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- **New Chief Constable's blog**
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## EDDC News



- We want YOU to help shape Exmouth's future

Contact us:  
knowledge@eastdevon.gov.uk

## Democratic Services Officers

Diana Vernon 01395 517541  
 Christopher Holland 01395 517543  
 Chris Lane 01395 517544  
 Debbie Meakin 01395 517540  
 Alethea Thompson 01395 517525  
 Hannah Whitfield 01395 517542

## Meetings

Please note meetings shaded pink are **NOT** open to the public

Meeting	DSO	Date	Time	Location
Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee	CL	Tuesday 28 June	9.30am	CANCELLED
Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board	HW	Tuesday 28 June	10.00am	Room One
Accessing and processing planning applications on line – for all Councillors	DV	Tuesday 28 June	5.00pm	Council Chamber
Building Control Seminar for all Councillors	DV	Tuesday 28 June	6.00pm	Council Chamber
Asset Management Forum	CL	Thursday 30 June	9.30am	Council Chamber
➤ <a href="#">Audit &amp; Corporate Governance Committee</a>	CEH	Thursday 30 June	2.30pm	Council Chamber
Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee	CL	Tuesday 5 July	9.30am	Council Chamber
Code of Conduct training (also open to parish and town council delegates)	DM	Wednesday 6 July	2-4pm or 6.00-8.00pm	Council Chamber
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	DM	Thursday 7 July	6.30pm	Council Chamber

## LG Knowledge

### ➤ Tackling worklessness: the co-design pilots



In supporting councils which are leading the way in testing new solutions in tackling worklessness, the LG Group has produced new resources on customer insight, cost benefit and value for money. The work of the co-design pilots is featured in the final Department of Work and Pensions report and is informing local thinking on Community Budgets and engagement with the Work Programme.

### ➤ LG Group Conference: localism, the new dimension

Leader of the LGA Liberal Democrat Group Councillor Richard Kemp CBE explains why he is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that the Localism Bill will bring to planning in local councils. Access Councillor Kemp's blog post and send your views on how you feel the Localism Bill will affect the planning agenda.

### ➤ Taking the lead on energy issues

Councillor Dave Goddard, leader at Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council takes a strategic role in Stockport's energy projects, linking them up with regeneration and economic growth opportunities in the borough and sub-region. Glean valuable advice from Councillor Goddard's top leadership tips on the Planning Advisory Service website.



## Chairman's engagements

**Saturday 25 June**

### Afternoon

Chairman and Mrs Halse to attend the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade of the RBL in Sidmouth

### Evening

Chairman and Mrs Halse to attend the Charles Vance Plays opening night at the Manor Pavilion

**Tuesday 28 June**

Vice Chairman and Mr Newth to attend a Cocktail Party at the CTCRM, Lympstone

### ➤ **Stoking the fires of localism**

Councillor David Sparks OBE, Leader of the LGA Labour Group, explains how he sees his own political party taking forward the localist agenda. Read a blog post about what he views as the salient challenges within the 'localism arena'. Drive the discussion and contribute your posts to the debate.

### ➤ **The changing role of councils and councillors**

One of this year's hot topics at the LG Group conference is the changing role of councillors in our communities. To coincide with this, the LG Group will be running a plenary session entitled 'Councillors: the social entrepreneurs of our communities'. See a blog post which reveals the views of those who will be speaking at this session.

### ➤ **What has the coalition Government ever done for us?**

Kevin Maguire, Associate Editor at the 'Daily Mirror', reflects on the coalition Government's first year in power ahead of his role at the LG Group conference as a panelist at the LG Group conference Localism Works Plenary 1: 'The Government one year on – what has it meant for local government?' Find out why he thinks now is 'the best and worst of times for local government'.

## Work experience report

A week in the Council by Josh Gutierrez



I came to the EDDC unsure of what to expect. I'm interested in politics but expected a week of modern government bureaucracy. Thankfully the Council provided me with a range of experiences.

My week kicked off with a visit to Chris Holland in democratic services who throughout my week showed me the complex nature of organising local elections and the issues which have to be dealt with. Unfortunately for him, he discovered my love for debating politics with just about anyone who will listen. I next took a trip with EDDC solicitor Giles Salter to Crown Court to experience a very unusual court case which was to provide many surprises and an interesting introduction to court proceedings.

On Wednesday I was shown the practical outcome of licensing enforcement with Neil McDonald, which had been discussed at the previous morning's meeting. That evening I attended the first cabinet meeting since the local elections and thanks to the Cabinet's vote I was able to stay during the confidential part of the meeting. I was surprised that of all the issues, the most emotive was in respect of toilet provision at Seaton.

Thursday brought with it a trip to Bovey Tracy with EDDC solicitor Andrew Seddon to hear a talk about the new localism bill which is on its way through Parliament and its effects upon the local area. This was rounded up a discussion on the highly unusually cases Councils' legal teams are landed with, and showed that even Solicitors need legal help at times.

My final day at the council caved to the admin but made better by a nice cups of coffee from Debbie Meakin and a visit from Cllr Jones to the legal and democratic section.

## In the national press

### ➤ **Australian warning over UK housing plans**

The Tenants' Union of New South Wales has written to housing minister Grant Shapps to warn that abolishing the policy of council homes for life in Australia failed to free up social housing and discouraged tenants from working. Plans to allow councils and housing associations to introduce fixed term tenancies are currently making their way through the House of Lords.

### ➤ **Squatting will become a crime**

Squatting will be made a criminal offence. Justice Secretary Ken Clarke says he will also put an end to squatters' eligibility for legal aid to fight eviction.



## Supersize classrooms



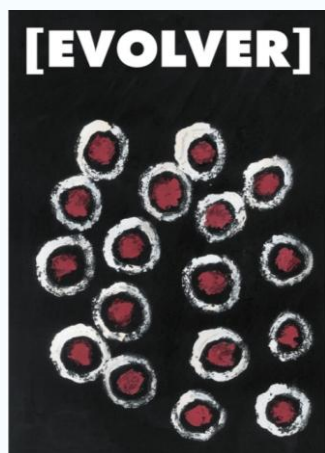
The number of pupils being taught in classes with more than 30 children has almost doubled in four years. In all, 43,065 children are being taught in 1,370 classes of 31 or more pupils. Mail p4 23/6/11

### ➤ Grammar schools will be allowed to expand

State grammar schools will be allowed to take advantage of new rules to admit extra students without seeking permission from councils. Schools Minister Nick Gibb says England's 164 academically selective schools are a powerful driver of social mobility.

## Evolver 2011

### Prize Winners Exhibition and 'Mini Evolvers' sale



From 9 July to 10 September the 50 winning entries in the annual Evolver prize will be shown at The Thelma Hulbert gallery in Honiton. South West artists old and young, emerging and established, amateur and professional, and working in every imaginable media have submitted work for this competition.

The first prize winner, selected by a panel of well known local arts professionals, will have their design published on the cover of July/August edition of Evolver Magazine, the Wessex based arts listings guide. As before the gallery will be running its own poll to find The Visitors Favourite amongst the pieces on show.

THG will also be showing 'Mini Evolver' covers (A5 sized versions) produced by local young people which will be for sale at £10 a pop, all proceeds going to THG youth group 'Masterpieces'.

Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Elmfield House, Dowell St, Honiton EX14 1LX, Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm  
✉ [info@thelmahulbert.com](mailto:info@thelmahulbert.com) ☎ 01404 45006 [www.thelmahulbert.com](http://www.thelmahulbert.com)

Photo: A previous Evolver Prize winning cover by Brian Rice

## Blackdown Hills Woodland Fair

The second Blackdown Woodland Fair takes place at Park Farm near Wellington on **2 July**, and is a celebration of all things woody! It will feature an events ring, lots of skills to try, and local food and drink. A showcase for woodland skills and a great day out for all the family. 10am - 5pm Cost: £5 per person. Children under 16 free. Location: Wrangway near Wellington. Signposted on all major roads. For more information: [www.woodbiz.co.uk](http://www.woodbiz.co.uk)

## Update: PCT



Ann James, Chief Executive on behalf of the cluster of NHS Devon, Plymouth and Torbay has written to the Council to provide an update on the future of the PCT: The existing PCT Boards will continue and the new single executive team, along with two non-executive members from each PCT, have formed a working group. This group, referred to as the 'cluster board', will work collectively on behalf of the three PCTs to determine and recommend proposals for local and cluster-based work.

The 'cluster board' met for the first time on 7 June. The meeting agreed some initial priorities, the most pressing of which is a 'stock take' of the health and care systems in the three PCT areas. The findings of this will be reported to the 'cluster board' at its July meeting. Governance will also be discussed with the aim of these key priorities being implemented by 1 September.

The 'cluster board' reaffirmed its commitment to decision-making being open and transparent and that every effort would be made to keep our staff and stakeholders up to date with the detail of how the cluster will work and the next steps for NHS reforms.

## Free website and training offer

The Devon Towns Forum is offering an opportunity to apply for a totally free website and training package to any Community Partnership or Group working in Devon. If your partnership is engaged in community led planning, engagement or economic project activity this could be just what you need to help promote your work. The Devon Towns Forum will provide a totally free, easy to use, bespoke, templated website designed by our partners at Project Cosmic. The offer also includes the first year's maintenance fee, normally £155 plus VAT and two free training sessions to get you started. The offer is



intended to help Devon's Market Towns Community Groups and Partnerships boost their profile and to help with marketing, communications and connectivity. The closing date for entries is **31 July**. For more information email: [info@devontownsforum.org.uk](mailto:info@devontownsforum.org.uk)

Democratic Services 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.