

The Knowledge



Beer
Photo: Jim Cady

23 May 2008

The ninth Exmouth Sand Sculpture Competition



Organisers are gearing up for another exciting event, this will be the 9th Annual Sandsculpture competition on Exmouth beach and it is expected to be a great day. Despite the dreadful start to the day last year, many of our regular teams and lots of new competitors braved the elements to create what must surely have been

some of the best sculptures ever!

The event is to take place on **May 25 starting at 9.30 am** and continuing all day. Spectators are yet again in for a real treat and will not fail to be impressed by the ability of the sculptors, sometimes it's impossible to believe that the sculptures are just made of sand and water.

The overall winner receives a £100 prize, there are also 4 further prizes of £25 and Certificates of Merit waiting to be grabbed so, whether you are entering as a team of people or just on your own, it could be well worth the visit.

Lots of other fun activities are planned this year, there will be an East Devon Play tent on site with lots of things to do, such as making your own juggling balls and swinging. Ever tried a unicycle? How about hoola hoops to keep your beach bum in shape! The tent aims to highlight the new summer play activities 'Off The Sofa Dayz' happening in rural areas across the district and to say a huge thank you to Big Lottery for funding the scheme which will be free to all who attend.



For more information contact Ishbel Ramsay, Arts Development Officer
Tel: 01395 517466, Email: iramsey@eastdevon.gov.uk

(Pictures: T-rex was last years winner, Sculpted sun - 2006's winner)

This week in The Knowledge

- Off the Sofa Dayz
- Forthcoming meetings
- Community Empowerment
- Rural Services Network
- Youth Arts Matter Conference
- Funding
- Post Office Change Network
- News from the IDeA
- In the Press



Council Offices
Knowle
Sidmouth
Devon
EX10 8HL

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Off the Sofa Dayz takes off

Parachute games, quick crick and circus tricks in the mix

The first Off the Sofa Dayz will be launched at Millwey Rise, Axminster on **Thursday 29 and Friday 30 May**, to coincide with the half-term holiday. And everyone is invited along to see what this exciting new scheme is all about.

The launch sees the culmination of many months of work by East Devon District Council's Play Workers – Jane Sharp and Polly Mercer – who have been working with volunteers from all over the district to get the mobile play scheme up and running.

At Millwey Rise, young people aged 7-15 will be able to learn arts and crafts, circus skills and face painting and they'll have a chance to take part in parachute games and quick cricket. And there will be a DJ there throughout both days to keep everyone entertained.

This week, Jane and Polly are visiting three primary schools in Axminster (All Saints, St Mary's and Axminster Primary) as well as Axe Valley Community College, to tell them about Off the Sofa Dayz and to invite them to come along to see for themselves what it is all about.



Forthcoming meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Information/Drop-in Day – New Waste and Recycling Scheme (for Members & Parish reps)	Paul Deakin - Interim Waste and Recycling Manager - Ext 2074	Tuesday 27 May	10.00am – 3.00pm	Committee Room
Development Control	Chris Holland	Tuesday 3 June	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Beach Concessions TAFF	Chris Lane	Tuesday 3 June	2.15pm	East Devon Business Centre
Audit and Governance TAFF	Chris Holland	Wednesday 4 June	10.00 am	Room One
Exeter International Airport Consultative Group	Chris Lane	Wednesday 4 June	2.15pm	Exeter Airport
Executive Board	Chris Lane	Wednesday 4 June	5.30pm	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).

To view agendas and minutes on the Council's website, click [here](#).

Click [here](#) to view planning applications online.

Click [here](#) to view new applications received relating to the Licensing Act 2003.

Diana Vernon 01395 517541	Christopher Holland 01395 517543	Hannah Jarvis 01395 517542	Chris Lane 01395 517544	Debbie Meakin 01395 517540	Rachel Perram 01395 517542
------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------

Community Empowerment

Communities Secretary Hazel Blears has set out early details on the new Community Empowerment, Housing and Economic Regeneration Bill, as part of the Government's Draft Legislative Programme. Work carried out by East Devon District Council to promote Community Empowerment include:



- Agreeing a policy which enables parish councils to ask this Council to consider transferring assets to them where there is demonstrable community benefit and transfer is consistent with the Council's strategic objectives - [Executive Board 30 April](#)
- Introducing arrangements for the public to speak on agenda items and ask questions at Council, Executive Board, Corporate Overview, Scrutiny and Audit and Corporate Governance Committees with effect from 1 July. This will give local people and businesses more chance to have their say at meetings, and we hope it will spark some lively debates and encourage more people to get involved with their Council. Arrangements for public speaking at Licensing and Enforcement Committee and the Planning Inspections Committee will continue as at present. It's planned to introduce public speaking at Development Control once the current review of planning systems and procedures has been concluded.

The Bill should help harness "petition power" and enable local people to trigger action and influence decisions on local services and issues they care about using three new rights, namely:-

- ❑ a new right to ask for a stronger say on spending decisions that affect them or their communities. This could mean for example asking councils to direct more money from multi-million pound budgets on tackling drug dealing on estates, more community wardens and facilities like more skateboard parks or youth clubs
- ❑ a new right to ensure councils consider the sale or transfer of under-used properties, lands or parks to local community groups, co-ops and social enterprises, in order to ensure publicly owned assets properly benefit local people rather than just being left redundant
- ❑ a new right to force a debate on specific local issues onto the council agenda, so that, for example, if local people are unhappy with the closure of a local swimming pool or the standard of local housing, they can hold their council to account.



For more information visit www.wired-gov.net

Rural Services Network (RSN)

Here are the latest news items from the [Rural Services Network](#):

Now rural payphone boxes face the axe



RURAL areas will bear the brunt of a BT campaign to remove hundreds of unprofitable payphones. www.rsonline.org.uk

Government fails to meet key rural target

THE government has failed to meet a key target requiring it to enhance opportunities for people in rural England. www.rsonline.org.uk



Campaign seeks to protect village greens

A RADICAL change in management of the countryside is vital, says the government's landscape watchdog. In its first report into the state of the environment, [Natural England](#) said a new approach was needed to adapt to climate change and the pressure of development. www.rsonline.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>

Youth Arts Matter Conference

Councillors Vivienne Ash (Culture Champion) and Darryl Nicholas (then Young People Champion) attended the Youth Arts Matter Conference in April on behalf of the Council. One of the key messages was the positive affect that art can have on communities - for example in preventing anti-social behaviour, improving young people's lives and releasing their potential. Lots of useful information was gained and of particular interest was a pilot project called FLUX. The full report from this conference is in the Outside Bodies feedback file in the Members Area together with a useful reading list.



More information on FLUX can be found at www.fluxswindon.co.uk

Funding



The Big Lottery Fund is delivering **myplace** on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). myplace aims to deliver world class youth facilities driven by the active participation of young people and their views and needs. Projects will only be funded that deliver on four listed outcomes and demonstrate evidence of the real participation of young people, particularly disadvantaged young people, in the development, design and future of running of the project. All projects will need to demonstrate genuine cross-sector partnership between top tier local authorities and third and/or private sector organisations. The deadline for fast track applications is **29 July 2008** and the deadline for the standard route is **30 September 2008**. Full guidance materials, application forms and questions and answers will be available to download from www.biglotteryfund.org.uk (Please note this is not Lottery funding)

Post Office Change Network

On Wednesday 14 May 2008, Councillor Potter, Post Office Member Champion, attended the "Support Local Post Offices – A Practical Guide" Conference held by the Local Government Association. He reported it was "a very interesting, oversubscribed conference where emotions ran high. Unfortunately it was premature and there was no practical guide on offer to deal with the 2500 Post Office closures now faced".

How East Devon will be affected by the Post Office Ltd Network Change Programme – Area Plan Proposal for Devon:

Post Office Closures include Clyst St George, Green Way Lane (Budleigh Salterton), Millwey Rise (Axminster), The Recreation Ground (Offwell) Village Shop and Post Office, St Andrews Road (Exmouth), Tipton St John (Sidmouth), Plymtree (will be provided with an Outreach Service).

The Post Office in Up Ottery is to re open.

Full details of East Devon's area plan proposals (Area Plan Proposal for Devon) can be found at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange



Shared services report: "Delivering public service transformation 2008"

Read the new research on front office shared services. It expands on analysis published last year and identifies the new skills that local authorities and their partners are developing on a range of projects, including customer insight and managing complex change programmes. Find out how new performance frameworks and structures aim to promote local action.

www.idea.gov.uk

Community engagement: "Duty to involve"

South Somerset District Council has a history of successful community engagement, achieving national recognition through the Beacon Scheme. Find out how the council moved to the next level of community engagement to pave the way for the statutory 'duty to involve'.

www.idea.gov.uk

Customer insight: drive the debate

Councils and their partners will need to sharpen their understanding of existing and potential customers - and what they need and want - to further drive improvement. With this focus in mind, access the learning from the IDeA Policy and Performance Reference Group's recent event in Birmingham and sign up to the next customer insight conference to be held online in June.

www.idea.gov.uk

LAAs: guidance on alcohol misuse



The government has this week launched a high profile advertising campaign to highlight the dangers of drinking too much too often. This case study describes how there is scope for screening and interventions at the primary care stage, helping to identify any

alcohol issues before they become too serious.

www.idea.gov.uk

Private sector health initiatives



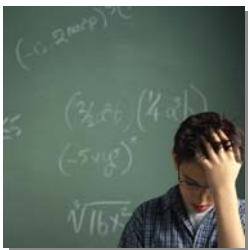
Sickness at work remains a big issue in Britain with an estimated 175 million working days lost to illness each year. Many private sector organisations have responded and adopted strategies

to maintain a healthy workforce. Find out what local government can learn from their approaches.

www.idea.gov.uk

In the press

White paper on alternative education published



Ed Balls, the Schools Secretary, published a White Paper to radically transform education for unruly and vulnerable pupils. Under the plans, existing pupil referral units - which educate pupils permanently excluded from school - will be revamped with a new curriculum focusing on the basics of English and mathematics, and targets to improve attendance and exam results.

[Telegraph](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)

Benefit cons hit £140 million

The Audit Commission has released a report showing that £140 million of public money was paid out to fraudulent claimers. This has included housing benefit, council tax benefit, income support and even disabled parking badges with the report claiming that councils are not doing enough to



tackle the problem. The Daily Mail quotes the amount lost by councils to council tax benefit fraud as being £30 million a year. [Times](http://www.times.co.uk)

In the press (continued)

Flood hell one year on

Local Government Minister John Healey has hit out at insurance firms after it emerged that over 5000 families are still homeless in the aftermath of last year's devastating floods. [Mirror](#)

Trading standards telly edict

Warwickshire County Council's trading standards service were shocked to find an elderly woman had paid out £2,600 to rent the same old brown



TV for 20 years - without being offered an upgrade. Officers stepped in to get her an upgrade to a 20-inch widescreen with remote control. [Mirror](#)

Green belt to be sacrificed for new homes

Hundreds of acres of countryside are threatened with housing development after the Government approved the biggest redrawing of green belt boundaries for decades. [Telegraph](#)

20mph speed limits to sweep across Britain



The speed limit on thousands of residential roads will be reduced to 20mph under government moves designed to cut road deaths by a third over the next decade. Variable limits will be introduced on main roads near schools, with digital signs

ordering drivers to cut their speed to 20mph or less when pupils are arriving or departing. [Times](#)

40% rise in violent crime by under 18s

Girls are committing an increasing number of violent offences, leading to a 40% rise in youth crime in only three years. Some 56,000 violent incidents involving teens, from murders to assaults, were recorded in 2006-07, the Youth Justice Board said. That is up from 40,000 in 2003-04.

[Mirror](#)

Court to rule on early flights



Wandsworth, Richmond and Windsor and Maidenhead Councils have appealed to the High Court to stop noisy flights arriving before

6am at London's Heathrow Airport.

[Financial Times](#)

House building falls 25% in a year

The number of homes being built in England has fallen by nearly 25 per cent over the last year.

Between January and March this year, work started on just 32,144 homes, the fewest for 12

years. [Mail](#)

Queue for social housing



Two million families could be on the waiting list for social housing within two years. Almost half of all councils say they can't cope with demand as the

credit crunch and rising cost of living continue to bite. Cllr Paul Bettison of the LGA is quoted: "many thousands more will be looking to councils to provide homes." [Mirror](#)

Parents to have power to call in school inspectors

The Chief Inspector of Schools have outlined plans to allow parents to arrange for badly performing schools to be inspected with increased frequency. The consultation process will look at ways to improve Ofsted's inspection regime and prevent inspections from emerging as the result of malicious complaints from parents. [Times](#)

In the press (continued)

Appetite for a fight



A parents group in Merton has succeeded in getting healthy, fresh food into all 43 primary schools in the borough after a long dispute with Merton Borough Council. The group vows to continue to fight to ensure that the same battle is won in the kitchens of all the borough's secondary schools. [Guardian](#)

Young people know what's good for them



A member of Camden Youth Council criticises the planned spending of Camden Council in comparison with the spending suggested by the Youth Council, suggesting that the young are far better placed to determine the key youth and education areas in need of funding. [Guardian](#)

Discrimination against military to be outlawed



Shops, hospitals and other public institutions will in future be committing a criminal offence if they refuse to serve armed forces personnel in uniform. Councils will also be encouraged to get more involved in homecoming parades for returning troops, according to the government report, National Recognition for our Armed Forces. [Times](#)

Phantom newt hunt cost taxpayers £1 million



A Phantom colony of endangered newts has cost taxpayers £1 million. Leicestershire County Council leader David Parsons has written to Environment Secretary Hilary Benn demanding a policy rethink. "This is an awful lot of money," he said. "We have to talk to Government about the balance between money and saving wildlife, because I don't think we have it right at the moment." [Express](#)

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

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

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/readermain.html>

If you require further assistance please contact Democratic Services on 01395 517546.