

The Knowledge



Branscombe Cliffs • Photo by Cherise Foster

27 November 2009

This week in The Knowledge

- ❑ **Computer surgeries**
- ❑ **New documents**
- ❑ **Find out more about funding**
- ❑ **RSN news**
- ❑ **Free admin work!**
- ❑ **Festive lunchtime concert, Honiton**
- ❑ **IDeA news**
- ❑ **Public gardens' success**
- ❑ **In the press**

Meeting	DSO	Date	Time	Location
Asset Management Forum	CL	Monday 30 November	9.30am	CANCELLED
Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee	CL	Tuesday 1 December	9.30am	CANCELLED
Executive Board	DV	Wednesday 2 December	5.30pm	Council Chamber
Audit and Governance Committee	CEH	Thursday 3 December	2.30pm	Committee Room
Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee	CL	Tuesday 8 December	9.30am	CANCELLED
Assessment & Hearings Sub/Review Sub-Committee	CEH	Tuesday 8 December	10.00am	CANCELLED
Development Management Committee	CEH	Tuesday 8 December	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Manor Pavilion Management Steering Committee	CEH	Tuesday 8 December	6.00pm	Committee Room
Local Development Framework Panel	HJ	Wednesday 9 December	11.00am	Room 1
Exeter International Airport Consultative Group	CL	Wednesday 9 December	2.15pm	Exeter Airport
Computer Surgery		Wednesday 9 December	4-6pm	ICT Training Room
COUNCIL	DV	Wednesday 9 December	6.30pm	Council Chamber
East Devon Business Forum	CL	Thursday 10 December	6.00pm	East Devon Business Centre



Council Offices
Knowle
Sidmouth
EX10 9BL

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Democratic Services Officers:

Diana Vernon
01395 517541

Christopher Holland
01395 517543

Hannah Jarvis
01395 517542

Chris Lane
01395 517544

Debbie Meakin
01395 517540

Rachel Perram
01395 517542

Would Councillors please pass their apologies to Democratic Services if they are unable to attend a meeting so that post can be sent or withheld as appropriate. Please don't forget to check your pigeon holes whenever you are visiting Knowle. 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.

Computer surgeries



Councillors are reminded that computer surgeries are held in the Members' Area before each full Council meeting. The surgeries are an ideal opportunity to receive IT training from an ICT officer, who will also be able to offer technical advice and answer any questions you may have.

The sessions run from 4-6pm and here are the forthcoming dates for your diary:
9 December 2009, 24 February 2010, 14 April 2010

New documents in the Members' Area

- ❑ **Who's in charge? The quango report cards** – This report is part of the Local Government Association's accountability campaign and examines issues of value for money, accountability and openness in public services. The report is also available from www.lga.gov.uk/quangoreport



Feedback from outside bodies

- ❑ **RD & Express** – the November newsletter for members of the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust
The above document is in the 'Feedback from Outside Bodies' file on the bookcase in the Members' Area.

Find out more about funding



▶ Rugby

The Groundmatch Grant Scheme has funding available for rugby pitches, clubhouse facilities and equipment.

Grants are between £1,500 and £6,000. Applicants must fund 50% of the total cost of the project from other sources. Click above for more information or ☎ 02088 317985.

▶ Young people and business

The Prince's Trust Business Programme has funding and other support measures available to young people wishing to start their own business. The programme can support young people who are aged 18 to 30, unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week and living in England.

▶ Youth leadership

The Youth of Today Scaling Up Fund has funding of between £5,000 and £20,000 available to small third sector organisations. The grants are for developing and expanding youth leadership programmes. The deadline for applications is **11 December 2009**.

▶ Mountaineering and climbing



The Andy Fanshawe Memorial Trust funds projects that give disadvantaged young people the opportunity to experience the great outdoors. The type of projects that are funded include hiking trips, Outward Bound courses, climbing walls.

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

News from the Rural Services Network (RSN)

▶ Mobile library not just for books



Emergency services are using a mobile library to reach rural residents in Lancashire. The vehicle was recently launched to take the county council's library and information service to residents in rural Rossendale. But it is also being used by the police and fire services to deliver information and advice to people in hard to reach areas.

▶ £1m rural transport programme

A £1m scheme has been launched to support community transport organisations in rural areas. The three-year programme has been established by the Community Transport Association (CTA) and the Plunkett Foundation. It was launched by transport minister Sadiq Khan at the CTA annual conference in London on 18 November.

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

Free admin work!



The 'Side by Side' project is a small volunteering project offering team-working opportunities to people recovering from mental ill health.

On Monday afternoons they have a small group prepared to undertake admin work such as printing and collating newsletters and leaflets, doing mail-outs and so on, from the East Devon Volunteer Support Agency (EDVSA) office in Ottery St Mary.

The services are free to non-profit organisations you would just need to pay for materials. If you have a project that might benefit please contact ellen.hunt@edvsa.org.uk.

Peter Jeffs (Corporate Director)

☎ 01395 517452 (or Ext 2652) pjeffs@eastdevon.gov.uk

Festive lunchtime concert at St Paul's Church, Honiton

For more than a decade the Honiton Festival has brought exceptional established and emerging artists from the world of classical music to the South West. The festival is producing three concerts and another popular opera gala for the autumn and winter season, with the established annual Honiton Festival following in May 2010.



The Festival presents a lunchtime concert to warm the hearts of East Devon's classical music lovers. A buffet lunch will be available once again for just a few pounds, making this an affordable treat in the run up to Christmas. The second concert in the lunchtime series will be:



The Solstice String Quartet

Friday 4 December, 1.00pm St. Paul's Church - £7.00

with a programme including Haydn and Dvorak. Sponsored by The Tillet Trust.

The Solstice String Quartet are rapidly gaining a reputation as one of the most talented young quartets in the country. They have performed throughout the UK and internationally and were awarded the Leverhulme Chamber Music Fellowship at the Royal Academy of Music from September 2009. In August 2010 the quartet will be in residence at the Dartington International Summer School here in Devon.

For more information www.thehonitonfestival.co.uk

Box Office ☎ 01404 43716 (Honiton Tourist Information Centre, Lace Walk Car Park, Honiton EX14 1LT)

News from the IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency)

▶ Flood risk checklist



As torrential rain once again wreaks destruction across the country, find out how your council can effectively manage local flood risk. From prevention to emergency response – read this vital checklist which details the different stages of flood risk management that local authorities should consider.

▶ Ashridge leadership resource: new content

There is new content in the free online Ashridge leadership development resource, including in-depth reviews of 'Doing Leadership Differently' and 'Lean Thinking'. If you have a .gov.uk address and you want to take charge of your leadership development, visit the Ashridge resource and see where it can take you!

▶ Knitting together: planning and our ageing population



In 2006 it was estimated that there were nearly 9.7 million people aged 65 and above in the UK. By 2026 this figure is expected to increase by 47%, reaching 14.2 million. This case study looks at the experiences of several councils as they plan for an ageing population. Discover the implications for the wider community and examine the spatial dimension to this issue. Drive the debate and add your comments.

▶ Healthy Communities Calendar: November entries



Discover why Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council is running a workplace health programme. Explore how Newark and Sherwood District Council is focusing on equipping local people with healthier minds and bodies. Read how Salford PCT is uniting all ages in an overarching health project. Plus find out how Wakefield Council is informing young people about the dangers of tobacco.

▶ Pride in bringing equality and diversity to the fore



Pride in Brighton & Hove promotes equality and diversity to help eliminate discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Discover how Pride uses a multi-agency approach to successfully sponsor yearly events attracting thousands of visitors to the city.

▶ Raising equality awareness

Read how the London Borough of Tower Hamlets has been raising awareness of transgender equality issues with staff, as part of a review of its gender equality scheme. An informal Q&A session was facilitated by someone currently undergoing transition. Learning gained from this session will help produce a transgender policy statement for internal use.

Public gardens' success



Photo: Connaught Gardens by Tom Hurley

The public are generally delighted with the standard of our flagship gardens in Sidmouth and Exmouth. The survey, taken of a sample of locals and visitors during Summer and early Autumn, shows that people are very happy with both gardens. Over 97% said that the floral displays, seats and benches and cleanliness were good. A total of 100 people using each of the gardens were asked to answer 20 set questions. The questionnaire was completed by officers in face to face interviews.

The summary of each of the surveys follows; if you would like to see a full copy of the results please contact Jamie Buckley, (Engagement and Funding Officer) on 01395 517569 (or Ext 2769).

Continued ...

Public gardens' success (continued)

Summary of Connaught Gardens Survey, Sidmouth, 2009

- ❑ Satisfaction with cleanliness has remained extremely high, with 98% of respondents saying that the cleanliness is good.
- ❑ 99% of users think the floral displays are good. This is an excellent result.
- ❑ The signage and interpretation remains the area with most room for improvement but a high percentage of people still felt this was good (67%). Several people suggested there should be more obvious directional signs pointing the way out, and where other attractions are.
- ❑ 97% of park users felt that the seating and benches were good which is very similar to previous years.
- ❑ All of the 3 respondents who had spoken to a gardener found the gardener helpful, knowledgeable, courteous and polite.
- ❑ All of the respondents were very or fairly satisfied with their visit to Connaught Gardens.
- ❑ The things people liked most about the gardens were the floral displays, the views, the variety of areas and layout and the colours.
- ❑ 53% of visitors to the area felt that the gardens where they lived were worse than Manor Gardens, and 5% felt that the gardens where they lived were better.
- ❑ There were a lot of very positive comments about Manor Gardens.
- ❑ The things people felt would most improve Connaught Gardens were to put more labels on unusual plants and to have more for children and young people to do.

Summary of Manor Gardens Survey, Exmouth, 2009

- ❑ Satisfaction with cleanliness has remained extremely high, with 98% of respondents saying that the cleanliness is good.
- ❑ All the users think the floral displays are good, the same as in 2005 and 2007. This is an excellent result.
- ❑ The signage and interpretation remains the area with most room for improvement but a high percentage of people still felt this was good (71%).
- ❑ 99% of park users felt that the seating and benches were good which is very similar to previous years.
- ❑ All of the 5 respondents who had spoken to a gardener found the gardener helpful, knowledgeable, courteous and polite.



Photo: Manor Gardens by Mark Pollard

- ❑ All of the respondents were very or fairly satisfied with their visit to Manor Gardens.
- ❑ The things people liked most about the gardens were the floral displays, squirrels and other wildlife, the peacefulness and the trees and greenery.
- ❑ 29% of visitors to the area felt that the gardens where they lived were worse than Manor Gardens, and 29% felt that the gardens where they lived were better.
- ❑ 52% of local people felt that Manor Gardens had got better over the last three years, mainly due to better flowers and a better standard of care for the gardens.
- ❑ There were a lot of very positive comments about Manor Gardens.
- ❑ The things people felt would most improve Manor Gardens were a small cafe or tea shop, more events and festivals, cleaner toilets and less anti-social behaviour around the bandstand.

Jamie Buckley (Engagement & Funding Officer)

☎ 01395 517569 (or Ext 2769) jbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk

In the press

▶ Treasury hit as council housing demand grows

Demand to build council homes is far exceeding Government expectations, putting pressure on the Treasury to release extra cash as part of the spending review next month. Nearly 90 local authorities have bid to build a further 3,500 council homes on top of 49 councils given the go ahead to construct 2,200 homes in the summer. The Department for Communities and Local Government had budgeted for demand to build just 1,200.

▶ Lack of affordable homes "threatens village life"



One in four people living in the countryside say the sense of community has declined in their

village due to the rise in second home owners, a survey by the National Housing Federation has found. There are 750,000 families on waiting lists for affordable homes in rural England.

▶ £4.5bn wasted on red tape

Needless bureaucracy is costing councils in England £4.5bn a year - money that could be spent on vital local services, according to a report by the Local Government Association (LGA). Households pay more in tax so local authorities can produce paperwork to prove they are hitting centrally imposed targets, the research suggests. Chairman Margaret Eaton is quoted: "Billions of pounds of taxpayers' money is being spent on needless bureaucracy. We need a bonfire of red tape so that taxpayers' money can be freed up to protect frontline services." Deputy Chair, Cllr Richard Kemp, appeared on 5live's breakfast show on the same topic.

▶ Lost generation of young jobless soars past 1 million mark



A 'lost generation' of young people who are not in work or training has grown to more than one million for the first time. Almost 1 in 5 school-leavers aged 16 to 24 are classed as 'Neet', with many living on benefits.

▶ Free marriage guidance on the NHS

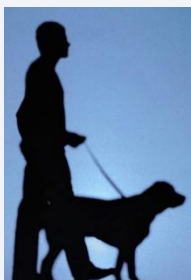


Couples are to be offered marriage guidance free of charge on the NHS to follow guidance from NICE, but critics say it is a waste of money at a time some cancer drugs are being refused because of cost. Meanwhile couples spotted squabbling outside the school gates could be visited by social workers and health visitors, told to regard rows in the home as a sign of poor parenting.

▶ Social work inspectors 'are failing children'

Local government leaders have accused Ofsted of "feeding people's fears" over child safety, rather than improving child protection in England. The LGA has accused the watchdog of being more interested in protecting its own reputation rather than providing a "calm, measured voice". Cllr Shireen Ritchie, Chair of the LGA's Children and Young People board, is quoted: "Ofsted, like any inspection body, needs to have the trust and respect of the people it works with. A good watchdog has to be seen to be independent, and to offer conclusions based on facts and research rather than being influenced by external events. The time when an inspector could sit on the sidelines and offer tick-box judgements is long past."

▶ Police sniff new lead



Police in Nottinghamshire are believed to be the first in the country to be sent on the beat to tackle dog mess. It is usually the responsibility of the local council but Bassetlaw District Council has empowered officers to pursue dog walkers.

▶ The customer comes first

Local government watchdog the Audit Commission will in two weeks' time release the first results from the new inspection regime, the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

▶ Reaping the rewards

Councils should be encouraged by the government to set aside their caution and be brave when commissioning public services from outside the mainstream, Paul Martin, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Sutton said.

In the press (continued)

▶ Volunteer shepherds flock to watch over urban livestock



Brighton and Hove Council has been so overwhelmed with volunteers to look after the city's flock of sheep that it has a waiting list and has been forced to turn away new applicants. The flock saves the council £22,000 every year as an environmentally friendly way of mowing the city's parkland.

▶ Motorists stung by £328m parking fines

Drivers had to fork out £328 million in parking fines over the last year, according to figures from the Taxpayers' Alliance. Critics say the massive bill proves local authorities are using drivers as a 'cash cow'. David Sparks, Chair of the LGA Transport and Regeneration Board is quoted: "Parking restrictions are in place to keep people safe on our streets, stop traffic jams and keep roads clear. If people do not want to get a parking ticket, they should not park illegally."

▶ Theatre in trouble over misleading billboard

A West End theatre could be the first to face prosecution over the practice of taking selective quotations from reviews to give the misleading impression critics have been raving about a production. Wyndhams Theatre is in trouble for taking a sentence about the film of the Shawshank Redemption and using it to promote the stage version. Sue Jones from Westminster Trading Standards is quoted: "It is not acceptable for any theatre to mislead the public."

▶ Teacher assessments could replace tests for 11 year olds



SAT tests for 11 year olds could be scrapped in favour of a less formal system of teacher assessment, the Government has suggested.

LGA news

Sir Jeremy Beecham is to step down next July as leader of the Local Government Association's Labour Group and as the LGA's vice-chair.

Production information

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. **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

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