

# The Knowledge



Stag - Photo by Stan Fifer (with thanks to Di Fifer)

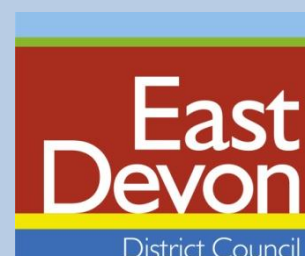
23 January 2009

## This week in The Knowledge

- ❑ Find out more about funding
- ❑ Service Plans 2009/12
- ❑ News from the Rural Services Network
- ❑ New documents
- ❑ News from the Idea
- ❑ Portfolio Holder's decision
- ❑ In the press

## Meetings

| Meeting  | DSO | Date                        | Time          | Location                                    |
|--|-----|-----------------------------|---------------|---|
| Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee  | CL  | Monday 26 January           | 9.30am        | CANCELLED                                   |
| Asset Management Forum   | CL  | Monday 26 January           | 9.30am        | Committee Room                              |
| Housing Review Board Sheltered Housing Task and Finish Forum                         | RP  | Monday 26 January           | 9.30am        | Yonder Close Community Room, Ottery St Mary |
| 'Serving all our customers' / diversity workshop                                     | DV  | Tuesday 27 January          | 6.30 - 8.30pm | Council Chamber                             |
| Housing Review Board   | RP  | <b>Wednesday 28 January</b> | <b>6.30pm</b> | Council Chamber                             |
| Audit and Governance Committee   | CH  | Thursday 29 January         | <b>2.30pm</b> | Committee Room                              |
| Joint Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee - <b>Service Planning &amp; Budget</b> | DM  | Thursday 29 January         | 6.30pm        | Council Chamber                             |
| Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee  | CL  | Monday 2 February           | 9.30am        | Council Chamber                             |
| Rates Consultation   | CL  | Monday 2 February           | 6.30pm        | NOT REQUIRED                                |
| The Assessment and Hearings Sub-Committee  | CH  | Tuesday 3 February          | 10.00am       | CANCELLED                                   |
| Executive Board  | DV  | Wednesday 4 February        | 5.30pm        | Council Chamber                             |
| East Devon Business Forum  | CL  | Thursday 5 February         | 6.00pm        | East Devon Business Forum                   |



Council Offices  
Knowle  
Sidmouth  
EX10 9BL

[www.eastdevon.gov.uk](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk)

## Meetings (continued)

### Democratic Services Officers:

Diana Vernon  
01395 517541

Christopher Holland  
01395 517543

Chris Lane  
01395 517544

Debbie Meakin  
01395 517540

Rachel Perram  
01395 517542

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.

## Find out more about funding

### ► Parks and open spaces



Parks for People, run by the Heritage Lottery Fund have grants of between £250,000 and £5million available for projects involving urban or rural green spaces designed

for informal recreation and enjoyment. This can include public gardens, walks, promenades, squares. Priority will be given to schemes that the community value, and actively involve local people.

### Farming communities

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution has support available for retired and working farmers and their families, farm workers, disabled and those in need in farming communities. This can include help with household bills, care home fees and special needs. For more information: 01865 727888

### ► Waterways

The Waterways Trust has funding of up to £1,000 available to community groups and schools for waterway wildlife



conservation projects. In particular they would like to fund ponds linked to canals,

and community based projects to improve facilities on canals and waterways.

### ► Rural Development

The South West Rural Development Programme has funding available. The grants are for farmers and growers who want to invest in innovative technologies to improve resource management on farms, and for research and training organisations, consultants and farmers in new methods of resource management on farms. The deadline is 31 March 2009.

### ► The Future of Nature



Naturesave have grants available from £100 to £10,000 to help projects that deal with the root of a specific environmental or conservation problem, and projects that encourage the business sector to develop sustainably. Voluntary organisations, companies and entrepreneurs can apply.

Jamie Buckley (Engagement and Funding Officer)  
☎ 01395 517569 (or Ext 2769)  
jrbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk

## Service Plans 2009/12

The 11 draft Service Plans that were considered at the Joint Scrutiny and Corporate Overview Task and Finish Forum (TaFF) Workshop on 12 January, are available to view on the Council's website by using this link:

[http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/organisational\\_devt-newpage](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/organisational_devt-newpage)

Please note that amendments to the draft Service Plans following the TaFF Workshop are shown in bold and underlined.

Two additional Service Plans for services within the Environmental Health and Health Inequalities Service, Health and Safety and Food Enforcement, are also located there.

The Service Plans will be considered by the Joint Scrutiny and Corporate Overview Committee meeting on 29 January and the Executive Board on 4 February.

Bob Darbourne (Communications and Improvement Manager)

Tel: 01395 517418 (or Ext 2618) Email: [bdarbourne@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:bdarbourne@eastdevon.gov.uk)

## News from the Rural Services Network (RSN)

### ▶ Housing trust falls victim to downturn



The Rural Housing Trust is to stop building affordable rural homes after being hit by the economic downturn. Widely viewed as England's leading developer of small rural affordable housing schemes, the trust has helped to build 3,000 homes across 350

developments. But the credit crunch has seen landlords reluctant to buy properties.

### ▶ Social enterprise strengthens rural communities

Rural residents are setting up their own community-led initiatives to help overcome the economic downturn. Social enterprises - businesses set up for a social purpose rather than just to make a profit - are increasingly stepping up to the mark. The Plunkett Foundation has launched a guide focusing on the range of advice available to start or expand a rural social enterprise.

### ▶ Do market towns really need a market?

Many people believe traditional street and indoor markets are a vital part of market towns. But many markets have been declining for years, taken for granted as shoppers desert them for newer retail centres. Consultant Helen Fairweather examines what can be done to save those that remain.

### ▶ Services probed for older rural people

The Government is investigating ways of improving



the way services are delivered to older rural people. Experts from the Social Exclusion Task Force and Defra are working together on the study. They have issued a call for evidence of good practice and innovation related to services

provided to older people in rural areas.

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

## New documents in the Members' Area

### Feedback from outside bodies

- **University of Exeter** – Minutes of the **Innovation Centre Strategy Board** meeting held on 16 December 2008.

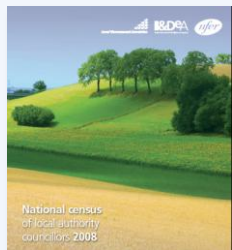
The above document is in the 'Feedback from Outside Bodies' file on the bookcase in the Members' Area.

## News from the IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency)

### ▶ Jobs for people with learning disabilities

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council is committed to improving access to work for disabled people. Recognising the particularly high levels of unemployment among people with learning disabilities, the council has worked hard to address the problem. Discover what they did and the positive effect it has had on everyone involved.

### ▶ National census of local authority councillors 2008



The fifth census of local authority councillors in England has just been published by the LGA (Local Government Association) and IDeA. This in-depth research provides a snapshot of local government representation, and analysis of trends over time. It shows that councillor diversity has changed little over the last decade.

### ▶ RIEP governance

Regional improvement and efficiency partnerships (RIEPs) are member-led partnerships of councils, fire authorities and other local services. Governance arrangements vary from region to region to recognise the unique needs and make-up of each. Find out more about the national support structures for the RIEPs and the specific governance and key contacts for your region.

### ▶ Social care: working together to change lives



Two years ago Staffordshire County Council had a battle on its hands. The council's

Social Care and Health Directorate's modernisation programme had local people up in arms. Read how Staffordshire changed local hearts and minds by involving local people.

### ▶ Healthy Communities Calendar – January entries



This month's calendar features the 'Mini-MEND' healthy lifestyle programme in South Tyneside, a 'Gardening Olympics' for

youngsters in East Staffordshire, a Kirklees project to increase mobility among older people, and boxercise classes in Croydon.

### ▶ Improving partnerships in the voluntary and community sector

Find out how a group of senior officers from Darlington Borough Council worked with the local voluntary and community sector to identify and overcome barriers to cross-sector partnership working.

## Portfolio Holder's decision

**Decision by Portfolio Holder** Members are notified of the following decision

**Resources**  
(A T Moulding)

### Seaton 106 obligations – unilateral undertaking registration charge

To agree to support the fee of £50 to cover this Council's additional costs in registering each Unilateral Undertaking.

**The above decision will become effective on 29 January 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.**

## In the press

### ▶ Council tax rises lowest for a decade

Council tax bills are expected to rise by an average 3.5% across England in April, according to a survey by the Local Government Association (LGA). The figures suggest the average Band D council tax bill will rise by £47 from £1,374 to £1,421. Margaret Eaton, the chairman of the LGA said: "Money is tight for everyone and nobody likes paying more council tax, but town halls are making enormous efforts to keep bills down. Money that councils earn from services they charge for is falling sharply at a time when demand on their services is rising."

### ▶ Council tax may be capped below 5%

April's council tax rises could be capped below last year's 5% limit as the country heads deeper into recession, the Government has signalled. The LGA predicted that bills would rise by an average 3.5% during the coming financial year. John Healey has warned local authorities to show restraint as they prepare their demands. In an interview with the Financial Times, Healey said he wanted councils to be shamed into setting remuneration packages that were more appropriate rather than having limits imposed by Central Government.

### ▶ Financial woes see six pubs fold per day



A record six pubs a day are closing because of the economic downturn, according to figures from the British Beer and Pub Association. The news comes as MPs debate a new mandatory code of practice to curb binge drinking.

### ▶ Turning of street lights to save energy 'will put lives at risk'

Plans to switch off street lights to save energy and reduce carbon emissions could put road users at risk, according to scientists. A spokesman for the LGA is quoted: "If people complain about an unsightly glare coming from a street light, councils will endeavour to respond."

### ▶ Pay-as-you-throw bin charges are on the scrapheap



Ministers killed off their plans for pay-as-you-throw bin taxes after claims that not one council volunteered to take part in the pilot schemes planned to begin this spring. Richard Kemp, deputy chairman of the LGA, blamed the Government for not publishing clear rules on how the trials would operate.

### ▶ Parents want more men to be teachers



Parents are calling for more men to become teachers because they fear their children lack male role models, according to new research. Demand is even stronger among single mothers, who told the survey their children had little contact with men in caring roles.

### ▶ Home education can be cover for abuse

Thousands of children supposedly educated at home by their parents are at risk of abuse, neglect, forced marriage or sexual exploitation, the Government said as it announced a review. The review follows mounting concern from local authorities that their duty to promote and protect child welfare is undermined by the present rules.

### ▶ We are not crying wolf over the impact of the recession

In the Guardian's Response column, LGA Chairman Margaret Eaton responds to a piece by David Brindle, which accused the LGA of "crying wolf" over the impact of the recession on public services. She says: "People naturally expect more from their council during difficult times. We in local government understand this, and aim to meet the challenge of ensuring that our residents and our businesses are given all the support we can possibly provide. But we



cannot allow people to somehow think that the public sector is immune to the effects of the downturn, or that there is an endless supply of money available."

### ▶ Council house waiting lists up

Around 200,000 families have gone on council house waiting lists in the past year, figures have revealed. Housing statistics are expected to show 1.8 million families on waiting lists in England compared with 1.6 million twelve months ago.

## 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:** ☎ (01395) 517541 or Extension 2741. Email: [dvernon@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:knowledge@eastdevon.gov.uk)