat about how we can help".

To find out more about applying for SDF funding, go to www.blackdown-hills.net or call Nickie Moore on 01823 680681 or Email: nickie.moore@devon.gov.uk

Picture: Children from Dalwood Primary School help launch the community shop's bags.

Homelessness Strategy

The Council has met a tough target set by the Government to reduce the use of temporary accommodation for homeless households. As part of a wider agenda on homelessness, (which includes getting local authorities to stop using Bed and Breakfast type accommodation for homeless families and to implement measures that help prevent homelessness), the Government set a target to reduce the use of temporary accommodation by 50% by 2010.



In EDDC's case this required a reduction from 239 units of accommodation in December 2004 to 119 units by December 2009. By 30 June 2008 the Council had reduced the number of units of temporary accommodation to 114. This is a great achievement by the Housing Needs team. Staff have worked very hard, as have many agencies, particularly housing providers who work with homeless people.

The Housing Needs team have helped many homeless households secure a tenancy in the private rented sector by providing financial assistance by way of a deposit and in some cases rent in advance if required by the Landlord. In the case of older people who became homeless we have provided a direct offer of accommodation, usually in a sheltered housing scheme so they would not have to go into B&B or other temporary accommodation. In the case of young single people we have worked closely with Young Devon and secured alternative suitable accommodation such as a supported housing project or arranged for them to live with a supported lodgings host. Some survivors of domestic violence have been helped to stay in their own homes following the provision of improved security measures rather than having to move away from family and friends or their children's school. A lot of hard work still needs to be done to keep our use of temporary accommodation low and to reduce it further if possible.

Dennis Boobier (Housing Needs Manager)

Tel: 01395 517566 (or Ext 2766) Email: dboobier@eastdevon.gov.uk

Meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 14 July	9.30am	CANCELLED
Local Development Framework Panel	Hannah Jarvis	Monday 14 July	4.00pm	Room One
COUNCIL	Diana Vernon	Wednesday 16 July	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Christopher Holland	Monday 21 July	9.30am	Council Chamber
Standards (Referrals and Hearings) Sub Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 22 July	10.00am	CANCELLED
Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board	Rachel Perram	Tuesday 22 July	2.00pm	Committee Room
Corporate Overview Committee	Debbie Meakin	Thursday 24 July	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	Christopher Holland	Hannah Jarvis	Chris Lane	Debbie Meakin	Rachel Perram
01395 517541	01395 517543	01395 517542	01395 517544	01395 517540	01395 517542

Portfolio Holders decisions

Decisions put to Portfolio Holder Decisions will be published in a future edition of The Knowledge

<p>Economy (P Halse)</p>	<p>Transfer of public shelters at the sea front Sidmouth to Sidmouth Town Council To agree to the transfer of the seafront shelters to Sidmouth Town Council. Further details: Rob Speers, Senior Estates Surveyor, Ext 1588</p>
<p>Communities (Miss J Elson)</p>	<p>Sale of open space land adjoining 19 Ashfield Close, Exmouth to facilitate the development of a low cost housing unit To agree to the opening of negotiations for the sale of land to the owner of 19 Ashfield Close, Exmouth. Further details: Rob Speers, Senior Estates Surveyor, Ext 1588.</p> <p>Request to transfer the freehold of housing land at Waggs Plot, Axminster to the owner of 18 Waggs Plot, prior to the construction of the new sewage treatment works, serving the Council and private residential homes in Waggs Plot That the request be agreed on terms and conditions to be negotiated by the Property Services Manager, and that the housing land be transferred to the owner of 18 Waggs Plot. Further details: Chris Brookbank, Programmed Works Officer, Ext 2408.</p>

Decisions by Portfolio Holder Members are notified of the following decisions

<p>Communities (Miss J Elson)</p>	<p>Request that a sum not exceeding £16,000 be made available from the Housing Revenue Account, in order to fund the development of housing land adjacent to 1 Council houses, Rockbeare That a sum not exceeding £16,000 be made available from the Housing Revenue Account, to be used to pay costs associated with the Section 106 agreement restrictive covenants and legal costs, in order to proceed with the construction of 3 houses adjacent to No 1 Council Houses, Rockbeare.</p> <p>Sale of open space land adjoining 19 Ashfield Close, Exmouth to facilitate the development of a low cost housing unit Agreeing to the opening of negotiations for the sale of land to the owner of 19 Ashfield Close, Exmouth.</p>
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The above decisions will become effective on 17 July 2008 at 9.00 am 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.

Chairman's engagements

Wednesday 16 July

Chairman to attend the presentation of the Napoli Anchor to the people of Branscombe. Chairman to unveil the anchor and then host a buffet at the Sea Shanty Restaurant.

Thursday 17 July

Chairman to present Edge Ahead awards in the Members' Area. (This is a new, improved award which replaces the former "Seal of Excellence" certificate for high standards of food hygiene.)

Friday 18 July

Chairman to attend the Plymouth University Annual Awards Ceremony at Exeter Cathedral with lunch beforehand at the Royal Clarence.

News from the IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency)

Champions of participation resource pack

A new resource pack shares the learning of champions of participation in local government from across 15 countries. The pack includes case studies that look at lessons learnt and how this experience can be shared to shape policy and practice in the UK. Find out more and read all the latest community empowerment news.

www.drc-citizenship.org

Year of Healthy Communities calendar: entries for July



Healthy activities for July 2008 include an 8-week health awareness course run by Southampton City Council, access to

affordable, quality food in Greenwich, sports promotion for young girls in Rochdale, and a successful quit smoking scheme in Shropshire.

www.idea.gov.uk

Planning: managing development

Development management is key to delivering the proposals that shape a community. The Planning Advisory Service has published a discussion document and DIY presentation to help you and your colleagues understand development management and open a discussion about how that approach can be introduced or strengthened in your council. www.pas.gov.uk

Everything you wanted to know about sustainability



A compilation of some of the most common questions about sustainability, sustainable development and climate change. They are ideal for anyone new to this area of work or for those

looking for inspiration to implement changes in their council. www.idea.gov.uk

150 LAAs gain approval

A total of 150 Local Area Agreements (LAAs), which outline local authorities' and their partners' priorities for the next 3 years, have received ministerial approval. See which areas share priorities nationally, and which priorities other councils in our region have chosen. The full agreements for each area are available to download alongside a presentation for councillors highlighting the role they play in delivering LAAs.

www.idea.gov.uk

Rural Services Network (RSN)

Here are the latest news items from the [Rural Services Network](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk):



Renewable energy to light rural fires

A ground-breaking initiative promises to help boost renewable energy resources in rural areas.

www.rsnonline.org.uk



Proposals to reform local government

The Boundary Committee has unveiled plans to reform local government in 3 of England's most rural counties.

www.rsnonline.org.uk

Rural tourists urged to stay a while longer

Businesses in north-east England are helping tourists make the most of the local countryside. A programme of training visits is showing owners and managers of tourism businesses how they can encourage customers to stay longer in the region. 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>

In the press

Blears proposes more mayors

More cities could gain elected mayors under an overhaul of the rules that govern such contests. Hazel Blears will proposed online petitions to enable people to back referendums for mayors.

[Financial Times](#)

Waste not, want not - Brown



The Prime Minister has urged families concerned by spiralling shopping bills to stop wasting food as a Cabinet Office report reveals

Britons throw away groceries worth more than £1 billion a year. Supermarkets will be urged to drop "three for two" deals on food. [Independent](#)

Crackdown on gangs who plunder metal for scrap

Councils in Newham, Doncaster, Devon and West Bromwich have had to pay to replace items such as signs and manhole covers. [Mail](#)

Road schemes over budget



Councils are facing a bill of £671m because local road schemes in England have gone over budget. Costs on over 50 road building projects managed by councils have gone up from

£1.33bn to just over £2bn. The Department for Transport said that it would make extra money available, but expected councils to make contributions. [Guardian](#)

More needs to be done to tackle benefit fraud

MPs have called for more benefit fraudsters to be prosecuted, following the publication of a report that found that fewer than 7,500 out of 20,000 cases ended up in court. [Telegraph](#)

Public sector healthy eating push



Hospital patients, prisoners and millions of public sector workers are to be the focus of a healthy eating initiative drawn up by ministers.

[Guardian](#)

Hospital staff must report stab wounds



Hospital staff will have to inform the police when patients are treated for stab wounds in the same way that they have to report gun-shot

wounds, Jacqui Smith has said. It comes as new figures show that the number of people being treated for stab wounds has risen by 20%.

[Telegraph](#)

Gulls swoop on residents

Residents in South Shields in Tyne and Wear are increasingly coming under attack from seagulls stealing their food. A spokesperson for the council said that they had put up signs and netting to prevent birds nesting in the area. [Telegraph](#)

Anti-stab vests given out to workers



The growing fear of knife crime in Britain is forcing hospital trusts and councils to supply body armour to frontline workers, according to the

[Observer](#). An Oxfordshire based company claims to have received about 10,000 orders for stab vests from councils. [Observer](#)

Cornish curfew on under 16s after 9pm, and under 10s after 8pm

Julian Commons, Penwith Council's anti-social behaviour councillor, said "We need to encourage all parents to take responsibility for their children so the community is safer for everyone."

[Guardian](#)

Minister calls for lunchtime lock-in

The Children's minister Kevin Brennan has called



for secondary school pupils under the age of 16 to be locked in school grounds at lunchtime to stop them stocking up on fatty foods and drink. [Observer](#)

Health warnings for meals

Restaurants will be under pressure to put health warnings on meals as part of plans outlined in the Cabinet Office report detailing the UK's food strategy. [Mail](#)

In the press (continued)

British roads full of potholes

The 10 bumpiest roads were revealed by Continental Tyres. The Local Government Association (LGA) said councils need another £200 million from the Government to be able to keep up with road repairs. An LGA spokesman said: "Councils, like everybody else, are feeling the impact of rising costs. Asphalt has gone up by as much as 50%. Councils will use new powers to ensure utility firms don't make a mess of the roads when they carry out roadworks. For too long utilities have had a free hand to dig holes in the road with little consideration for congestion and disruption." [Express](#)

Planning shake-up to save high streets



A shake-up of planning laws designed to curb out-of-town retail parks will safeguard high streets' character. The reforms will be outlined by Hazel

Blairs and will enable local authorities to block new developments on sites miles away from town centres. [Mail](#)

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<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 2746. Email: knowledge@eastdevon.gov.uk