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- THG (Thelma Hulbert Gallery)
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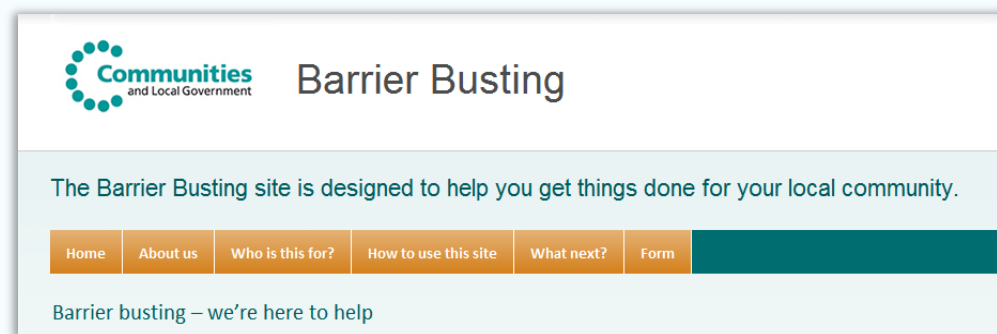
- **EDDC News**

Meetings

Meeting	DSO	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	CL	Tuesday 25 January	9.30am	CANCELLED
Standards Committee	CEH	Tuesday 25 January	10.00am	CANCELLED
Standards Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee	CEH	Tuesday 25 January	10.00am	Committee Room
Standards Review Sub Committee (* on the rising of the Assessment & Hearings Sub Committee)	CEH	Tuesday 25 January	*	Committee Room
➤ Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinating Cttee including Service Planning & Budget	DM	Wednesday 26 January	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Rates Consultation	CL	Monday 31 January	6.30pm	Committee Room
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	CL	Tuesday 1 February	9.30am	CANCELLED
Office Accommodation Working Party	CL	Wednesday 2 February	4.00pm	Room 1
Local Development Framework Panel	HW	Thursday 3 February		CANCELLED
East Devon Business Forum AGM	CL	Thursday 3 February	6.00pm	East Devon Business Centre, Honiton

New Government barrier busting website

Many people have great ideas about how they could make their neighbourhood a better place to live. Some local authorities want to deliver public services in new ways. Others are keen to do new things, such as invest in small-scale green energy. And volunteers, community groups and social enterprises of many kinds would like to play a bigger role in local life. But sometimes barriers get in the way. Red tape, rules and regulations stop people putting good ideas into action. Not only is this frustrating – it means that local people miss out.



If you need help to get things done for your community – and you’ve done everything you reasonably can to resolve the issue at a local level – you can use the [website](#) to contact the barrier busting team.

The team will listen and try to understand your concerns; they will let you know if they think they can help. And, if so, they will do what they can to get rid of the barriers in your way – perhaps by re-examining policies, by getting rid of unnecessary requirements, or by changing the way Government departments work; and if not, they will explain why not.

Who is this for?

You might be an individual or a member of a community group and feel frustrated that bureaucracy, regulations or a lack of information is stopping you from achieving what you want in your area.

Contact us:
knowledge@eastdevon.gov.uk

Democratic Services Officers

- Diana Vernon 01395 517541
- Christopher Holland 01395 517543
- Chris Lane 01395 517544
- Debbie Meakin 01395 517540
- Alethea Thompson 01395 517525
- Hannah Whitfield 01395 517542

You might be from a local authority. Local authorities can use this form to report any barriers, unnecessary bureaucracy or burdens they come across in the course of their business, in exactly the same way as individuals and community groups. Local authorities also have a particular, vital role of encouraging local debate and harnessing local people's enthusiasm for improving the place where they live. If you have inspired people to come up with ideas, and find that you cannot put them into practice, you can ask for the barriers to be removed under the Sustainable Communities Act. If you follow this route, and the barrier busting team says it is unable to help, you may be able to appeal to an independent champion who can ask the Government to reconsider.

<http://barrierbusting.communities.gov.uk/>

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/communities/1799222>

LG Knowledge

➤ Localism Bill – second reading debate briefing

The Local Government Association (LGA) welcomes the thrust of the Localism Bill and the Government's aims to decentralise power and decision-making. In particular it supports a General Power of Competence for councils. Read the briefing on the LGA website to find out what the LGA sees as the key issues for councils and how its suggestions for Government can help to improve the Bill. The LGA does have significant concerns about the EU fines section of the Bill, and is encouraging councils to write to their MPs to flag up the dangers.

➤ Change4Life: 'Great Swapathon'



Discover how families will receive more help this year to eat a healthier diet and get active with the latest instalment of the Change4Life programme. This new initiative known as 'The Great Swapathon' will give away £250 million of healthy living vouchers, as well as encouraging families in England to swap one unhealthy habit for a healthier one.

➤ Health report: 'More for less 2009/2010'

This briefing on the Improvement Network reviews how and where primary care trusts spent their money, how trust income changed, and how successful the NHS has been in moving care out of hospitals to more cost-effective settings.

Portfolio Holders' decisions

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

Environment
Graham Brown

Easement for storm water drain at Land of Canaan, Ottery St Mary

That authority be granted to the Senior Estates Officer to open negotiations with representatives of Sainsbury's for the granting of a drainage easement at The Land of Canaan, Ottery St Mary.

Further details: Rob Speers, Senior Estates Surveyor, Ext 1588

Decisions by Portfolio Holder

Communities
Jill Elson

Request to sell an area of Council housing land adjacent to the former Council house at 6 Churchside, Clyst Honiton to Mr Cowles, the owner of 6 Churchside, who wishes to use the area to extend his garden

Agreeing that the area of housing land adjacent to 6 Churchside, Clyst Honiton be declared surplus to requirement, and sold to Mr Cowles of 6 Churchside. Such agreement to include an "overage" clause in the case of any future commercial development.

The above decisions will become effective on **27 January 2011** at 9.00am unless "called in". The published procedure for a "call-in" is on pages 139 -141 of the Council Constitution, or contact Democratic Services for assistance or explanation.

New documents

Exe Press –Winter issue of the Exe Estuary Partnership newsletter (also available [online](#))

Clerks & Councils Direct – January issue

In the national press

➤ **New equality audits to cost public bodies £30m a year**

Public sector bodies, including councils, police forces and schools will spend £30 million each year on equality audits under the new Equality Duty. Special equality officers will be required to ask employees personal details and publish the results in the form of a "diversity breakdown". At least one staff member at each organisation is expected to spend eight days a year compiling and publishing the results.

➤ **Britain in gloom as councils axe flowers**



Britain won't be in bloom this spring after local authorities cut funding for flower beds, hanging baskets and municipal gardening. Councils have announced plans to grass-over flower beds, shut greenhouses and let lawns grow longer, leading to fears of a colourless "Britain in gloom". Baroness Eaton, chairman of the LGA, is quoted: "Councils don't want to reduce spending on popular services, but they have been left with little choice. It is inevitable spending on non-statutory activities will be reduced to preserve money for core services like social care." Sunday Times p4 16/1/11

➤ **5m waiting for homes**

England is facing a housing crisis after the waiting list for low-rent homes rose to more than five million. Council figures show 11,000 people joined the queue between July and September 2010. The LGA is quoted: "There isn't the cash in the system to meet the needs."

➤ **Shapps to help older council tenants downsize property**

Housing Minister Grant Shapps is to announce a £13m plan to help ageing council tenants living in homes now too big for them to downsize their property.

➤ **Libraries, youth clubs and street cleaning stand by to 'go private'**

Outsourcing by councils and quangos means public sector services are increasingly likely to be run by private firms. Unions warn of job losses, while others say taxpayers can make savings. Tony Travers, director of the London School of Economics research centre, is quoted: "The cuts are deeper than in the 1970s. The speed councils are having to do this at is unprecedented."

➤ **Price rise on booze**

Supermarkets will be barred from selling alcohol below a new 'minimum price' under plans announced by ministers. The move is aimed at curbing 'loss leader' deals which the Government believes encourages binge drinking.



➤ **Bus services to be axed**

The Independent has learnt that hundreds of bus services are to be scrapped or scaled back as councils deal with the squeeze on public spending. Transport campaigners warned that the crisis will cut off small communities. The Department for Transport will announce a £560m pot to fund new transport schemes, but it is expected to give priority to pedestrian and cycling schemes.

➤ **Grow your own and save £26 a week**

Allotment holders save almost £1,400 a year by growing their own fruit and vegetables, according to a survey by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.



➤ **Councils to foot bill for £1bn in EU fines**

Councils are in line to pay up to £1bn in fines from Brussels if the Localism Bill is passed without amendment. Under the proposed legislation councils would be liable to pay fines arising from a national failure to meet targets agreed between the UK and Europe on things like air quality, procurement and recycling. LGA Chairman, Baroness Margaret Eaton, is quoted: "The potentially billion pound fines from Brussels are for breaching national targets, which were agreed by Central Government with the EU. Changing the goalposts now to make councils liable for fines is unfair to them and unfair to the local residents who may have to foot the bill."



Great Spotted Woodpecker
Photo by Peter Vernon

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.