

The Knowledge



Coly River
Watercolour by Peter Lightfoot

25 April 2008

Axe Wetlands project takes its first big step

Twenty acres of former marshland have been bought by EDDC in one of the first big steps towards the Axe Wetlands scheme. This project is set to create a large nature reserve within the estuary with new paths and opportunities to enjoy the wildlife and its unique landscape.

The land lies just south of Colyford Common and goes by the name of Black Hole Marsh, although it has been drained and grazed heavily over the last few decades.

EDDC's Project Officer, Kate Tobin, said: "We are at a turning point in the history of the estuary. For centuries it has become progressively drier due to natural processes and changes in farming. Now, with sea level rise and increasing concern about biodiversity, the estuary will be getting wetter. Black Hole Marsh will be re-flooded and will offer wonderful new wetland habitat for wading birds. In time, it will also provide an excellent pathway, away from the road, between the north of Seaton and Colyford. It is a particularly beautiful place, which many people will soon be able to enjoy".

EDDC has plans to create a saline lagoon which will benefit a variety of wildlife from flora and invertebrates to bats, otters, fish and birds. The Environment Agency is supporting the project and plans to install a cutting-edge Regulated Tidal Exchange Valve, allowing saltwater to re-enter the site for the first time since the railway was built in 1868.



This week in The Knowledge

- ❑ Exe Estuary Big Spring Clean
- ❑ Angela is good ambassador for the Council
- ❑ Chairman's engagements
- ❑ Portfolio Holders decisions
- ❑ New documents
- ❑ East Devon Warm Zones seminar
- ❑ Forthcoming meetings
- ❑ News from the IDEA
- ❑ Rural Services Network
- ❑ In the Press



Council Offices
Knowle
Sidmouth
Devon
EX10 8HL

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

For information, please contact: Kate Tobin, Projects Officer, Countryside on 01395 516551 Ext 2060 or email countryside@eastdevon.gov.uk

Exe Estuary Big Spring Clean

Last autumn the Exe Estuary Management Partnership organised an Estuary Clean Up event that was a huge success. More than 50 volunteers met at 5 different locations on the Estuary and helped to clear more than 60 bin bags and a skip full of litter from areas such as Dawlish Warren, Exminster Marshes and the Exmouth Nature Reserve.

On Saturday 3 May 2008 between 11am and 1.30pm volunteers are once again being asked to take to the Estuary and help remove the litter and waste that not only destroys the beautiful views of the Estuary but can harm our fantastic wildlife.

Last year the teams removed a whole array of strange objects from the Estuary, including a toilet! This year we are holding a competition with a prize going to the volunteer finding the most unusual object at each of the sites.

Devon Sea Fisheries will be working with local shell fisherman Myles Blood-

Smyth, owner of Exmouth Mussels Ltd, during the following week to clear some of the unused fishing structures from the Estuary. Myles will also be helping volunteers at Exmouth by supplying large sacks that the litter can be collected in and then lifted on to his barge so that litter won't have to be carried to skips on the shore.

Free refreshments will be available for all volunteers thanks to a kind sponsorship from the Environment Agency.

We can all make a difference to the future of litter on the Estuary by opting for low packaging alternatives, reusing, recycling and when visiting the Estuary please remember to take your litter home with you or use bins where provided.

Volunteer places at some sites are limited for health and safety reasons. If you would like to get involved please contact the Exe Estuary Officer to book your place on one of the sites and find out where the meeting point is: jenny.locket@devon.gov.uk Tel: 01392 382236.



Exe Estuary Big Spring Clean

Saturday 3rd May 2008
11am – 1.30pm

It is time to roll up your sleeves and give the Estuary a much needed spring clean.

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership are holding a Clean up Event to tidy up 5 different areas of the Estuary and everyone is invited to take part. The events will take place at:

- **Exmouth Local Nature Reserve** – Led by the Exe Estuary Officer and East Devon's Education Ranger
- **Exminster Marshes** – Led by the RSPB
- **Dawlish Warren** – Led by Teignbridge Rangers
- **The Inner Warren** – Led by Devon Wildlife Trust
- **Sandy Bay** – Led by Devon Cliffs Holiday Park

Come and Join in the Big Clean up Event!

Volunteer numbers are limited at some sites due to health and safety reasons. If you would like to get involved please contact the Exe Estuary Officer.

Jennifer Lockett, Exe Estuary Officer
Tel: 01392 382236 / Mobile: 07967 456376
Email: jenny.lockett@devon.gov.uk



There are even prizes for the strangest items found!

Angela is good ambassador for the Council

enquire is a national government-funded programme of projects that engage children and young people with galleries, the contemporary visual arts and artists.

Barbara Taylor, **enquire**'s Programme Director has been in touch with EDDC to express how impressed she has been by the work of the Thelma Hulbert Gallery in Honiton. The Gallery's curator, **Angela Blackwell**, gave a presentation at a seminar organised by **enquire**, where she spoke about the Gallery's work with young people. Barbara Taylor explains in her letter: "there are clearly particular issues about working with young people in rural areas and their access to resources; the work at Thelma Hulbert is innovative but also very practical in the way that it encourages and enables young people to acquire important life skills and become more active in their community".



Chairman's engagements

Saturday 26 April

Chairman attending the play-off when Sidmouth Rugby Club take on Bristol side Old Redcliffians for a place in the South West 2 West League.

Sunday 27 April

Devon County Council Civic Lunch and Service at Exmouth

Thursday 1 May

Unveiling of the Exeter Housing Society's new identity, Rougemont Castle

Portfolio Holders decisions

Decision by Portfolio Holder Members are notified of the following decision

Environment (G K Liverton)	Granting of a licence to DCC for the construction of a cycle way at Sidford Playing fields Agreeing to the release of a strip of land for the construction of a section of the Sidmouth to Sidford cycle way through the Council's playing fields at Sidford, subject to a 10 year licence agreement at a nominal £1 per annum.
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The above decision will become effective on 1 May 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.

New documents in the Members' Area

- ❑ The latest **Community Council of Devon (CCD)** quarterly Achievements sheets are now available in the Members' Area. CCD has also forwarded the following publications: **Why Community Buildings Matter** – an Executive Summary; **Releasing Capacity** – the Devon social inclusion programme; **Analysis of C21st Village Events in 2007**; **The Way Forward** - Devon Playing Fields Association.
- ❑ **Exe-Press** – the Spring 2008 Newsletter of the Exe Estuary Partnership.

East Devon Warm Zones seminar

Devon Warm Zones aims to target 140,000 homes in Devon to increase the take up of energy efficiency grants and measures to make their homes warmer.



A recent Devon Warm Zones seminar was held at Exmouth Town Hall. It was introduced by Meryl Spencer, Environmental Health Manager at East Devon District Council. The seminar involved:

- ❑ a presentation about fuel poverty – what it is, the causes and impacts by Peter Dorans (Devon Affordable Warmth Officer)
- ❑ an explanation of current grants and discounts for energy efficiency measures in East Devon by Ruth Baker (Westcountry Energy Action who manage the Devon Energy Efficiency Advice Centre)
- ❑ description of the initial East Devon Warm Zone area of Exmouth – Sandy Jones, East Devon District Council
- ❑ explanation of the support, marketing materials and training available.

This was followed by a discussion about how to work with local partners in East Devon, how the project could be developed, who should be involved, what communications channels could be used and possible barriers and opportunities.

One of the main conclusions from the seminars across the county is that any scheme needs to be as simple and easy to use as possible, "one number" **0800 512 012** provides a one stop shop for energy efficiency advice and access to grants and discounts.

Local partners will play a key role in promoting the scheme to their communities. Whilst simply giving someone a leaflet, or recommending they call the 0800 512 012 number would be helpful to the project, it would be far better if partners could actually take the person's details (with their consent) and pass them on to the Warm Zones team, to guarantee that contact is made.

Many local organisations expressed an interest in some form of training:

- ❑ knowing about the different insulation/heating grant and discount schemes available and who is eligible
- ❑ understanding the Warm Zones process
- ❑ basic energy efficiency hints and tips.

Age Concern was keen that Warm Zones might help provide emergency heating for people whose heating breaks down.

There will need to be imaginative ways of involving the media. This could include case-studies of local people/families who have benefited from the scheme.

Several people raised the issue that the project is ambitious and may raise people's hope, only for the project not to be able to deliver due to over-demand or lack of installers or funding. It needs to be made clear to customers how long they would have to wait for their measures to be installed.

It was recognized that a large proportion of houses in some of the local authorities Warm Zone areas, would be hard to treat because they are off the gas network and/or have solid walls which are expensive to insulate. There will need to be funds available to make improvements to some of these properties.

To find out more about the Warm Zone project and to pass on details of any community group in Exmouth interested in being involved please contact **Ruth Baker** on **0800 512 012**.

Forthcoming meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Christopher Holland	Monday 28 April	9.30am	Council Chamber
Audit and Corporate Governance Task and Finish Forum	Christopher Holland	Monday 28 April	2.00pm	POSTPONED until Thursday 8 May
Beach Concessions Task and Finish Forum	Chris Lane	Tuesday 29 April	6.30pm	Committee Room
Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board	Rachel Perram	Wednesday 30 April	2.00pm	Committee Room
Executive Board	Diana Vernon	Wednesday 30 April	5.30pm	Council Chamber
Housing Review Board	Rachel Perram	Thursday 1 May	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Member Development Working Group	Diana Vernon	Friday 2 May	9.30am	Council Chamber
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Tuesday 6 May	9.30am	CANCELLED
Development Control Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 6 May	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Scrutiny Committee	Debbie Meakin	Wednesday 7 May	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Audit and Corporate Governance Task and Finish Forum	Christopher Holland	Thursday 8 May	2.00pm	Committee Room
Community Fund Panel	Chris Lane	Thursday 8 May	5.30pm	Room 1

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
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News from the IDEa (Improvement and Development Agency)

Governance and Partnership Behaviour Benchmark and Health Check

Cross-sector partnerships make a real difference to the services in our communities. These partnerships have to work effectively if they are going to achieve the demanding targets negotiated in Local Area Agreements (LAAs). So partner organisations need to radically rethink how they work, and challenge themselves and others to do things differently.

This new IDEa programme helps Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) understand their current performance and realise their potential.

www.idea.gov.uk

International insights: learning from others globally



Professor Robin Hambleton is Professor of City Leadership in the Faculty of Environment and Technology at

the University of the West of England, Bristol. He introduces a new series designed to enhance local democracy in the UK by improving the way we engage in dialogue with local authorities abroad. www.idea.gov.uk

Rural Services Network (RSN)

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



£500,000 boost for rural transport

A local authority has earmarked £500,000 to improve rural public transport in West Yorkshire.

www.rsnonline.org.uk

Rural areas 'coping well' with immigration

Rural areas which have experienced an influx of migrant workers are coping well, MPs have been told. www.rsnonline.org.uk

Campaign launched against fly tipping

A major campaign has been launched against the growing blight of litter and fly-tipping in the countryside. The Stop the Drop initiative was launched by author Bill Bryson, president of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

www.rsnonline.org.uk

New rural research institute launched

A new national rural research institute has officially



opened in Gloucestershire. Its experts undertake academic research across a wide range of rural issues, including agriculture and land use, rural community development and the rural economy.

Major funders include organisations such as Defra, the Commission for Rural Communities, Natural England and English Heritage.

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

33% of high street meat wrongly labelled



One in three meat products sold in supermarkets and high street butchers could be misleadingly labelled, a survey has revealed. An investigation found that many items, such as sausages, illegally contain types of meat the consumer would not expect to find. Staffordshire

County Council, which carried out its survey across the West Midlands, warned businesses in the meat trade to stay within the law - or face a fine of up to £20,000. [Mail](#)

Fraudsters caught by new technology

Hundreds of benefit fraudsters have been caught out by lie-detector technology. More than 370 people were identified fiddling their benefits in Lambeth, South London. As part of the pilot project, Lambeth Council staff phoned 2,000 residents and used Voice Risk Analysis, which picks up tiny changes in the voice that show a person is lying. [Times](#)

Cost of food hits healthy eating drive



The drive to make school meals healthier is being jeopardised by the soaring cost of staple foods, leaving canteens struggling to provide nutritious and

cheap dinners, local authorities say. [Times](#)

Olympics legacy under threat

The all-party Public Accounts Committee will warn ministers and Olympic officials that they are not doing enough to ensure the 2012 games leave a lasting legacy for sport, business and tourism.

[Telegraph](#)

London Olympics costs set to soar again



The London Olympics could cost £12 billion - three times more than originally predicted, MPs have warned.

It soared from £4billion to £9.3billion, but a Commons report unearthed further bills of £3billion. [Guardian](#)

A billion a year for parking spaces

Figures show that finding a parking space costs drivers over a billion pounds a year. Westminster is the most expensive place at a cost of £33.3m a year. [Express](#)

£75 charge for gas guzzlers



Parents driving "gas guzzlers" on the school run are to be charged £75 a year. Those who use 4x4s and people carriers will be hardest hit by plans to start charging parents to park in bays outside schools. The scheme is currently being tested in the

London borough of Richmond Upon Thames. The Local Government Association (LGA) has already said that the scheme could be rolled out across the country in the near future. [Mail](#)

Action on binmen abuse

Residents who abuse refuse collectors could be given restraining orders under plans being considered by Allerdale Borough Council in Cumbria. [Express](#)

£750,000 – the cost of Britain's most expensive tree



A plane in Mayfair has been valued at £750,000, making it Britain's most valuable tree. This valuation system, known as the capital asset value for amenity trees (Cavat), is to be adopted by every local authority in the country to prevent the massacre of trees blamed for subsidence in buildings. [Times](#)

Cost of caring for elderly to treble

People should be compelled to insure themselves against the risks of contracting dementia and other debilitating conditions, the NHS Confederation has said. It is claimed that the cost of helping older people cope with day to day living will treble to about £30bn by 2026. There is an interview with the outgoing Chief Executive of the organisation, Gill Morgan, in [Society Guardian](#). [Guardian](#).

In the press (continued)

Migrants don't jump queue on social housing



New research published by the LGA and the Equality and Human Rights Commission shows that there is no evidence to

back up the claim that migrants are jumping the queue. It shows that around 60% of migrants to Britain over the last five years are living in rented accommodation. [Guardian](#)

Eco towns to ban cars from outside homes

Motorists moving into the Government's new eco towns will be hit with a barrage of anti-car measures, it has been claimed. [Telegraph](#)

Householder gets criminal record for overflowing bin

A householder from Cumbria has been given a £110 fine and a criminal conviction after over-



filling his bin. He was initially given a written warning by Copeland Borough Council but he then re-offended six months later. A spokesman for the council said:

"What we have to get across to people is that central government is asking us to reach strict targets on recycling. If we don't achieve them we will be heavily fined." [Mail](#)

Suburban supermarkets creating 'urban food deserts'

The increasing number of suburban supermarkets is creating health problems for those living in inner city "urban food deserts", according to research. The proliferation of supermarkets on city outskirts has led to a decline of decent food outlets in the centre, a study published today discloses. These "food deserts" are said to be affecting the health of the poorer sections of society as well as those without cars, who cannot easily travel to supermarkets. [Telegraph](#)

Violence against children doubles in a year

Violence against babies and young children more than doubled last year, a national survey of hospitals reports. The number of under-10s injured in violent attacks rose from about 3,800 in 2006 to more than 8,000. This was the only age group showing an increase in the survey by Cardiff University's violence research group. The Home Office said it was working with police, charities and councils to protect those at risk. [Telegraph](#)

Crackdown on sunbeds



The Department of Health is considering clamping down on sunbeds and banning their use for children under the age of 18. [Guardian](#)

Energy summit 'fails to ease fuel poverty'



Energy companies were accused of failing to help millions of elderly people and low-income families struggling with their bills. Following a meeting at the regulator, Ofgem, the energy

firms agreed to devise measures to tackle the problem of fuel poverty, including advice on switching suppliers and funding the best deals. But campaigners complained that there were no tangible promises to lower the bills of the estimated 4.5 million households who spend at least 10 per cent of their income on electricity and gas. [Telegraph](#)

Wardens mic up



Castle Point Council in Essex is using microphones on traffic wardens to gather evidence against foul-mouthed motorists. Two abusive drivers have so far been fined by the council. [Mirror](#)

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](#).

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

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