

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
5th APRIL 2011

Soon after the start of the political year we enjoyed a General Election which was held on Thursday 6th May. It was soon made clear that as a result of spending more than was being earned the nation's balance sheet was in need of correction. The Government decided to cut spending. Local authorities were told that Central Government grants would be reduced and so a great deal of EDDC's time has been taken up by finding savings of £2.4 million for 2011/12. But the good news is that EDDC has not increased its share of the council tax.

EDDC has spent a lot of time negotiating with SSDC during last year with a view to sharing services in order to cut costs. The two authorities now share a chief executive which saves some £65k per annum but further plans came to nothing.

Local Development Framework plans have also kept the authority busy. Putting together a plan for new homes and jobs to cover the next twenty years is never going to be easy and the first attempt did not appeal to the residents of East Devon. This task will be high on the agenda of the new Council!

Here in Newton Poppleford the year has included discussions with EDDC concerning the LDF process, planning details concerning the re commencement of quarry workings at Venn Ottery Hill Quarries and the turning down of a planning application to build a pig unit at Venn Ottery.

I very much enjoy working with the Parish Council and look forward to serving you again in the coming year.