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Two weeks of fun-filled activities for young people at Wild East Devon's summer holiday club

Give your child an outdoor experience to remember at our popular holiday club this summer. Taking place at Seaton Wetlands, it runs from from 10am to 4pm daily from Monday 1st August until Friday 5th August, and again on Monday 15th August until Friday 19th August.

Led by our experienced Education Ranger Penny, your child will explore the wetlands and learn about it's wildlife, make crafts using small tools and natural materials, cook over the campfire and play.

The club runs for two separate weeks in August and you can book per day or for the whole week.



Our adventurous holiday club is for 7-11 year olds, based at Seaton Wetlands. £35 per child per day, with a 15% discount if you book on for all five days of one week.

To book your child's place, call 01395 517557

Cllr Geoff Jung, East Devon District Council's Portfolio Holder for Coast, Country and Environment, said:

The summer holiday club offers busy parents an affordable, enjoyable and educational week of activities for their 7 to 11 year olds. Whether your child enjoys natural craft, learning about wildlife or outdoor games, there's something for everyone and each day will be different. Children will be explore the outstanding East Devon countryside we live in and enjoy a week of nature-inspired activities.

Join the East Devon Countryside volunteer

scheme

In the past year, volunteers have contributed nearly 4500 hours of service to East Devon District Council's Countryside team, Wild East Devon

From conservation, path maintenance, wildlife surveying to greeting visitors at nature reserves, there's a whole host of opportunities on offer. The team welcome new volunteers – try it out to enjoy a rewarding experience and a chance to help others appreciate our outstanding countryside. If you enjoy meeting people and care about nature, join the team at the Discovery Hut at Seaton Wetlands, where you can enthuse visitors about the local wildlife, help them to get the most out of their visit and serve refreshments.

Lesley volunteers with her husband Pete (pictured) at the Discovery Hut, talking to the public about the wildlife they have seen, helping visitors navigate the site and serving teas, coffees and light refreshments to visitors. She explained:

Pete and I love helping out because we enjoy meeting people and talking to them about the Wetlands. We tell people what to look out for and any exciting news. For example, we currently have a kestrel camera showing their nest with 4 chicks! To volunteer, people don't need to be an expert in any field – having an appreciation of the natural world and enjoying talking to people is all you need. At the moment, we volunteer every Monday morning but it doesn't have to be the same every week. You can just give whatever time suits you. We're both bird watchers and we like to encourage young people to take an interest in our environment. Not only is being close to nature good for our health and wellbeing, but we can be good for it too.

EDDC Full Council Meeting – 20th July 2022

5 notices of Motion were received and debated:

[Motion: Exmouth Town Hall](#)

EDDC Councillors on Exmouth Town Council are extremely disappointed and frustrated that Exmouth Town Hall essentially remains closed to the public with its wooden front doors firmly closed. Whilst we completely understand that there are plans to install an intercom system on the side door in the carpark to facilitate public access, this is proposed on an appointment only basis. It is hardly a warm and friendly welcome to be shuffled in via the staff entrance in the carpark.

We have been told that the appointment only service operating at Blackdown House is adequate for District Council clients. However, Blackdown House does not serve a dual purpose as the Town Hall for Honiton.

Prior to Covid, the Town Council used to receive a steady flow of visitors to its offices on the first floor of the Town Hall. This was for casual advice and signposting services as well as access to specific Town Council services. It was never on an appointment only basis...

Outcome - After debate it was agreed that although it was desirable for reception to be manned at all times in Exmouth, there is not currently sufficient staff to man this so even if cllrs did vote for this, it would not currently be possible. A full report should be brought back to Cabinet to determine exactly how many visitors per day are trying to visit reception and other relevant updated factors such as improved staff recruitment and also the longer term plans for manning reception.

[Motion: Review of Travel Expenses](#)

Cllr Peter Faithful suggested that while working with volunteers supporting our Ukrainian guests that the allowance he could offer our volunteers barely covers the cost of the fuel, let alone the general running costs of the vehicle. The figures set out by HMRC have remained unchanged since at least 2012. With the very large increase in fuel in recent months, the allowance by central government does not reflect the true cost of travel.

Outcome - This Council will contact our Members of Parliament to request that recognised travel expenses for tax purposes be brought up to date to reflect the true running costs of road vehicles.

[Motion: John Humphreys](#)

This Council wishes to express its deep disappointment that John Humphreys was permitted by the Conservative party to hold prominent roles as a local Conservative politician for more than four years following his arrest for serious sexual offences against two boys in May 2016. Humphreys was subsequently convicted and imprisoned for 21 years in August 2021.

Despite being under criminal investigation from May 2016, John Humphreys subsequently:

- (A) stood as a Conservative candidate for election (Exmouth Town Council May 2019) and thereafter remained an Exmouth Town Councillor representing the Conservative Party until August 2020
- (B) continued being a Conservative District Councillor until May 2019
- (C) campaigned in the town, district and parliamentary elections for the Conservative Party (May and December 2019)
- (D) was nominated by the Conservative Party for the award of Alderman which he received from EDDC in December 2019.

In the eleven months since John Humphreys conviction, the Conservative Party locally and nationally, has refused to explain why it allowed John Humphreys to continue in these positions of prominence and even nominated him as an alderman despite being under criminal investigation.

In the interests of the safety and wellbeing of children in the district, this Council calls on Simon Jupp MP to provide an explanation as to what went wrong with the Conservative Party's vetting and safeguarding processes in East Devon and provide reassurance that these issues have now been addressed and resolved.

Proposed by Cllr Jess Bailey, Seconded by Cllr Jake Bonetta, Supported by Cllrs Vicky Johns, Paul Arnott, Paul Millar, Jamie Kemp, Denise Bickley, Joe Whibley, Geoff Pratt, Val Ranger, Megan Armstrong

Outcome - Last week's Full Council meeting at EDDC was presented with a Notice of Motion calling on MP Simon Jupp, who had according to a Conservative Councillor, stayed in a property owned by Humphreys in 2019, to ask for the questions asked to be investigated by the Conservative party and to give reassurance to the Council.

Incredibly, the Conservative Councillors abstained from the requested recorded vote, and from voting on the Notice of Motion. Several, in fact, left the meeting before the vote was taken. It has been reported that a meeting had been called at Blackdown House prior to the meeting, and that they had been whipped into abstaining from the vote.

Cllr Eileen Wragg (DA group) said after the meeting that this raises grave concerns that there was something that they didn't want known. Her view, expressed during Full Council, was that political purposes were put ahead of the safeguarding of children. Devon County Council should be hanging its head in shame along with those who refused to vote last week.

Humphreys is serving a twenty one year sentence, one of his victims is serving a life sentence.

A recording of last week's Council meeting can be viewed via EDDC's website.

[Motion: Uniform public litter bin collection pricing](#)

This Council resolves to apply a uniform price of £5.00 + VAT per bin per visit for the emptying of publicly located litter and dog waste bins owned by parish and town councils throughout East

Devon.

The reasons for proposing this motion are threefold:

1. The service, operated by EDDC Streetscene, is losing money due mainly to historical underpricing of the service, requiring additional financial support from EDDC Council Tax Payers.
2. The charges levied by Streetscene vary from under £1.80 up to £5.00 per bin per visit for essentially the same service, therefore those Town/parish councils paying the £5.00 rate are being charged more than 2.7 times those paying the lower rates, a situation that is self-evidently unfair, unreasonable and unsustainable.
3. The current pricing effectively means that some town and/or parish councils, those paying the least, are being subsidised by EDDC while those paying the highest fees are making a net contribution to EDDC at the expense of their Town/parish Council Tax precept payers, while those same tax payers contribute to the cost of supporting the loss-making Streetscene service, so pay twice. This is clearly inequitable.

Outcome – the actual cost of emptying these bins is £5.00 per bin. The portfolio holder for finance will review and report back to Cabinet in readiness for next year’s budget.

[Motion: Equalities Policy](#)

This council notes:

That the EDDC Cabinet agreed a new Equalities Policy on 9th June 2021. This is a key Corporate objective and the policy sets out how the Council will meet its critical legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010. This new policy is a framework to improve and maintain standards and to ensure accountability to residents. The policy covers the nine protected characteristics comprising: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

... That since June 2021 no **annual** cabinet reviews (it has only been one year so annual review is not overdue) of the Policy have been completed. Since June 2020 only two detailed equalities assessments have been included in resolutions reviewed and passed. No equalities report, for instance, was included in the review of car park charges or the new cultural strategy. Since June 2021 no evidence was provided to Council or in Cabinet reports to justify the rating given to equality impact.

Proposed by Cllr Philip Skinner, Seconded by Cllr Ben Ingham, Supported by Cllrs Richard Lawrence, Bruce de Saram, Mike Allen, Helen Parr, Andrew Moulding, Marcus Hartnell (all conservative cllrs)

Outcome - There was a huge amount of misinformation presented in this motion by the proposers. The council already observes the equality policy throughout its daily business.

[Motion: Proportional Representation](#)

First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men. Until 1929 only men and women with a set amount of assets could vote- everyone else was excluded from the democratic process.

First past the post, whilst regularly touted as producing more stable governments, also enables outright governance by minority governments, effectively giving carte blanche to a party to do what it likes on our behalf with the safe knowledge that nothing can stop them.

Our most recent Conservative government was elected with an 80 seat majority on only 29.34% of the available votes, including the abstentions that are fostered by the “safe seat” scenario. In this council’s view, there should be no safe seats, and MPs should be accountable at the ballot box both for what they get right and what they get wrong.

In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use single-round FPTP for general elections. Meanwhile, internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries.

PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and those seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.

Electing MPs who are more representative of their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased involvement in the decisions taken.

PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents ‘wrong winner’ elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. So why not Westminster?

Outcome - This council resolves to write to H.M. Government to call for radical and progressive change to our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general elections.

Sidmouth Beach Management Plan

Sidmouth’s new and improved vital coastal defences are likely to cost £5million more than expected, with estimates increasing from £14million to £19million. Despite this, East Devon District Council (EDDC) and the Sidmouth and East Beach Beach Management Plan Project Advisory Group is proposing to proceed to the next stage, with plans to secure the extra funding from Government or by bridging the shortfall if required. The authority is now preparing its outline business case for the Sidmouth Beach Management Scheme (BMS) readying it for submission to the Environment Agency (EA) for funding.

It is hoped that work on the ‘hybrid’ scheme can begin in spring 2025, giving Sidmouth seafront and East Beach the vital **coastal** defences it needs. The increase in the cost of the scheme is due to a number of factors including material costs rising by up to 200 per cent; diesel costs rising by 50 per cent (low VAT Red Diesel is no longer allowed); staff shortages caused by a smaller labour pool after leaving the EU; ongoing Covid issues; the Russia-Ukraine war increasing energy costs further; construction risks such as availability of materials and equipment and the danger of cliff falls on East Beach.

This is not the only project affected by these issues and a cross-country campaign has been launched by all the bodies developing flood and coastal defence projects, seeking to change Government funding to enable the projects to proceed. The Sidmouth BMS is being used as an example to explain the urgent requirement for extra funding to avoid these Government-funded schemes from failing. In the meantime, to allow the scheme to progress, the

authority will submit a report to EDDC's Cabinet and Full Council, seeking approval for the additional funds from the capital budget as a temporary loan until further money can be secured from elsewhere.

The 'hybrid' option for the Sidmouth BMS:

After changes to DEFRA funding in 2020, EDDC was able to start work on plans for a new 'hybrid option' to replace the former 2018 'preferred option'.

This option includes at least one additional rock island, which may reduce the need to raise the splash wall along The Esplanade and could lower the long-term costs of recharging the beach with new material, which will be needed in the future.

The hybrid option still includes a 120m rock-groyne at East Beach and requires a beach recharge on both East Beach and the town beach.

This option was originally costed using 2020/21 prices, with funding coming from EDDC, Devon County Council, Sidmouth Town Council and the South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, along with DEFRA grant funding.

The anticipated timeline is as follows:

- **Late summer 2022** – Submit the funding case for approval to EA, which if successful, secures the funding in principle. Approval should be granted by autumn 2022.
- **Late autumn 2022** – Work on the scope of the detailed design stage with a sub group made from members of the Sidmouth and East Beach BMP Project Advisory Group. They will help represent Sidmouth residents, providing guidance on what the town needs from the scheme, what it looks like, how it will work and how it will be designed and built. This will include discussions on the number and position of additional rock breakwaters.
- **Early 2023** – Finalise the scope for the detailed design.
- **Followed by** – Appointing an engineering consultant to manage the detailed design process and prepare for construction.
- **Summer 2023 - autumn 2024** – Public consultation on the detailed design and propose a planning application.
- **Autumn 2024 - Early 2025** – Appoint a contractor to build the scheme.
- **Spring 2025** – Start construction.

Councillor Geoff Jung, EDDC's portfolio holder for coast country and environment and chair of the Sidmouth BMP Project Advisory Group, said:

"The estimated uplift in costs is most worrying, but the advisory group considers that these works must proceed urgently to protect Sidmouth from the increasing risk from predicted storm events due to climate change. Therefore, the recommendation to proceed to the next stage will be put to a full council meeting shortly. I would like to thank our engineers' officers, consultants and all members of the advisory group for all their work to get to this important stage."

Seaton beach pilot scheme sees physically impaired enjoy seafront



A Seaton resident was able to enjoy the beach for the first time in a decade thanks to a new pilot scheme for the physically impaired.

A special 85-metre platform, made from Tuff Trac which is a combination of plastic and aluminium, has been placed along Seaton Beach and is being used by a variety of residents.

The new path allows wheelchair and mobility scooter users to enjoy parts of the seafront which would normally be hard for them to access. It comes as part of a joint scheme, by Seaton Town Council (STC) and East Devon District Council (EDDC), which was launched after a request from a group of residents with physical impairments.

The project came to fruition thanks to a combination in funding from EDDC, STC and Councillor Marcus Hartnell's Devon County Council locality budget. If the pilot is successful EDDC intends to look into additional funding to extend the length of the path in both directions. The track is being closely monitored to ensure it is set up in the most effective way.

HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee Meeting – Friday 22nd July 2022 – Focus on Newton Poppleford Items 6 and 7.

Disappointingly you may have already read that 105 villages applied to have a 20 mph speed limit established but Newton Poppleford did not make the list – I am not in the least surprised despite the lip service given by the Chair of HATOC.

At the above meeting **Item 6** was a report on the Puffin Crossing following the Assistant coroners report of December 2020. The HATOC report disappointingly but unsurprisingly recommended:

Following investigations, it is recommended that no changes be made to the existing street lighting at the 'puffin' crossing which it remains in its current layout.

Although it then contradicted itself by stating:

The current trial of adjusted timings is assessed by feedback from the community and used to inform any future timings.

However, what the 'trial' consists of is tweaking the timings on the crossing but ultimately the crossing time remains the same, 16 seconds. All that changed is the basic crossing time now 7 seconds minimum plus a fixed additional 4 seconds plus a variable 5 seconds (range 11 – 16 seconds) based on the 'detection' system. However, this only works if the pedestrian is moving at greater than 0.5 metres per second. Previously the breakdown was a basic 7 seconds minimum, plus 2 fixed additional seconds plus a variable 7 seconds (range 9 – 16 seconds). I asked who would be observing, measuring and recording the outcome of the trial and the response was the parish council would be asking residents how they got on crossing the road in the 'trial'. Cllr Burhop pointed out that although DCC disregarded the subjective opinion of witnesses when Mr Ken Cooper was knocked down and killed due to the poor lighting around the crossing and the fact he didn't have enough time to cross the road, because it was not based on hard 'evidence', the trial **would** be based on the same subjective opinion of residents and that this just did not make sense. The site visit to assess the

lighting at the puffin crossing was done in the middle of the longest day of the year (21st June 2022 between 11.00 and 1.00 pm) yet the accident in which Mr Cooper died took place on virtually the shortest day of the year (23rd December 2020) as the sun went down at dusk (around 5.00 pm). So no true comparison could be made.

Item 7 was a report of the director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport on pedestrian crossings options. The DCC recommendations were:

- a) The results of the assessment of pedestrian crossing facilities along the A3052 are noted
- b) The identified options to improve pedestrian facilities are considered and prioritized as potential funding sources are identified: and
- c) A site visit is held with the Cabinet member for Highway Management to consider the options presented in the report

So once again we found ourselves discussing a highly incomplete report although the report did refer to the fact there are incomplete footways through the village, some facilities are cut off due to lack of crossing points,

After lengthy discussions with excellent input from Cllr Jess Bailey and Cllr Chris Burhop it was agreed that what was needed was a proper site visit (with all stake holders invited to a local meeting after such as the police, an evidenced based ecological survey, an evidenced based survey of pedestrian movements through the village, the Chair of the parish council, Cllr Bailey and so on.

Unfortunately the next HATOC meeting is not until 9th December 2022 so there will be further delays.

The full DCC reports and supplementary papers can be found here:

[Choose agenda document pack - East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee 22 July 2022 - Democracy in Devon](#)

Update on the Greenpeace Plastic Challenge

The startling results suggest that the UK's homes produce 96.6 billion pieces of plastic packaging waste a year, with only 12% being recycled in the UK.

So what's next? Greenpeace will use these results to put pressure on the government to set proper targets on reducing our plastic waste. We hope that these results will open the government's eyes to the true scale of the plastic problem so that they have to do something meaningful about it.

[Local plastic challenge](#)

I have continued to take various historically owned plastic bottles such as shampoo bottles, washing liquids, toilet cleaners, labels removed, down to the Refuel shop in Sidmouth where they will weigh your bottle, refill with a product of your choice, put a new label on, and reduce the amount of new plastic being bought. One advantage of this method is the owner will allow you to buy very small amounts to 'test' a product, rather than have a complete refill if you are changing products. What a great service! I have been really pleased with the quality of the products and so happy to support a new local business.

Budleigh community day to be held for residents

A special Budleigh Salterton community day with afternoon tea, drinks and a free skip for household rubbish was held for residents. East Devon District Council (EDDC), alongside Ian Williams, hosted the event outside the back of Greenhaven on Thursday, 21 July, between 11am and 3pm. More than 100 residents living in Budleigh and other surrounding EDDC homes were invited.

This is the second event of its sort to be held, following a very successful community day in Sidmouth which was attended by more than 75 residents, EDDC housing officers, councillors and Ian Williams. The day was a fantastic success.

On the day, at Budleigh, there will be:

- Food and drink – including afternoon tea, soft drinks as well as tea and coffee.
- A property MOT service – an operative will be available to carry out any small home repairs in the Budleigh area for residents and fix it on the day or carry out an inspection for any larger works needed.
- There will be a free skip for residents to throw away anything they no longer need, so they do not have to take it to the recycling and waste centre.
- An opportunity to meet the team within both EDDC and Ian Williams.
-

Councillor Dan Ledger EDDC’s portfolio holder for sustainable homes and communities, said:

“This day is a great opportunity for residents to come down and help get to know all the people who work behind the scenes on their behalf at the council and Ian Williams.

“Your councillors and officers want your feedback on how we can improve our residents’ lives

“There is also the opportunity for residents to raise minor repairs that can be completed on the day through our handyman service.”

I think something similar for Newton Poppleford and surrounding villages would also be very productive. Two more dates have been arranged but not yet for our village.

Questionnaire on Exmouth Regeneration

The start of exciting new plans to regenerate sites across Exmouth town centre and its seafront are beginning, with the launch of public workshops and an online questionnaire.

The Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group – which is being led by East Devon District Council (EDDC) – is looking to gather residents’ and visitors’ thoughts on the key themes and characteristics they want to shape future developments.

[An online questionnaire](#), which went live on Thursday, 23 June and will close in around eight weeks, focuses on the future for Exmouth, looking for views on how various key sites can be improved.

Two workshops will be held for the general public on Thursday 14 July, from 7pm until 9.30pm, and on Sunday 31 July, from 10am until 12.30pm, at Exmouth’s Ocean Queen’s Drive on the top floor.

Two further workshops will be held for stakeholders and officials. South West Research Company will also be conducting 400 on-street face-to-face interviews in July and August – 150 and 250 interviews respectively, on behalf of the council.

All the views gathered will be used to help shape developments in Exmouth town centre and seafront in the future.

Councillor Paul Arnott, East Devon District Council’s leader, said:

"Exmouth is by far the biggest community in East Devon, and it is vital to listen to the opinions and wishes of local people. We are very grateful indeed to all the town councillors, local residents and stakeholders who have advised us on how best to approach this new consultation and now look forward to hearing what everyone wishes to say. Thank you for taking part."

Councillor Nick Hookway, East Devon District Council's portfolio holder tourism, sport, leisure and culture, said:

"At the first stakeholder session, which was held last Monday, there were many comments on how Exmouth needs to unlock the puzzle that visitors often experience when moving around the town centre to get to the Seafront. Exmouth is blessed with a superb seafront and together with the Exe Estuary Exmouth is an attractive place to visit. Exmouth is a lovely place to live and work in as well. However, there is a need to develop new places that will enhance the town, improve the visitor experience and provide better amenities for residents. New developments will lead to economic growth and provide job opportunities."

"EDDC would like to hear the views of residents as these new placemaking proposals are put forward. May I encourage as many residents as possible to take a few minutes to complete the consultation."

If you need a copy of this consultation on paper, in large print, or in any other format, please email: exmouthconsultation@eastdevon.gov.uk or call 01395 519960 by Friday, 12 August to discuss.

Revised policy on the release of lanterns, balloons and fireworks on Council land Report summary:

Here is an extract from the recent Cabinet meeting held on 13th July.

There is an urgent need for clarity on the council's position on these items, which is held up by the much more complex policy on drones. This report and the attached proposed policy seek to resolve this.

Recommendation: Cabinet are asked to approve the separation of Helium Balloons, Fire Lanterns and Fireworks from the Drones Policy.

Background

1.1 *It is recognised that this issue came before Cabinet in late 2019 leading to Fire Lanterns being added to the Drones Policy - (oddly Balloons seems to have been missed) However, the January 2020 Overview committee resolved this reference be deleted. In February 2020, Cabinet resolved that Fireworks above 90 Db be added to the same clause. On 4th March 2020, Cabinet resolved to send the issue back to Overview in light of the January decision to remove said clause. However, the arrival of the pandemic put all these issues on the back burner and the disconnect between Cabinet and Overview positions was not resolved.*

1.2 *Additionally the Drones Policy itself is held up as we await the Commercial Aviation Authorities review of their current Drone Flight regulations. The review has been delayed by the pandemic.*

1.3 *Together these issues are putting front line staff in an untenable position of not knowing whether the items, especially fireworks, are banned or not, with some members insisting that the February 2020 decision is binding, and others insisting that a ban cannot be implemented without a policy behind it. We also have little clarity to offer Town Councils and other applicants who wish to hold displays. To recap the reasons why such a ban is proposed:*

1.4 Balloons: Debris from balloon releases has increased 200% since 2007. Over the sea, they pose a serious hazard to marine life, getting trapped in the throats of sea turtles and dolphins causing them to either drown or starve. They also offer a serious entanglement hazard to seabirds. If blown inland they become litter, with the obvious clean-up costs associated and pose a choking and entanglement hazard for livestock and wildlife. The Marine Conservation Society is asking all local authorities to ban the mass release of helium balloons with 65+ councils already having done so. In addition, Helium is a finite and increasingly scarce resource with many more serious demands, such as use as coolant in medical equipment and industrial applications. It is therefore irresponsible to allow it to be wasted on displays.

1.5 Fire lanterns: Have the same impact on Marine life and terrestrial wildlife / livestock as balloons, but also pose a significant fire hazard to property as was demonstrated by the serious fire at Dresden Zoo on New Year's Day 2020 in which 30 animals died. page 239 East Devon has many thatched properties, boat yards with flammable sails and fuel, and an internationally important Heathland Complex at the Pebblebed heaths all of which are very vulnerable to fire damage.

1.6 Fireworks: The RSPCA via their #bangoutoforder campaign are asking for noisy fireworks to be banned at a national level, and asking all local authorities to prohibit their use from their land. Their surveys show that 62% of dogs, 54% of cats, and 55% of horses suffer distress during nearby displays. Additionally there is a substantial impact on wildlife, most pertinently for us, at Exmouth where we have an internationally important wintering bird assemblage of the Exe estuary, which are vulnerable to noise disturbance especially between September to December.

2 Recommendation

The connection between these items and Drone flight is tenuous at best since Drones are not a disposable item, nor a pyrotechnic, their only similarity being that they go up in the air and can cause disturbance. Therefore, given the complexities around the Drone Policy and the urgent need to resolve this issue and honour the intention of the February Cabinet decision, it is recommended that instead of adding items to the Drone Policy, Cabinet are asked to approve a separate policy for Helium Balloons, Fire Lanterns and Fireworks (draft attached). The key points being: - The release of helium balloons from our land is prohibited (with an exception for exceptional circumstances such as weather balloons for scientific research). - The release of fire lanterns from our land is prohibited. - Fireworks displays on our land will only be permitted if they use only fireworks below 90Db (aka silent fireworks) as per the RSPCA recommendation and the 2020 motion.

Local grant schemes

Our own Action on Poverty Fund: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/grants-and-funding/grants-available-from-us/east-devon-action-on-poverty-fund/overview/>

Grants of up to £5,000 that work towards the aims within our Poverty Strategy. The first closing date is 30 September 2022 and there is a match funding requirement. Our Poverty Strategy is much broader than you may think, some ideas of what might be funded (but not a complete list):

- Projects that tackle hidden poverty, those who are struggling but aren't currently seeking help.
- Providing recognised and qualified advice on budgeting, money and debt issues to residents.
- Helping people access support from the council and others to see if they are entitled to welfare benefits and other financial help and support.
- Supporting low income residents to access the internet and develop digital skills.
- Increasing the number of people volunteering for local voluntary and community groups within East Devon.

- Projects that seek to understand and address the causes of food poverty.
- Sustainable support to residents in fuel or water poverty, helping them to reduce their energy and water costs.
- Environmental improvement projects in our more deprived Wards such as Littleham in Exmouth and St Pauls in Honiton.
- Free events that celebrate diversity and promote community cohesion, in partnership with local equality and diversity organisations.
- Supporting young people in reaching their employment potential.
- Improving health outcomes for people due to financial hardship and debt, including access to good diet, cookery classes, healthy lifestyles and ill health prevention.
- Helping to manage mental health issues arising from any impact of poverty, including low income, debt and fuel poverty.

Devon County Council's Connecting You Community Grants

Fund: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/connecting-you-community-grants-fund/>

Grants of up to £10,000 for innovative transport solutions to loneliness, for older people aged 55+ and / or young people aged 16 to 24.

Devon County Council's Growing Communities

Fund: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/devon-county-council-growing-communities-fund/>

Grants of up to £3,000 are available to projects that support Devon communities wishing to build self-reliance, tackle hardship such as food and fuel inequality, improve mental health and wellbeing, address loneliness and isolation, or respond to the climate emergency.

EDDC Job Vacancies – see website for descriptions of job roles

Technical Support Officer (Building Control)

14-07-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED007055T

Location: Honiton/Exmouth

Salary: £22,129 - £23,484 pro rata per annum

Contractual hours: 22.2

Basis: Part time

Mobile Support Officer x2

13-07-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED006133P

Location: Mobile throughout East Devon

Salary: £23,953 to £25,927 per annum

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

Development Manager

13-07-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED007025T

Location: Honiton/Exmouth

Salary: £48,717 - £52,327

Package: Relocation expenses if criteria met

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

Arboricultural Officer

04-07-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED007129P

Salary: £30,095 - £32,789 (plus 3 additional SCP as market supplement)

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

Planning Conservation Officer

30-06-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED007086T

Salary: £30,095 - £32,798

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

To apply for any of the jobs listed here, [please visit our website](#)

Information on [working at East Devon District Council](#)

[Employee Benefits](#)

Local Matters

[Recycling rounds](#)

Due to the current mini heatwave many crews are starting their rounds earlier and asking for all recycling to be put out by 6.00 am, as they are starting their rounds earlier and thus finishing earlier before the heat of the day takes its toll. Thanks to everyone who helped spread this message via social media and apologies to anyone who got caught out this week. Streetscene crews in particular are having a very rushed time of things down at our local beach towns which are inundated as visitors continue to leave litter by the side of already filled bins, which in turn creates further problems with smells, sa gulls, etc.

[Rebate on council tax](#)

A resident contacted me to say she is on pension credit and doesn't pay council tax and therefore was not written to by EDDC to say she had a £150 council tax rebate to come. She contacted EDDC only to find out that she is still eligible for the £150 rebate despite not paying council tax in the first place and the very helpful officer on the telephone filled in the forms on her behalf and she can expect to receive the 'rebate' in the not too distant future. If you fall into this same category or are not sure if you do or not, give the council a call. This is a direct quote from the Frequently Asked Questions page (FAQs)

I am in receipt of Council Tax Reduction (CTR) or don't pay Council Tax due to the benefits I receive, will I receive the payment?

As long as you are eligible (see 'do I qualify?'), you will receive the £150 payment. We will write to you the week commencing 9th May 2022 inviting you to apply through our online claims form. You do not need to do anything for time being.

I recommend you do contact them if you are in any doubt at all or think you have not heard from EDDC directly.

[Disabled Car Parking Space – School Lane, and double yellow lines](#)

I have been contacted about the removal of an old and faded Disabled parking space in School Lane. The person for whom this was originally put in for sadly passed away some years ago. Although disabled parking spaces in residential roads are not 'person specific' (in other words any person with a disabled parking permit can use that bay, not just the person whose house it is outside). DCC are now consulting on whether this bay can be removed, something I support owing to the fact there are now dropped kerbs outside the property concerned and due to congestion in this area of School Lane. I have also asked if double yellow lines can be extended from the A3052 along the west side of School Lane up until the car park to reduce congestion in this area.

[Upgrading of local council houses by the occupants](#)

I was asked whether there is any financial support for this. EDDC are currently reviewing their housing stock and attempting to remedy problems in a set hierarchy following the central government provided funding back on 11th February 2022, see below:

[East Devon District Council \(EDDC\) has secured £612,000 from the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.](#)

The council's successful bid will see a 'Fabric First' upgrade of 50 properties. These are properties where the EPC bandings is E and below and are predominantly 1 and 2 bedroom bungalows, offering sheltered accommodation and housing to some of our most vulnerable residents in the district, where residents typically pay above average heating bills.

The funding from Government will help reduce fuel bills for tenants and deliver warm, affordable homes and will see a significant drop in a properties carbon emissions.

EDDC will achieve carbon reductions in the property by investing in cavity wall and roof insulation, draught proofing, and the replacement of windows. The council will be using the 'worst first' and 'lowest regret' approach in proactively replacing heating systems with a predicted failure date in the near future.

Work to deliver this upgrade programme to properties will begin during Spring 2022.

As the regulations have changed over the years, it is difficult to always determine your rights and obligations currently. For example, if a previous tenant has fitted 'non-standard' items in a council house, be that doors, windows, fitted appliances etc, EDDC might 'gift' those to the new tenant and take over their maintenance but equally, depending on the policy of the day, might not do so.

I would strongly advise tenants to have a chat with housing at EDDC BEFORE making any changes to council properties to be sure they understand their rights and obligations.

On the other hand, I commend those council tenants who do go out of their way to keep their homes and gardens looking lovely as that benefits all of us.

I believe there are various options available for loans for rental tenants to improve their properties but this does not allow EDDC to get out of their legal safety obligations.

[Red Bridge](#)

Cllr Chris Burhop heard from DCC PROW officer Steve Gardner who said there were no agreed plans for the new bridge this year from Webbers Meadow to Lower Way Harpford this financial year but this would hopefully be budgeted for next year.

With grateful thanks as always to residents for helping to raise local issues so they can be addressed.

Val Ranger , Ward Councillor, Newton Poppleford and Harpford

Tel 07475 201 340 or email vranger@btinternet.com.

Job opportunities at East Devon District Council