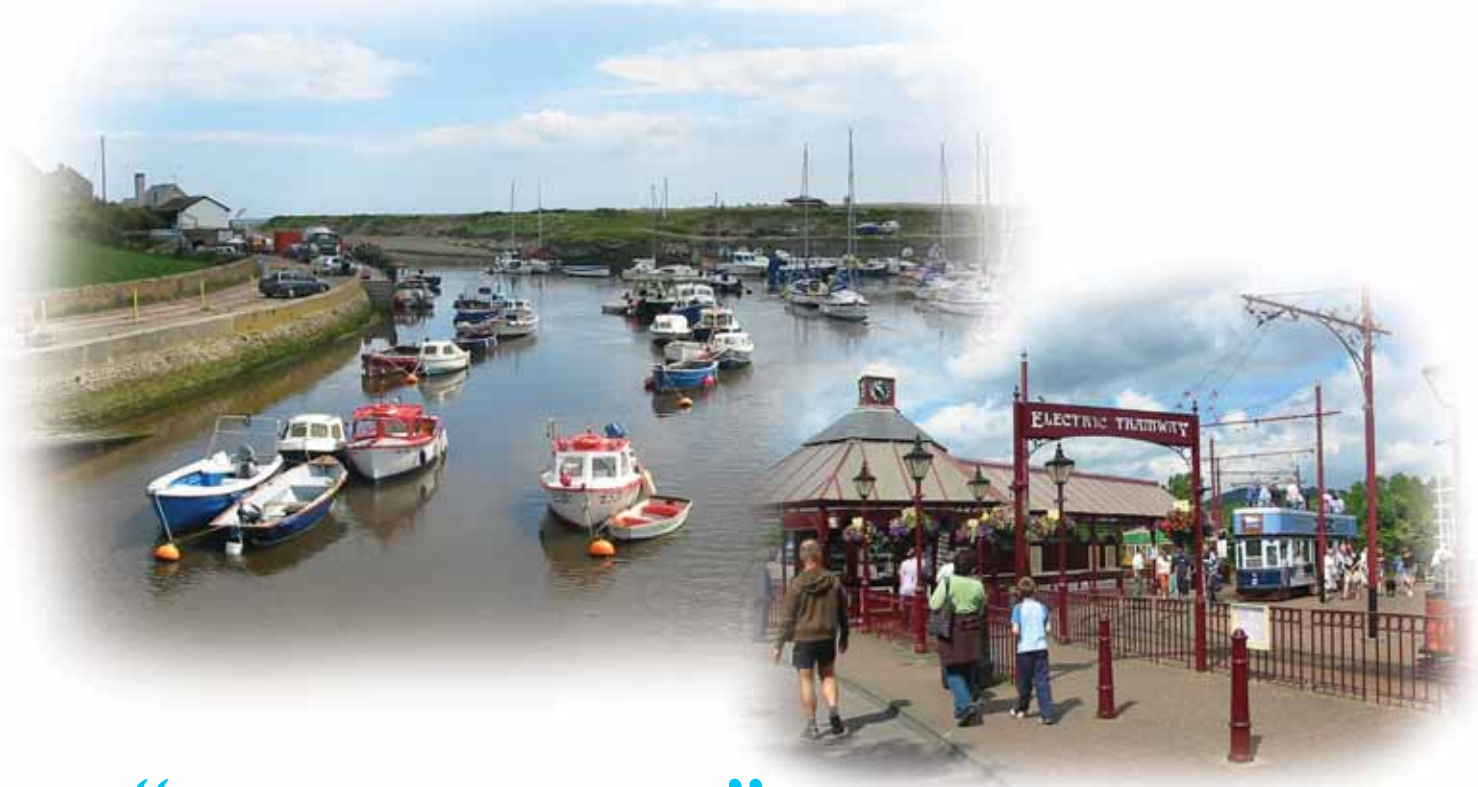




# Seaton Neighbourhood Assessment Summer 2007



## “Heaven on Earth” or “The Land That Time Forgot”

These were just two of the comments that Environmental Health staff received recently while carrying out a neighbourhood assessment in Seaton as part of a joint partnership with Seaton Police during a community action day. Their aim was to find out what most concerned the people of Seaton about their community, what they would like the Council to do to help them and whether they liked living in the town.

Over 400 homes were visited in total by the Police and Council staff and Environmental Health staff visited around 200 properties. Many people were interviewed and there was a public open day held at the Town Hall where any residents could call in to express their concerns.

Over two thirds of the people interviewed said they enjoyed living in Seaton and thought it was a good place to live, and a third of people had no complaints or concerns.

### So what concerns did Seaton residents have?



### Youth Issues

Almost a quarter of people interviewed asked for more facilities for the youth of the town such as a purpose built youth club/community hall, cinema or sports facilities. Many people were concerned about the behaviour of some groups of young people in the town and felt the



closure of the youth club several months ago had made matters worse.

Devon Youth Services are in discussion with EDDC about the possibility of a regeneration project for the old youth club building, but there is difficulty raising substantial funds on a building with only a one year lease. Lisa Rutter of the Devon Youth Services has been visiting the town to speak to the young people, as her first priority is to build relationships with them and find out what they really want. Meanwhile this summer a mobile youth unit has been visiting Seaton Skate Park on Wednesday evenings, the unit has TVs, music, arts and crafts and sports. They offer some education advice, the van was also part of the Youth Festival held on 22nd & 23rd August and was in the town from 28th to 31st August from 12.30 to 2.30pm.

## Police Issues

Some people were bothered by groups of children congregating in Windsor gardens, there were complaints of noise, bad language and vandalism to flower beds.



Others reported speeding cars driving around Harbour Road car park. Apart from the noise nuisance, some were worried there could be a serious accident. These complaints have been passed to Seaton Police to log and more information on the outcomes will be available in September. Some people requested more police on the beat especially in the evenings at weekends, CCTV cameras were suggested in troubled areas and the town council are considering this option. Any crime or vandalism complaints can be reported to the local Police on **08452 777444**.



An elderly resident in a Council property was worried that his rear door was insecure as it was a single glazed full length glass door. We passed this on to repairs and maintenance who have now added the property to their current door replacement programme and he will receive a new secure back door.

A complaint was received about the cycle path in Seaton Marshes from Saltpan Lane. This area is overgrown and the brambles and nettles are difficult to pass through by bike. Environmental Health staff asked Devon County Council to clear the area and they have now issued an order for the cycle path to be cut back shortly.



## Dog Fouling

There were a small number of complaints about the problems of dog fouling in Harepath Road, Manor Road and around the Primary School. Some people thought the dog restriction areas should be increased and others thought some people ignored the beach dog ban. There was also a complaint about the



owner of a dog who is taken to the beach around the yacht club each morning and allowed to foul the beach. The dog wardens are targeting these areas for their patrols and will be issuing fixed penalty notices if they witness any fouling. Please call the dog warden service on **0845 6010211** if you are aware of anyone who does not clear up after their dogs.



## Rubbish Collections and Recycling

A gentleman from Burrow Road enquired whether he could recycle shredded paper, Streetscene confirmed that residents may put out shredded paper in a plastic bag with recycle bins, they may also put out additional bags of sorted recycle materials.

There were requests from some residents to recycle plastics and cardboard as well as to provide wheeled bins.



The Council are looking at many alternative schemes, including the latest proposal for a service that should meet everyone's needs.

The following recommendations have now been agreed:

- Weekly collections of kitchen waste
- Weekly collections of a wider range of recycling materials including plastic bottles.
- Fortnightly collections of other household waste

The scheme has now been agreed by full Council and it is anticipated that the pilot scheme will begin in early 2008 for approximately 12,000 households, including Seaton, and will incorporate all of the features mentioned above. By taking the smelly items away weekly, householders can concentrate on sifting other waste into two compartments. We want people to recycle as much as possible – both for the sake of the environment and to help us meet our targets. The success of the scheme will depend on full public participation. Residents will be issued with a 180 litre wheeled bin, 25 litre kerbside food collection bin and 9 litre kitchen caddy.

## Seagulls

We received many complaints about seagull nuisance, from noise early in the morning to the litter caused by ripping open rubbish sacks. Holiday makers are strongly encouraged not to feed the birds, but unfortunately many people



## Noise

Pubs and clubs with loud music at night were bothering some householders. Environmental Health Officers are dealing with the complaints logged and advice was given out to people concerning the Council's out of hours noise service. This service operates 24 hours a day at weekends and bank holidays and between 6pm and 8am Monday to Friday. Noise complaints can be reported on **01395 516854**.

## Regeneration and closed premises

Several people have expressed their concerns over derelict sites in Harbour Road. Some residents said they wished the plans could be agreed as they were tired of the delays, others said they would like to see the development include some facilities or amenities for the people of Seaton, a few people said they didn't want the regeneration to begin at all, but they would like the camp to remain open and the area left as it is.



still ignore the signs and throw them scraps and chips. This Council has no plans to cull the birds, as all birds are protected by law. However it is anticipated that the issuing of the wheeled bins in 2008 will greatly reduce the number of problems with household waste strewn across the pavements, but unfortunately this won't help much with the early wake up calls.



This resident in Harbour Road was so concerned about the seagulls ripping open her rubbish sacks each week that she has purchased her own wheelie bin.

Following the recent outline planning application, the Council's planners say, "The starting point for this Council is to fully support and encourage the regeneration of this part of Seaton, but it needs to be practical and have the support of the general community. At the present time the application at Seaton is on hold pending receipt of the applicant's response to our recent letter, in which we set out the concerns we have with regard to the current scheme".



A gentleman who rides an electric buggy asked for an additional drop kerb to be installed in Fore Street opposite the Town Hall. A request to install this was passed to Devon County Council who have said they will be assessing the area to see if there is a lack of crossing points in this area and if so will install an additional drop kerb.

## Weeds

Several complaints were received from people concerned that Devon County Council have not sprayed the weeds in parts of the town. A complaint was received about weeds on the overgrown path between Newlands Park and Townsend Road. This has been logged with Devon County Council Highways department



who have confirmed they will be visiting the area to make an assessment.

Axmouth bridge is reported to be the oldest concrete bridge in England but complaints were made about the number of overgrown weeds on the bridge and the approach to it. Devon County Council have now included this area in their weed killing programme to take place shortly.



The Council was asked give a coat of paint to the public toilets in Harbour Road car park. These will be painted by the probation service in the coming weeks.

Closed Toilets - Some residents requested more toilets along the east walk end of the beach, others asked for the Council to provide

baby changing facilities in one or more public toilets. Although baby changing facilities are not currently provided, these will be included in the planned refurbishment of the West Walk toilets.



## Oil on the beach

There were several residents concerned about the oil on the beach from the [MSC Napoli](#), the pictures show the booms that were put across the Axe to prevent pollution in the river.

The information boards at local beaches give detailed information on the current situation. If you are affected by oil on your skin, hair, or if a pet is affected, the oil is best removed by the use of baby or cooking oil followed by washing with normal soap.



Any sightings of oil should be reported by telephone to East Devon District Council on **01395 571700** who will pass the details onto the onshore contractors. Please exercise care in reporting oil sightings and do so promptly.



## Tracey's field dog walking area

Some dog owners asked for the long grass in Tracey's field to be cut, as it has grown so much with all the recent wet weather. A path is cut through the grass six times a year and Streetscene will be cutting it again during September. However dog owners said they found it very difficult to clear up after their dogs in the very long areas and asked for the whole field to be cut more frequently, especially with the increase in the number of ticks recently.



## Unadopted Road

Residents in Burrow Road asked whether the County Council would adopt the road. Devon County Council have said they would consider an application to adopt the road if the road was first brought up to their current standards by the residents.



Most people questioned said they enjoyed living in Seaton and thought it was a great place to live with a good sense of community.

Many residents have lived here for most of their lives and said they wouldn't wish to live anywhere else.



If you have a further comments on the neighbourhood assessment please call Debbie Fletcher or Andrew Ennis on **01395 571570** or email at [dfletcher@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:dfletcher@eastdevon.gov.uk)