

The Knowledge



Snowdrops
Photo: Jill Bonner

8 February 2008

Fabulous fuzzy felt fun! Free pop-in workshop



The current exhibition at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery in Honiton, 'Charley Says...' is an Animated Exeter exhibition of British Public Information Films. On **Wednesday 20 February** there is a great opportunity to make your own animation! This is a free pop-in workshop based on the current show.

You will make your own animation using fuzzy felt with animator Anna Aroussi. This workshop is open to all ages and abilities, but please note that children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. All materials are provided.

There's no need to book, just pop in any time between 10.30am and 3.30pm on the day.

A DVD will be produced of all the animations made throughout the day, if you would like to order a copy of the DVD please bring £3 with you, this will cover the cost of the DVD production and sending it to you.



Crown Copyright. COI Film Archive

Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Elmfield House, Dowell Street, Honiton, EX14 1LX
Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm, Wheelchair Accessible, Admission free
Tel: 01404 45006 or email: thelmahulbert@eastdevon.gov.uk

This week in The Knowledge

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Council Offices
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www.eastdevon.gov.uk

East Devon Local Development Framework (LDF) - Sustainability Appraisal

Generic scoping report for Core Strategy and other LDF documents (including appraisal of the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document)

Sustainability appraisal is a process used to evaluate the potential impacts that development proposals and policies will have on the environment and on social and economic wellbeing. Through assessing potential impacts at an early stage and on an ongoing basis through document production, we can plan for potential adverse impacts to be minimised and ensure positive benefits are realised.

Prior to undertaking a sustainability appraisal of any LDF document we are required to produce a scoping report. This advises of key sustainability issues. The LDF generic scoping report and a comments form can be downloaded from the Council website at: <http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/planning-sustainability appraisal>.

The report will form a basis for sustainability appraisal of:

- the East Devon Core Strategy;
- the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document; and
- other documents (subject to relevant changes/addendums) that will make up the East Devon LDF.

The scoping report is subject to a five week consultation period starting on Friday 8 February 2008 and any comments should be sent to the Policy and Conservation Section at ldf@eastdevon.gov.uk, to be received at the Council Offices in Sidmouth by 5.00 pm on Friday 14 March 2008.

Matt Dickins (Principal Planning Officer)

Tel: 01395 516551 Ext 2289 Email: mdickins@eastdevon.gov.uk

Celebrate World Book Day with the Farringdon Society of Arts

Short story writing workshop with Dave Haslett, writer, publisher and short story competition judge.



This workshop covers: plot; characters; dialogue; setting; structure; genre; theme; dialogue; description; obstacles and hazards; taboos; beginnings, middles and ends; how to grab a reader's attention from the very start; editing and polishing; writer's block – and how to avoid it; what magazine editors are looking for; choosing the right market for your work; making sure your work fits the market; how to submit your work for publication; how to win writing competitions – secrets of the judging process revealed!

Farringdon Village Hall - Saturday 8th March 2008, 2-5pm

Cost: £12.50 (including refreshments). Please bring a pen and paper. To book your place or for more information please call 01884-839577 or email enquiries@ideas4writers.co.uk

Do something amazing – give blood

Blood stocks are currently very low. The National Blood Doning Service will be at the Council Offices on Wednesday 13 February 2008, from 10am to 12.15 pm and again in the afternoon from 2pm until 3.45pm.

To make an appointment please email jwheller@eastdevon.gov.uk or phone on Ext 1577.



East Devon in bloom!

Members of EDDC's Scrutiny Committee have voted in favour of continued Council support for the Britain in Bloom competition.

The Head of Streetscene had been asked to present a report on the cost to the Council of its involvement in the Britain in Bloom event in 2007. Members heard that if the District were to withdraw support from the Britain in Bloom Campaign revenue savings would amount to £11,242, but that this was a small proportion of the parks and gardens budget and support for the competition ticked all the right boxes in terms of improving the environment and quality of life.

A Britain in Bloom group member informed the committee that the small financial outlay by the Council gave a huge amount back to the community in terms of local pride and increased visitors. And the committee voted unanimously to recommend that EDDC's Executive Board should support continued civic participation in the competition.

The report informed Members that the authority has been supporting these campaigns for over 30 years. Sidmouth first became involved in 1971 and in 1975 won the "best small town in the British Isles" and went on to win the Entente Florale Cup for the "Best Town in Europe". The results for 2007 were again outstanding. The campaign supports the Council's Vision of an "Outstanding and sustainable quality of life for everyone in East Devon". The Britain in Bloom Campaign is one of the initiatives by which we meet the priority, "Safe, Clean and Green Environment".

Nick Stephen (Communications Officer)

Tel: 01395 517 559 Email: nstephen@eastdevon.gov.uk



New bowling alley for Exmouth



Work has started on the creation of an exciting leisure facility on the seafront site of a former fun pool. The final design now comprises 3 shops, a café/restaurant and an enlarged bowling alley at ground floor level with a restaurant, multi-function leisure and conference suite and children's play-zone at first floor level and a function suite with two roof terraces at second floor level.

Councillor Philip Skinner said: "Those of us who care about Exmouth's future have waited a long time for this day, but it is finally here. This is the start

of what we sincerely hope will be a whole series of improvements in Exmouth that will give the town a new feel and a new vibrancy.

"Regeneration does not happen overnight and one site is not going to change the world. But this is a start and a signal that EDDC wants to work with private developers and other partners to create something special in Exmouth, for the benefit of the town, its people, its businesses and its visitors".

Nick Stephen (Communications Officer)

Tel: 01395 517 559 Email: nstephen@eastdevon.gov.uk

Contract awarded

Re-roofing works to 25 Council properties in Ottery St Mary, Coyton and Axmouth

The Council accepted the lowest tender received from D R Jones (Yeovil) Ltd in the sum of £190,546.80 excluding VAT, dated 3 January 2008.

Chris Brookbank (Programmed Works Officer - Housing Services Team)
Tel: 01395 516551 Ext 2408 Email: cbrookbank@eastdevon.gov.uk

Funding

Positive Destinations is a new grant programme from BBC Children in Need and The Hunter Foundation. Funding will be awarded to innovative and effective projects that have the potential to deliver positive outcomes to some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK. The programme will take place over 3 years and is aiming to award 3 large grants of around £500,000 each and 3 smaller grants which will have the remaining £500,000 divided between them. For more information email pudsey@bbc.co.uk with **Positive Destinations** in the subject line.

£1 million prize - The Big Green Challenge is open to any non profit making group from a single street, scout group, school based group, sports club or charity.



The winner will take the lion's share of a £1 million prize to invest in their community. The

aim is to find ideas to reduce carbon emissions by the government target of 60% by 2050. You have until **29 February 2008** to enter the first stage of the application. The top 10 will then be given £20,000 to develop their ideas further. Details are available at www.biggreenchallenge.org.uk

£200 funding available to CAfE (Community Action for Energy) members

Would you like to see other community energy projects in action across the UK? If you are a CAfE member you are eligible for a £200 travel bursary to learn from the wealth of experience, expertise and enthusiasm up and down the country to benefit your own work or group. To apply, download a travel bursary application form from the CAfE website: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe.

Regional Leadership Forums - Focus on Leadership and Governance. Aimed at anyone involved in leading and running a voluntary and community organisation, particularly (but not only) chief and senior officers, directors and trustees. The event on **26 February** in Plymouth will include expert speakers, excellent choice of relevant and practical workshops and free support materials. Most importantly, participants will have a unique opportunity to discuss the challenges (and rewards!) of running voluntary and community organisations - with peers, in a supportive environment. An administrative fee of £20 is payable, however bursaries are available for smaller organisations. Contact Christine O'Leary for further details: christine@southwestforum.org.uk.

Bursaries for monitoring and evaluating small, under-resourced groups.

Are you in contact with and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations who work with rural isolated groups, faith based groups, black and minority ethnic, refugee or migrant groups? Do any of them lack the resources to evaluate what they do, make changes or build performance improvement into their work? If so, these groups are eligible to apply for support from the Evaluation Trust funded by a bursary from the Change Up Improving Reach programme. Read more on the website: www.rise-sw.co.uk



Forthcoming meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 11 February	9.30am	CANCELLED
Development Control Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 12 February	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Local Joint Panel	Rachel Perram	Wednesday 13 February	9.30am	CANCELLED
Special Meeting of the Executive Board	Diana Vernon	Wednesday 13 February	6.00pm	Committee Room
Capital Programme Task and Finish Forum	Diana Vernon	Friday 15 February	4.30pm	Council Chamber
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 18 February	9.30am	CANCELLED
Exeter Airport Consultative Group	Chris Lane	Monday 18 February	2.15pm	Exeter Airport
Honiton Street Market Advisory Forum	Chris Lane	Tuesday 19 February	2.15pm	East Devon Business Centre
COUNCIL	Diana Vernon	Wednesday 20 February	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Corporate Overview Committee	Chris Lane	Thursday 21 February	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Planning Inspections Committee	Christopher Holland	Friday 22 February	TBA	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.

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, reports and minutes on the Council's website, choose Quick Links (Committee Papers) on the front page of the website.

To view planning applications online, choose Planning on Quick Links, then click the Planning Online logo.

Diana Vernon 01395 517541	Christopher Holland 01395 517543	Chris Lane 01395 517544	Debbie Meakin 01395 517540	Rachel Perram 01395 517542
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New address



Honorary Alderman Tony Wilkinson is moving on 20 February. His new address will be:

Charnwood, Warren Park, West Hill, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1TN.

His phone number remains the same.

New documents in the Members' Area

- ❑ **Abbeyfield Sidmouth Society** – the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting on 21 February 2008, plus the Chairman's Report, are now available in the Members' Area.
- ❑ **University of Exeter Science Park draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**. The University of Exeter Science Park draft SPD and the related Sustainability Appraisal has been published for public consultation. Comments are required by 11 March 2008.

Feedback from outside bodies

- ❑ **East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership** – Minutes of a meeting held on 16 January 2008.
- ❑ **Task Group recommends improvements to mental health services** – A Task Group of Devon County Council's independent Health and Adult Services Overview Scrutiny Committee recently reviewed the provision and availability of community based health services across the county. This report details the recommendations.
- ❑ **Community Council of Devon (CCD)** – the latest CCD quarterly Achievements sheet.

The above documents are in the 'Feedback from Outside Bodies' file on the bookcase in the Members' Area for your information.

Chairman's engagements

Friday 8 February

Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service - Chairman's Lunch

Friday 15 February

West Devon Borough Council -Mayor's Civic Dinner, The Countryman Restaurant, Sampford Courtenay

Portfolio Holders decisions

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

Economy
(P Halse)

Proposed dedication of a strip of land at Westcombes, Chardstock to Devon County Council for a public footpath to serve St Andrews C of E Primary School

To agree to the dedication of approximately 137 sq metres of land to DCC to facilitate the construction and adoption of a public footpath at Westcombes, Chardstock.

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

Continued...

Decisions by Portfolio Holder Members are notified of the following decisions

Environment
(G K Liverton)

Price increases for allotments and events

To agree the proposed increases in pricing as contained in the report:

Charges for allotments

Council	Charges 1/4/07 – 31/3/08		Charges agreed 1/4/08 – 31/3/09		Proposed 1/4/09 – 31/3/10 Per 25 sq mtrs + water
	Half Plot £	Full Plot £	Half Plot £	Full Plot £	
EDDC	20.00	40.00	35.00	50.00	6.00 + 10.00 water

Charges for events on Council Land

Events East Devon	Proposed charges 1/4/07 – 31/3/08 £	Proposed charges 1/4/08 – 31/3/09 £
Booking Fee	35.00	40.00
Key Deposit (Refundable)	10.00	10.00
Filming	220.00	230.00
Funfairs ** Active Days	150.00 per day plus metered utilities	155.00
Standing down days	50.00 per day metered plus metered utilities	55.00
Adhoc commercial events	220.00*	230.00
French Farmers Market	400.00 **	410.00
Sid Vale Horticultural	50.00	55.00
Any other non – commercial events	50.00	55.00

Price increases for sports pitches

To agree the proposed increases in pricing as contained in the report:

Per Season	Charges 07/08 1/4/07-31/3/08	Proposed 08/09 1/4/08 – 31/3/09
EDDC		
Football		
Std Weekday	46.50	49.00
Std Weekend Day (Incl. Bank Hols).	57.50	60.00
Season Ticket Full *	638.00	666.70
Season Ticket Alternate **	385.00	402.30
Changing Rooms	Incl.	
Cricket		
Pitches	38.50	40.20
Changing Rooms	26.00	27.20
** Alternate Weekends		

Further details: Mark Reilly, Head of Streetscene, Ext 2465

The above decisions will become effective on 14 February 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.

Continued ...

Decisions by Portfolio Holder (continued) Members are notified of the following decisions

Environment
(G K Liverton)

Proposed Price increases for Beach Huts and Beach hut sites 2008/09

1. That the proposed increases in pricing are agreed.
2. That a fee of £50.00 be levied for the service to cover the administration charges and the issue of a new tenancy agreement when the tenancy of a beach hut passes to another member of the family on the death of the original lessee.
3. That the supply of deckchairs and tables be withdrawn from concessionary beach huts.

Location	Hut/ Site	Number Of Huts/ Sites	Season Cost 2007/8 Ex Vat	% Inc	Season Cost 2008/9 Ex Vat	% Inc Inflation		Potential Maximum Turnover
Beer	Site E & W	44	£115.50	10%	120.70	4.5%		5310.80
	Site ES	12	£192.50	10%	201.20	4.5%		2414.40
Budleigh	Timber Hut	39	£357.50	10%	374.00	4.5%		14586.00
	Site	84	£159.50	10%	166.70	4.5%		14002.80
	Concession TIC (Seasonal)	6 Large	£484.00	10%	505.70	4.5%	Max 15% com	3034.20 May vary
	Concession TIC (Seasonal)	6 Small	£467.50	10%	488.50	4.5%	Max 15% com	2931.00 May vary
Exmouth Chalets		20	£819.50	10%	856.00	4.5%		17120.00
Exmouth	Timber Hut inc winter period	105	£478.50	10%	500.00	4.5%		52500.00
	Concession TIC (Seasonal) New timber huts	10			488.50	4.5%	Max 15% com	4885.00 May vary
Seaton E	Site	42	£159.50	10%	166.70	4.5%		7001.40
Seaton W	Site	45	£159.50	10%	166.70	4.5%		7501.50
	Huts	31	£396.00	New	413.80	4.5%		12827.80
	Concession TIC (Seasonal)	4	£484.00	10%	505.70	4.5%	Max 15% com	2022.80 May vary
Sidmouth	Timber Hut	14	£434.50	10%	454.00	4.5%		6356.00

Streetscene
(D J Cox)

Price increases for bulky Household Waste

Agreeing that the charge for the collection of bulky household waste items in 2008/09 be increased to £45 (inc VAT) to cover any increase in contractors' charges.

The above decisions will become effective on 14 February 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.

News from the IDEa (Improvement and Development Agency)

Improving culture, sport and tourism: new toolkit launched



This practical set of tools has been launched to help councils assess and benchmark culture and sports services, get constructive feedback from partners and engage in

peer-led improvement. The toolkit has already enabled pilot authorities to strengthen relationships with partners, and will help position culture and sports services within Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements.

www.idea.gov.uk

Health improvement is everybody's business



Dr Tim Crayford, President of the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) is determined to improve the nation's health. Discover why building bridges with local authorities is central to his plans.

www.idea.gov.uk

Re-engineering business processes for planning

Find out how you can increase efficiency in service delivery for your authority. This new case study looks at how council planning departments are using business process re-engineering as a tool for improvement. www.idea.gov.uk

Neighbourhood management: what works?



This in-depth case study looks at how the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham rolled out its new service. Find out how it used a mixture of

'intensive' and 'lighter touch' approaches, and what the main challenges and successes have been so far. www.idea.gov.uk

Creating youth apprenticeships

Pockets of deprivation in Kent have caused problems ranging from drug abuse to homelessness. Kent County Council has helped alleviate these problems by providing work opportunities for young people. Find out how it set up a strategy to create 1,000 apprenticeships, 250 of them in the council itself. www.idea.gov.uk

Rural focus

Rural Focus is the online source of news for decision-makers working in rural business and communities across England. Rural Focus aims to bring you: the latest news affecting rural business and communities; valuable contact details for grants and funding; comment from key rural opinion-formers; case studies, analysis and sector intelligence; forthcoming events for professionals in your region. Why not take a look at the website? Read informative items such as:

- Local councillors out of touch - study
- Online petitions 'would boost services'
- Law change helps affordable housing
- More schools under threat
- Union demands action on rural schools
- Council postpones rural school closures
- Rural fund opens in south-west England
- Landscape 'can reduce flood risk'

<http://www.ruralfocus.co.uk/>

The screenshot shows the Rural Focus website interface. At the top, it displays the date 'Thursday, 07 February 2008' and a search bar. The main navigation menu includes links for Home, About, Politics, Business, Services, Communities, Environment, In Depth, Forum, and Contact Us. The 'Top Story' section features a large article titled 'Planning idea overrides local opinion' with a sub-headline 'Rural campaigners have hit out at moves which could see local people lose the ability to veto Green Belt developments.' Below this, there are sections for 'Business' and 'Communities', each with a list of news items. A sidebar on the right contains 'Post Offices - What next?', 'Latest Rural Services Support questions from Experts Online', and 'Forthcoming events'.

In the press

Fears over dog powers



Urban areas could have dogs roaming the streets when police are stripped of their duty to look after strays during nights and weekends. Councils and animal welfare

organisations are confused about the new arrangements and there are concerns that there may be insufficient resources to operate a 24-hour service. A survey by the Local Government Association (LGA) found a 40 per cent increase in strays over the Christmas and New Year period.

[Times](#)

Stockport sweeps away crime through local partnerships

Stockport has overseen one of the most dramatic reductions in crime of any borough in England and Wales over the last 4 years. According to Chief superintendent Neil Wain, the impact of his officers is multiplied by working closely with council teams such as environmental health, housing and licensing to utilise specialist knowledge and target problem areas. [Guardian](#)

London low emission zone begins

Hauliers have been warned to clean up their fleets or face a £200-a-day charge for every heavily polluting truck that enters London from 4 February. The capital's low emission zone



requires all commercial vehicles to meet strict EU standards. [Financial Times](#)

Environment funding cuts

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) faces a budget crisis after most sections of the department and its agencies failed to make sufficient savings. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is being cut by 25%, while the Environment Agency has been asked to curb spending - but has won extra cash for flood prevention. [Guardian](#)

Grammar schools fuelling social segregation

Lotteries should be used to award pupils places at schools across England under plans that would see the abolition of grammar schools, a Government-backed report has recommended. Admissions rules should be introduced to make the system fairer to pupils from poor backgrounds, the researchers said. [Guardian](#)

Councils interested in waste incentives

More than 20% of councils would like to introduce 'pay as you throw' waste charging schemes, according to a survey by Materials Recycling Week. [Telegraph](#)

Scambuster cash announced



New trading standards 'scambuster' teams are to go to war on cowboy builders, cold call conmen, rogue traders and email swindlers. The Government is set to provide £7.5million to funds teams across Britain. [Telegraph](#) 4/2/08 p2

Council tax hits rural areas

Rural communities are being hardest hit by council tax, taking £8 in every £100 people earn in some areas, according to research by the Daily Telegraph. A spokesman for the LGA was quoted: "Being allowed to keep more money that is raised locally would give councils greater control over their budgets and make them genuinely answerable to voters." [Telegraph](#)

Council tenants told to find work

Up to a million people in social housing (including those on council estates) should be expected to actively seek work as a condition of their tenancy, the new housing minister Caroline Flint has proposed. [Guardian](#)



Villagers fight eco towns

Plans to build eco-friendly, carbon neutral towns have hit a snag as 300 people protested against a development in Warwickshire. [Independent](#)

In the press (continued)

Worst-performing councils bounce back

Councils once considered inefficient have shown dramatic improvements according to the Audit Commission's latest CPA (Comprehensive Performance Assessment) league tables. Bedfordshire and Hackney have risen from one star to three stars in the past two years, while Lambeth and Stoke-on-Trent have gone up to three stars from one in just 12 months. Liverpool is at the bottom primarily because of its poor financial management, but also because of its record on housing and an apparent inability to improve. It is calling in a team of expert advisers, including the commission, to help steer it up the league. [Times](#)

Teacher shortage in key subjects feared



Schools will face a shortage of maths and English teachers next year after a 9% drop in the number of teacher trainee

applicants. The most dramatic falls are in physics (30%), maths and English (15%), information and communications technology (16%) and geography (14%). There are significantly more applicants in drama, music and social studies. [Guardian](#)

Insurers call for new model of social care

A new model of social care is needed to break the "vicious circle" that prevents the financial services industry from offering effective help to people who need long-term care, according to Stephen Haddrill, the director-general of the Association of British Insurers. Few financial products are available to help pay for care at home, or for residential or nursing care, because the industry faces "a vicious circle of unquantified longevity risk, tight regulation, higher operating costs, few participants and tiny market penetration." [Financial Times](#)

Crackdown on under age drinking

Parents of under-age children found drinking should be fined or have their children enter voluntary agreements with youth workers in an attempt to tackle their consumption of alcohol, Jacqui Smith the Home Secretary is to announce. [Times](#)

Cotton wool culture kids



Schools Minister Kevin Brennan warns England risks raising a generation of 'battery farmed' children, kept indoors because their parents fear for their safety. He is urging parents to let their children learn about risk as research revealed that one in three children never play outside. [Guardian](#)

Voters may lose the right to block developments on green belt

Voters could lose the right to halt the building of homes on green belt land under new planning laws. A Government amendment to the Planning Bill, which is being considered by Parliament, would give unelected quangos the right to approve massive housing developments. The proposal, tabled by John Healy, the local government minister, means that planning powers would be transferred from elected local councillors to Regional Development Agencies - quangos answerable only to Hazel Blears. [Telegraph](#)

Better use of empty classrooms

Local authorities should make better use of empty schools to stop rural schools from closing by moving police and social services into the empty classrooms, Ed Balls, the schools secretary, has insisted. [Telegraph](#)



Production Information: Democratic Services produce 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: knowledae@eastdevon.gov.uk