

Council news round-up April/May/June 2009

**East
Devon**

District Council

This news round-up is being sent to all Town and Parish Councils. You may wish to include these highlighted topics in your parish magazines. For more detailed information, you can go straight to the Council web site for agendas, reports and minutes by following this link – http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/index/your_council/committee_minutes_and_agendas.htm

Changes at the top

A number of senior posts changed hands at East Devon District Council's annual meeting on 20 May, and changes were made to the committee structure to better reflect the challenges the Council faces in the coming few years.

Councillor Graham Liverton is EDDC's new Chairman, with Councillor Tony Reed as Vice-Chairman. Councillor Graham Brown is the new Deputy Leader of the Council, succeeding Councillor Ray Franklin. Councillor Miss Sara Randall Johnson remains EDDC's Leader.

Councillor Brown also takes over as Portfolio Holder Environment from Councillor Graham Liverton.

Other senior posts remain the same, with the following Portfolios and Councillors: Communication – Councillor Stuart Hughes; Communities – Councillor Miss Jill Elson; Economy – Councillor Peter Halse; Resources – Councillor Andrew Moulding; Strategic Planning and Regeneration – Councillor Ray Franklin; StreetScene – Councillor David Cox.

Councillor Paul Diviani, who completed two years as Chairman of EDDC in May, is the new chairman of the Development Management Committee (previously Development Control Committee), which takes decisions on major planning applications and planning policy.

Other changes have been made to the committee structure to improve the corporate governance of the Council.

The Scrutiny and Overview Committees which oversaw major council activities have been replaced with one Scrutiny and Overview Co-ordinating Committee, chaired by Councillor Ray Bloxham. Reporting to this new committee will be three other committees dealing with Communities (chaired by Councillor Mrs Helen Parr); Economy (chaired by Councillor Iain Chubb) and Service Delivery & Performance (chaired by Councillor Steve Hall).

Devon County Council and European elections

The results of the recent Country and European elections are on our web site:

http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/2009_local_government_elections_page

Latest information on the Unitary proposals

East Devon District Council's latest public opinion survey, taken by sending a tick-list to all 65,000 households in the district, shows that 86% of respondents prefer the Integrated Devon approach proposed by a group comprising most of Devon's district councils. This would mean the existing councils being retained but working together more closely to share services and make cost savings.

The Boundary Committee is due to make its final recommendation on the future shape of local government in Devon to the new Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, John Denham, on 15 July. The Secretary of State must then consider this recommendation and any submissions by interested parties for a minimum of six weeks before announcing his formal decision.

Help us to give you a better service!

EAST Devon District Council is looking for residents to join its Speak Now Panel and would like to hear from anyone who lives in East Devon and who wants to have a say on how the Council is run. They can now join online by going to <http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/speaknow>

The recent Government-sponsored Place Survey was sent out to over 2,000 residents asking them what they think about East Devon as a place to live. Everyone who received the questionnaire was invited to join the Panel and, so far, over 100 people have volunteered to take part. But, with a total population of over 135,000, we are sure there are others in the district who would like to influence what happens to them and their community.

There are many ways residents on the Panel can tell the Council what they think; by attending discussion groups; filling in postal or online questionnaires; or by email when the Council needs feedback quickly. They can get involved as many or as few times as they wish so that, if they are only interested in particular areas of the Council's work, they choose to get involved in giving their views on these services only. The Speak Now Panel is designed to make it as easy as possible for residents to give us their feedback and, whilst we won't always be able to do everything that has been suggested, we promise to listen and consider every idea put forward.

Just go to the Speak Now page on the Council's website to join the Panel - www.eastdevon.gov.uk/speaknow All the information submitted is confidential and is kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Anyone who wants to find out more about the Panel before they volunteer, or who would prefer to fill in a paper copy of the registration form, should call Jamie Buckley, Community Engagement Officer on 01395 517569.

Local money for your local area!

'Making it Local' has funding available in the Blackdown Hills and the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Their aim is to get people more connected with the landscapes in which they live and work.

This funding is for:

- Business performance and local employment
- Communities and connections
- Making the most of local resources

The funding is for different kinds of businesses and organisations, including private businesses and sole traders, social and community enterprises, Parish and Town Councils, voluntary groups, local community groups, charities and collaborative groups.

A wide range of projects could be eligible for funding including: local village services; renewable power for a small community; training support for small businesses; development of an arts facility; a food or cultural festival; creating or supporting local networks of traders; eco-tourism projects; local food distribution; community transport. Funding from the main programme is available up to £100,000, with average grants of £30,000. Smaller grants schemes will begin in the summer. Grants will fund between 30- 70% of the costs.

If you would like to find out more please contact Jenny Archard, Programme Manager, on 01823 680626 or e-mail jenny.archard@devon.gov.uk or visit: www.makingitlocal.org

Does your local playing field or its play area need funding?

The Devon Playing Field Association can help you! On 2 July they are having their AGM, followed by a session giving information and advice on how to get funding for your playing field and play area. There will be speakers from Sport England, Play Builders and others. The event is at Chulmleigh Pavilion and is £10 for DPFA members and £15 for non-members. For more information or to book a place please phone Gail Hickson on 01392 383443 or e-mail gail@devonrcc.org.uk

Community Buildings Funding Event in East Devon!

Does your community building need funding? Are you struggling with grant applications or which funders to apply to, or any other aspect of running a community building? If so, the Community Council of Devon can help, they are holding a drop in event in East Devon where they can answer all your questions! Join them for free at Upton Pyne Village Hall on 23 June between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Please let Gail Hickson know if you intend to go to the event by phoning 01392 383443 or e-mail gail@devonrcc.org.uk

Useful contacts:

- Devon County Council: www.devon.gov.uk
- East Devon District Council: www.eastdevon.gov.uk
- The Community Council of Devon at: www.devonrcc.org.uk
- Devon Association of Community Buildings, a membership organisation, visit: www.devonvillagehalls.co.uk/Pages/DACB or Tel: 01392 383345
- Boundary Committee (Information for Devon): www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/south-west/devon/devon-structural-review