

The following information is being provided to all Town and Parish Councils. You may wish to include it in your parish magazines. We hope that you find these highlighted topics interesting. For more detailed information, you can go straight to the Council web site page on agenda, reports and minutes by following this link

http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/index/your_council/committee_minutes_and_agendas.htm

Council news round-up for August/September 2006

Regional Spatial Strategy

This has been produced by the South West Regional Assembly and will impact on the future of the South West for the next 20 years. It will provide guidance on the way that planning applications are determined. The change in thinking is that new development should be focused on the strategically significant settlements. This is seen as a way of promoting sustainable communities – concentrating growth on existing settlements and encouraging a better balance between homes and jobs. Exeter has been identified as a strategic settlement and will therefore take most of the local growth.

Exmouth and Seaton Gateway Projects

The application to the Big Lottery Fund Evolution Bid was not successful. Reasons given were that the initiative lacked strategic overview and an over-arching theme. The Council is still committed to taking the Projects forward with its partners but will wait to find out the details of why the bid was unsuccessful to see what lessons can be learnt before we go any further.

Sandbag deliveries

From now on sandbags will be delivered empty to Town and Parish Council when requested. This will help overcome problems of cost, storage and the limited shelf-life of filled bags. Homeowners will be required to provide their own sand from now on. Sand from their old sandbags could be reusable in some cases. A letter has been sent to all Parish and Town Councils from Jane Tancock, EDDC Street Scene Emergency Planning Officer asking for details of your requirements. The closing date for this order has been extended to the end of November.

Autumn meeting of the towns and parishes

Thank you to all town and parish representatives who attended the meetings at the Council offices in September. Your feedback from the discussions on our top priorities is being referred to the Executive Board in October.

Recycling and Refuse

The Project Team is working on the detail of the new recycling and refuse service. A 180 litre bin will be provided to all households for general waste unless a larger or smaller bin is more appropriate due to certain circumstances. The size of the existing recycling boxes will be retained and householders will be able to put out additional recycling in carrier bags with the box. A large scale trial will be run before the new service is rolled out across the whole of the district.

Hot topics discussed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Housing Review Board

- Sustainable construction and energy efficiency
- Community involvement
- Older people's access to services
- Fees and charges
- Service planning
- Positive stock retention strategies for local authorities