

The Knowledge



Low tide at Sidmouth
Photo: - Chris Berrett

25 January 2008

Something for everyone on a Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

This year the Countryside Service's Events programme is bigger and better than ever! For the first time, the programme runs for the whole 12 months rather than just the spring and summer period. A lot of this expansion is due to the growth of the Local Nature Reserves' 'Friends' Groups.

Around East Devon there are 'Friends' groups linked to Seaton Marshes and Colyford Common, Trinity Hill and, new for 2008, Knapp Copse Local Nature Reserves. Friends can get involved in practical tasks such as birch clearance and litter picking or, for something a bit less physical, can join a guided walk or listen to a presentation about a Nature Reserve.

Weekend Friends' events which are coming up are a guided walk at Colyford Common LNR on **Sunday 27 January** from 2 - 4pm and birch bashing on **Saturday 8 March** at Trinity Hill LNR from 10am - 12:30pm.

Midweek there is an indoor illustrated talk for Friends of Trinity Hill LNR, to be held at River Cottage HQ, Park Farm on **Wednesday 20 February** from 7 - 8.30 pm. The presentation will describe some of the heathland wildlife that can be found at Trinity Hill, and will outline how the reserve is being managed to maintain this increasingly scarce habitat. This event is free to attend but, as we expect it to be very popular, please do book in advance by contacting the Countryside Service on 01395 517557 or email countryside@eastdevon.gov.uk



This week in The Knowledge

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Council Offices
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www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Towns and Parishes celebrate their local achievements



Representatives from Exmouth and Honiton Town Councils with Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and Cllr Mike Green who co-presented the event.

East Devon District Council hosted a celebration event this week in recognition of exceptional work carried out locally. Awards were given to Uplyme, Lymptone, Beer, Exmouth and Honiton Councils for particular achievements. In a bid to share learning and good practice, all Parish and Town Councils within the district were invited to tell the Council about their best achievement, within the last 5 years, of which they are most proud and which has directly benefited the local area. And looking forward, they were asked to submit details of the most exciting plan(s) they have in the pipeline.

A panel of independent judges looked at the projects to see which demonstrated innovative ideas, achieved value for money and provided the greatest benefit to the local community. The standard of entries was exceptionally high and they found it very difficult to single out any one town or parish for special mention. However, the judges felt the schemes put forward by those receiving the awards would provide inspiration and thought-provoking ideas for other councils who might consider embarking on similar projects.

Exmouth Town Council was presented with a Best Achievement Award for its annual Festival which is now entering its 12th year and, due to its enormous success, will be extending to 9 days in 2008. **Uplyme Parish Council** received a Best Achievement Award for its very well-equipped play area and it has plans to extend facilities in the future.

Two councils received awards for Most Innovative Plans in the Pipeline: Honiton Town Council for its regeneration of the Glen, an area that used to be popular with residents for walking or sitting quietly, and which had fallen into disrepair; and Lymptone Parish Council for its plans to further develop and support the local Youth Club.

The judges found the task of making just one Best Achievement Award so difficult that they asked for a further Award to be presented to Beer Parish Council for their affordable housing project, which is providing much-needed homes for villagers and their families.

The Chairman of EDDC, Councillor Paul Diviani, who presented the awards, said: "This was not about winning a competition, but about celebrating the fantastic achievements and innovative plans of our local councils and learning from each and every one of them. This was a new venture for EDDC, and I'm delighted so many councils took the trouble to let us know what they have been doing, and are planning to do in the future.

"I am sure everyone will have taken away some great ideas, ways of doing things and contacts from this event and I look forward to seeing these being developed over the next few years. To this end, I asked the councils present to make a pledge which could be big, like progressing affordable housing, or something more quickly achievable, like taking to visit a local youth club or starting the parish plan process. I shall be writing to those who have made a pledge to see what they are doing and to offer EDDC's help to make it happen."



Representatives from Uplyme, Beer and Lymptone Parish Councils

Quit smoking!

If your New Year's resolution for 2008 is to quit smoking, you're certainly not alone. How you go about it can make a real difference to how difficult you find it and how successful you're likely to be. Did you know you're up to four times more likely to succeed if you use NHS support than if you try going 'cold turkey'?

You can visit www.nhs.uk/gosmokefree or call **0800 917 6699** to order a free DVD. It tells you about the range of free NHS support available and includes stories from real life quitters who've successfully quit this way.

Support works – over two thirds of successful quitters used support rather than going it alone.



Steve Cross (Health and Safety Advisor)

Tel: 01395 571592, Ext 1592 Email: scross@eastdevon.gov.uk

Jobcentre Plus – office closures



EDDC has received notice that Jobcentre Plus is to close 3 offices in the East Devon area: Axminster, Exmouth and Sidmouth. Despite input made by EDDC that we wished to retain the offices, the closures have been confirmed. The Jobcentre Plus Devon and Cornwall District Manager is positive that the closure of these offices will not affect their ability to provide the full range of Jobcentre Plus services. The alternative local offices are in Honiton and Exeter.

Temporary closure of Stockland Post Office

The Post Office have informed EDDC that despite their best efforts to maintain a Post Office counter service in Stockland, they have no option but to temporarily close the branch. This is due to the premises no longer being available for Post Office use. They will continue to work to find a solution that will provide a Post Office presence in the community of Stockland. There are 2 branches within 3 miles: Yacombe and Membury. <http://www.postwatch.co.uk/>



Police Authority Liaison Meeting – East Devon (Rural Sector)



There will be a Police Authority Liaison Meeting at Axminster Guildhall, West Street, Axminster on Tuesday 19 February at 7.30pm. At this meeting there will be a presentation on '**Neighbourhood Policing**'.

Should you be unable to attend, a further meeting is being held on Thursday 28 February at 7.30 pm at St Peter's Church School, Budleigh Salterton.

The Police Authority website, www.dcpa.police.uk, has a section called 'Involving our Communities' and all the dates and locations of Police Authority Liaison Meetings are listed, as well as the notes of recent meetings.

New Tenant Handbook

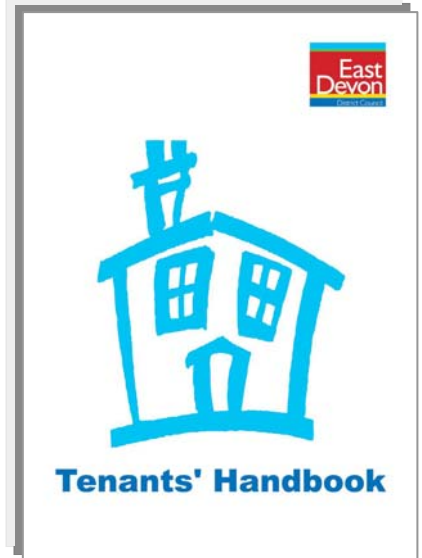
The Housing Service has produced a new Tenant Handbook for secure tenants of council accommodation. This will be given to all tenants when they move into a new council property. The Handbook is made up of a series of leaflets on a wide range of topics covering issues such as paying rent, repairs and improvements, neighbour nuisance, and ending the tenancy. The leaflets are contained within a wallet for easy reference.

Over the next few months the Housing Service will ask tenants how useful they find the Handbook, and if it proves to be helpful and popular, they will consider sending a similar document to all tenants.

The Handbook can be seen on our website at:

http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/tenant_handbook.pdf

For further information contact Emma Charlton, Housing Projects Officer, on 01395 519982



Recycler wins 12-week rubbish challenge



A householder from Neath took on the challenge of not leaving any household rubbish or recycling out for collection for 3 months! In order to achieve this Linda Ware avoided supermarkets, instead choosing to purchase locally sourced fresh produce, which was not pre-packaged. 80% of the waste from her kitchen went onto the compost heap. Flour, fats, and sugar were bought wrapped in paper that could be composted or burnt, along with egg boxes and the egg-shells themselves.

Ms Ware had milk and orange juice delivered to her door by the milkman in re-usable glass bottles. She admits that her actions were quite extreme, but she said it got far easier as she continued over time. "Since then I just can't bear to put anything into my bin", Ms Ware said. Read the full story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

Devon Pensioners Action Forum

EDDC has received a letter from Devon Pensioners Action Forum (DPAF) on the subject of the Council Tax for 2008/09. Their President, Albert Venison, points out that the Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said that wage settlements for local government employees, those in the NHS and even MPs should not exceed 1.9%. The capping figure for rises in council tax is set at 5%. Devon County Council and DPAF have issued a joint statement: "we must find a different way to raise money for local government finance".

Mr Venison continues "Pressure must now be brought on the Local Government Association to stand up and be counted in this matter... Councillors and council officers now have a duty to those who vote for them and who employ them to undertake to listen to Mr Brown and increase the Council tax for 2008/09 by no more than 1.9% or go back to the government and say 'if you do not give us the money we say we need and we can justify this, we shall not fix a budget for 2008/09'. Council tax payers in Devon can expect no less".

The full letter and a copy of a Western Morning News article are now available in the Members' Area.

<http://www.dpaf.isitfair.co.uk/>

Note: see also 'In the Press' for news stories on Council Tax

In a SPIN about sustainable procurement?

The Sustainable Procurement Information Network (SPIN) website has been launched as part of a sustainable procurement project run by the East Midlands Centre of Excellence. This website makes up-to-date information on sustainable procurement easily available to procurement professionals.

SPIN is designed to be a 'one-stop' resource, containing cutting edge

information that may be useful to local authorities, as well as other government departments, who are trying to overcome the challenges raised by the Government's sustainable procurement agenda.

The SPIN website's online document library is populated with case studies showcasing good practice, toolkits, examples of procurement strategies, policies, guidance on specifications and many other useful sources of information.

What makes this website truly unique is that it is open to contributions from all local authorities and public sector organisations. Its content will become more robust as an increasing number of users share their sustainability knowledge and experience. For more information visit: www.s-p-i-n.co.uk



EDDC media information on-line

EDDC has a new service for the media on the EDDC website. A good deal of the information requested by journalists is for routine facts and figures. When they are researching a story, they may want the information immediately, even if it's in the evening or maybe at weekends. To improve our service to the media, EDDC

has created a number of media information pages on the web, which will be accessible direct to them either within or outside office hours.

These can be accessed at: www.eastdevon.gov.uk

To the right of the opening page is a menu of options that leads into a range of useful information. The pages will be updated and improved from time to time to ensure that the information is as current and relevant as possible.

Nick Stephen (Communications Officer)

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

Mobile Play Workers are appointed with Big Lottery funding

Using some of its grant from the Big Lottery Children's Play Programme Fund, EDDC has appointed 2 Mobile Play Workers, Jane Sharp and Polly Mercer, to help set up and equip fun activities for 7 - 15 year olds in 10 rural areas throughout East Devon. And the new team wants volunteers from the community to come forward to receive free training so they can assist with the scheme. This, in turn, could lead on to a career in play leadership.



Jane Sharp is the Sports and Outdoor activities specialist and Polly Mercer will be leading the Arts and Performance activities in this exciting and innovative project, which is designed to promote the positive use of village play spaces.

Work has already begun and the 10 villages which will benefit from Jane and Polly's support are: Aylesbeare, Newton Poppleford and Harpford, Payhembury, Bramford Speake, Upottery, Axminster – Millway Rise, Uplyme, Musbury, Beer and Woodbury.

The 2 Play Workers are introducing a 'mobile' scheme which will take play skills, play kit, and expertise out to these villages, helping communities to run their own events. The Play Workers will be on hand to encourage and support local people to have more involvement in the creative use of the spaces available in their communities for the benefit of children and young people. The project is funded for a 2 year period.

All that is needed to make the most of this brilliant opportunity is 2 or 3 community volunteers aged 16 or over from each of the identified areas. These volunteers will have the opportunity to receive FREE training in activities such as environmental arts (willow making, den building and making fires); performance; music and sports. They will each receive a certificate recognising their achievements and will gain valuable experience in working with young people in a play environment. Central Government recognises that 'Play' is an important part of child development and there are now many opportunities for a career in Playwork. Volunteering with this project will provide hands-on experience of working in the play environment.

Jane and Polly would like to hear from anyone who is interested in getting involved in this really exciting project. They can be contacted at East Devon District Council on 01395 571556.

Nick Stephen (Communications Officer)
Tel: 01395 517 559 Email: nstephen@eastdevon.gov.uk

New Year 2008 Honours

We have been asked by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to invite you to put forward recommendations for the New Year 2009 Honours List.

The honours citation form must be completed electronically – a PDF version is available on the website. Alternatively a Word document can be obtained from the Information Centre by email to: info@lga.gov.uk. General guidance can be found on the DCLG website: www.communities.gov.uk

Nominations should be returned by Friday 8 February 2008 at the latest by email to: hayley.harris@communities.gsi.gov.uk (Tel: 020 7944 3474).

Faulty thermostat guidance

Following the tragic death of a baby in Taunton who died from being scalded by water from a hot water tank that had a faulty thermometer, East Devon District Council is urging tenants, private landlords and homeowners to watch out for telltale warning signs with their water system to help prevent any further tragedies. The Council will be checking its own properties and taking any action required.

The guidance, based on Health and Safety Executive alerts, has warned that particular consideration should be given to hot water systems over 10 years old and systems where homeowners and landlords



may be concerned about the initial installation or any subsequent work.

The warning signs people in any home should look out for include:

- ❑ Excessively hot water coming out of the hot water taps;
- ❑ Excessive noise or 'bubbling' from the hot water cylinder;
- ❑ Hot water coming out of certain cold water taps (some storage cisterns also feed cold water taps in the bathroom);
- ❑ Steam/moisture in the roof space.

Nick Stephen (Communications Officer)

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

Funding

The Sutton Trust provides funding for educational opportunities for disadvantaged young people. There are various



levels of grant available to educational organisations and suitable UK charities. The Trust tends to fund projects in a formal education setting, working primarily with organisations such as schools, universities, community groups, charities and research bodies. Find out more:

<http://www.suttontrust.com/funding.asp>

ProHelp is a national network of professional firms who provide free professional advice and support to local community groups and voluntary organisations. ProHelp firms include: solicitors, architects, consulting engineers, surveyors, accountants, marketing consultants, design agencies, structural engineers and IT consultancies. ProHelp operates through over 40 local groups across the UK, details of which can be found by visiting the website: www.prohelp.org.uk or www.bitc.org.uk

The £38m **Young People's Fund 2** is now open for applications from the voluntary and community sector in England. Grants of between £200,000 and £5m are available for projects for up to 5 years that focus on changing the lives of young people. Briefing sessions are being held to help applicants. A support package is available to enable potential applicants meet the level of young people's participation that is required by the programme. For full details and guidance notes visit the Big Lottery website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

The Google Grants programme supports organisations who have a philosophy of community service to help the world in areas such as science and technology, education, global public health, the environment, youth advocacy, and the arts. Designed for registered charities, Google Grants provides free advertising on Google AdWords. Applications can be made at any time. For more information, visit www.google.com/grants.



Thank you from Connect2

The Connect2 team wish to thank all of you who very kindly sent messages of congratulations following the success of Sustrans' Connect2 in the People's £50 Million Lottery Giveaway. There were so many messages that unfortunately they could not reply individually, but wanted to thank you very much for your support. You can read their full email, which includes a list of the final voting numbers, by clicking here: <http://dotm1.net/>

Members' allowances

Information relating to Members' allowances and a revised claim form for members for their expenses (including the Broadband allowance) is now available in the Members' Pages of the East Devon District Council Website.

Forthcoming meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 28 January	9.30am	CANCELLED
Culture Task and Finish Forum	Diana Vernon	Tuesday 29 January	6.00pm	Room 1
Executive Board	Diana Vernon	Wednesday 30 January	5.30pm	Council Chamber
East Devon Business Forum	Chris Lane	Thursday 31 January	6.00pm	East Devon Business Centre
Housing Review Board	Rachel Perram	Thursday 31 January	6.30pm	Committee Room
Beach Concessions Task and Finish Forum	Debbie Meakin	Thursday 31 January	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 4 February	9.30am	Council Chamber
Rates Consultation	Chris Lane	Monday 4 February	6.30pm	TBA
Scrutiny Committee	Debbie Meakin	Wednesday 6 February	6.30pm	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.

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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Portfolio Holders decisions

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

<p>Communities (Miss J Elson)</p>	<p>Health Certificates – Food Export – Fees</p> <p>To agree that the fee for a Health Certificate for Food Exports be set at £75 for 2007/08 and increased by the Retail Price Index each year thereafter.</p> <p>Further details: Simon Smale, Head of Environmental Health, Ext 2382</p>
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Decisions by Portfolio Holder Members are notified of the following decisions

<p>Communities (Miss J Elson)</p>	<p>Request for variation to restrictive covenant to allow the construction of an additional end terrace 3 bedroom house attached to the former Council House at 63 Green Close, Exmouth.</p> <p>Agreeing that in accordance with past practice the request be agreed on terms and conditions to be negotiated by the Property Services Manager, for a deed of variation to allow the construction of one additional end terrace dwelling attached to 63 Green Close, Exmouth and subject to a successful planning application.</p>
	<p>Request to sell council housing land adjoining 28 Forton Road, Exmouth to allow the owner of the property within his title</p> <p>Agreeing that in accordance with past practice, the request be agreed on terms and conditions to be negotiated by the Property Services Manager and that this ground should be declared surplus to requirements and sold to the owner of 28 Forton Road, Exmouth.</p>
<p>Economy (P Halse)</p>	<p>Boats and Winches Licences on Beaches</p> <p>Agreeing that for 2008/09, annual boat licences should be increased from £50 to £60. Annual winch licences should be retained at £70.</p>

The above decisions will become effective on 31 January 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

- ❑ **Sidmouth Town Council – Sidmouth Hopper Bus 2007.** A copy of the report on this summer's improved service is now available in the Members' Area. The Town Council has continued to receive letters of appreciation from resident and visitors.
- ❑ **Local Area Agreements (LAAs) – Preparing to Negotiate and to Deliver.** A new resource from the Improvement and Development Agency (I&DeA). The publication is designed to help elected members and LAA partnership leads to understand the plan within the current LAA negotiating timetable using a checklist of milestones, issues and questions. Find this publication in the Members' Area.

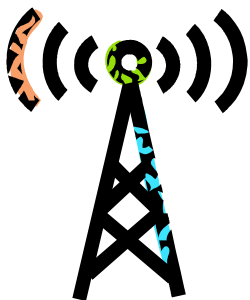
Feedback from outside bodies

- ❑ **Health and Adults' Services Overview/Scrutiny Committee (Devon County Council) – Minutes of the meeting on 10 January 2008**

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

News from the IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency)

Connecting with Communities makeover



How should modern councils communicate with residents? What can they do to improve their reputation so that staff and residents remain satisfied? These are some of the issues tackled in our communications

resource: Connecting with Communities. Now in its fifth year, it has been given a thorough makeover. Find out about all the latest thinking and best practice in local government communications.

<http://list.idea-knowledge.gov.uk>

Cultural policy in Scotland: interview with Angela Saunders

The head of the Scottish Government's cultural strategy and delivery unit describes how local government has shaped its national policy. The strategy has a particular emphasis on boosting participation and making links with the community.

<http://list.idea-knowledge.gov.uk>

Comment: the creative councillor

What powers do backbenchers have to effect change in their community? Are creative community intervention and effective scrutiny the ward councillor's key tools for transformation? Do you agree? Add your comments to the end of the article. <http://list.idea-knowledge.gov.uk>

Examining strategic partnerships



Access new research on the Improvement Network, which examines council use of strategic service-delivery partnerships (SSPs) and the associated benefits and challenges of this form of partnership working. <http://list.idea-knowledge.gov.uk>

Health Inequalities Intervention Tool

The Department of Health has launched an online resource to help service commissioners weigh up health inequalities and map out interventions, while meeting public service agreement targets on issues such as infant mortality and life expectancy.

<http://list.idea-knowledge.gov.uk>

Public Sector being fleeced by contractors says spending watchdog



Hospitals and schools are being fleeced by contractors charging as much as £300 to install an electrical socket and £486 to fit a lock, says a highly critical report from the National Audit

Office (NAO). It suggests that millions of pounds could be saved when changes are made to existing Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts if public authorities ensure that all new work is put out to tender. [Times](#)

Threat to cut-price booze

The Government is expected to push ahead with its threat to ban shops from selling cheap alcohol. Sources suggest the move will happen should a Home Office/Department of health review reveal that low-price drinks promotions lead to disorder - which it is likely to show. Daily Mail 17/1/08 p2

Police ban actors' swords



Devon and Cornwall Police have classed actors' plastic swords and guns as dangerous weapons and banned them from a production of Robinson Crusoe. A spokesperson admitted that the case was 'unusual' but maintained that replica

weapons are used to carry out crimes. [Telegraph](#)

Random test for drivers

Motorists could be subjected to random breath-testing under a shake-up of driving laws.

[Telegraph](#)

Cookery lessons for kids



The Government has announced that cookery lesson for school pupils would become compulsory in an attempt to tackle obesity.

[Telegraph](#)

Give town halls power over business rates

Councils would be given more freedom to adjust business rates under recommendations put forward by MPs. The Government has said local authorities should have more freedom to vary business rates but Phyllis Starkey, chairman of the Cross-Party Communities and local Government Committee, warned that ministers had shown a 'lack of vision' in failing to trust councils to take effective decisions. [Financial Times](#)

Huge rise in traffic choking the roads



Motorists are using cars more and more despite record fuel prices, higher vehicle taxes, and calls from the Government to use public transport more. Whilst the rises in congestion have been relatively limited on already saturated

routes around London and the Home Counties, rural roads have become jammed as drivers try to escape busier main roads. [Times](#)

CCTV does little to deter drunken yobs, admit police

Surveillance cameras do little, if anything, to prevent late night alcohol-fuelled violence on Britain's high streets, the country's most senior police officer in the field has admitted. The Association of Chief Police Officers' head of CCTV told a parliamentary committee that the public had been "misled" into believing installing CCTV would reduce anti-social behaviour. [Telegraph](#)

Knife scanners at school gates to curb crime

Airport-style metal detectors will be installed at hundreds of school gates under sweeping measures to confront the growing problem of teenage knife crime. Their introduction at the toughest secondary schools will be announced next month by the Home Secretary Jacqui Smith and forms a core element of the Government's new violent crime action plan. Meanwhile, the Sunday Telegraph reported violent youth crime is up a third in 3 years. [Independent](#)

Councils under fire for charging

The Audit Commission has published a report showing that one in four councils collects more through local charges than they do through council tax. The report also highlights that half of councils have no strategic policy on what they charge for and put up charges as a short-term measure to stop cuts in services. Sir Simon Milton, Chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA) is quoted: "The impact of a flawed council tax system, combined with increasing pressures for services, means that councils have to make tough choices between spending cuts, council tax rises and charging fees". The Telegraph reports that councils are being advised to remove the maximum charge limit for home help for the elderly, which will force better-off people into the private sector. [Times](#)

Council tax bills rise faster in the south



Millions of households across southern England face above inflation council tax rises this year after ministers quietly introduced rules to divert central

government money to Labour heartlands in the north. Bills in the south are likely to rise between 4% to 5% while in many northern regions the increase will be 2.5% or below. [Telegraph](#)

Council tax bills up £45 per year

A survey of more than 100 councils' draft budgets by the LGA predicts council tax will rise by an average of 4% next year. LGA Chairman Sir Simon Milton is quoted: 'The only way to get local government finance on a stable footing would be root and branch reform of how councils are funded. Being allowed to keep more money that is raised locally would give councils much greater control over their budgets and make them genuinely answerable to voters.' [Telegraph](#)

ID cards

ID cards have been shelved until after next election although teachers, police and other public sector staff in sensitive posts will have to have them from 2009. [Daily Mail](#)

Calls to scrap biofuels target

The target to more than double the amount of biofuels used in the UK should be abandoned, according to an influential group of MPs. They are concerned that biofuels do not result in substantial cuts in greenhouse gas emissions because of the energy required for their production. [Times](#)

EU targets could force Britain to build thousands of wind turbines



The British coastline is set for a dramatic increase in wind farms and tidal energy plants as the Government strives to meet a

European target for renewable energy. The EU is expected to order Britain to raise its game from 2% of renewable energy to 15% by 2020. The EU package will also confirm a binding target for 10% of all fuel to come from biofuel, despite the warning from MPs about its drawbacks. [Times](#)

Supercasino axed?

Plans to build a supercasino could be dropped but 16 smaller casinos be given the go-ahead, following a review of the Gambling Act, according to the Telegraph. [Telegraph](#)

Casinos



16 casinos are to be given the go ahead by the Government, according to "Whitehall sources". Large casinos, 15,000 sq ft in size, are planned for

Leeds, Hull, Middlesbrough, Solihull, Great Yarmouth, Southampton, Milton Keynes, Newham in East London. Smaller casinos of 7,500 sq ft planned for Skegness, Bath, Stranraer, Luton, Scarborough, Swansea, Torbay and Wolverhampton. [Daily Mail](#)

Elections are 'childishly simple' to rig

British elections are 'childishly simple' to rig since Labour gave everyone the right to a postal ballot without safeguards, an investigation by the Council of Europe said. [Times](#)

In the press (continued)

Rochdale salt dispensers get a bit of a shake



Council bosses in Rochdale have been accused of acting like the nanny state after issuing fish and chip shops with salt shakers with fewer holes in a drive to cut the intake. David Davies, Tory MP for Monmouth, said: "This is the sort of nannying that really irritates

Britons. Why not educate people and let them choose?" [Mail](#)

Town halls cash in on national lottery

Millions of pounds of Lottery cash meant for charities and good causes is being given to councils for 'pet projects' such as traffic schemes. In the past 3 years nearly £900m has been handed to councils to pay for programmes that should be funded by the government. Sunday Express p53

Clampdown on blue badge cheats



New measures to tackle disabled parking fraud will be announced by the Government. Local authorities estimate that up to half of badges are being used fraudulently. [Times](#)

Plans to curb fast-food outlets near schools



Ministers plan to halve Britain's spiralling levels of obesity. They want limits placed on the number of fast food businesses that are

allowed to open, especially near schools and parks. Councils already have the power to impose restrictions, but rarely do so. Communities Secretary, Hazel Blears, is expected to write to every local authority urging them to use their planning powers to reject applications that would create a concentration of fast food premises in a small area. The Local Government Association (LGA) is quoted, saying: "No council has used this power because there is no evidence that it makes the slightest bit of difference to obesity."

[Sunday Times](#)

Government plans drive to end obesity crisis

The government's obesity strategy has urged councils to use planning laws to limit the number of fast food outlets near schools and parks. It also says school lunchboxes should be checked by dinner ladies and parents could be asked to sign a letter agreeing to ban unhealthy food from lunchboxes. [Telegraph](#)

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/readmain.html>

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.**

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Submissions: If you have items that you wish to be included in the next issue, please contact Democratic Services.

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