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Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Congratulations to everyone who put in so much hard work for the events over the 4 days. All the bunting and flags set out across our villages made the area look very festive indeed. We were so blessed with the weather too. What a lovely range of events that brought the community together. In Harpford we had our best ever pop-up pub on the Thursday night to kick off the holiday, followed by a lovely afternoon tea street party on the Saturday afternoon, which was attended by over 60 people and all food (sandwiches, pastries, cakes etc) was provided by attendees - agreed in advance. I know the parish council and the PTA put on their own events on the playing fields which were also very popular and well attended. Special thanks to Lorna Dalton, Makala Tillotson and Sue Tribble of the parish council who were due to have the Friday off but leapt into the breach at short notice by providing afternoon teas for thirsty and hungry attendees! These ladies worked their socks off over all 4 days as did so many others I have not named here.

HATOC car parking information

Yellow lines have been installed in Newton Poppleford: No Waiting At Any Time on a specified length of Little Down Orchard to prevent obstructive parking.

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.

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

A massive thank you to all our volunteers. They help us achieve great things, offering their knowledge, time and enthusiasm to make our nature reserves such special places to visit.

To find out more about the work of the Countryside team and volunteering opportunities visit wildeastdevon.co.uk. The team can be contacted via email: wild@eastdevon.gov.uk or phone: 01395 517557.

The Big Plastic Count – 16-22 May 2022

I wonder how many residents took part in this in May? I was disappointed at how many articles were discounted eg the Tektra packs, any single use medical supplies and so on.

I hope many of you signed up for this. The idea was to find out really how much plastic householders are using and recycling each week, and a much bigger investigation into what happens to the plastic we recycle. We are a major polluter of other countries by dumping our plastic onto them. I had to agree for once with Boris Johnson when he said it is not good enough just to recycle plastic, we should be using less in the first place. See the link below for 6 reasons that Boris Johnson was right taken from the Greenpeace website last November 2021.

“Recycling alone is never going to be able to solve our plastic problem – and the UK is a “World Leader” in exacerbating the crisis, generating more household plastic waste per person than any other country except the USA. Plastic is everywhere you look, from our supermarket shelves to our parks and our beaches. We will not be able to recycle our way out of this mess.

Read our six reasons why...

1. *Our plastic is being shipped, dumped and burned.*

Well over half of the plastic waste that Boris's government counts as 'recycled' is actually sent overseas for other countries to deal with. Last year we were exporting 1.8 million kilos of the stuff a DAY, and the countries receiving it can't cope. Take Turkey, our top export location until this summer. Our Government increased exports of plastic here by a factor of 18 between 2016 and 2020, from just 12,000 tonnes in 2016 to a whopping 210,000 tonnes in 2020. Earlier this year, a Greenpeace investigation found evidence of British plastic waste being dumped in fields, near rivers, on train tracks and by the roadside. In many cases, the plastic, which included packaging from seven of the top 10 UK supermarkets, was on fire or had been burned. This can have serious impacts on health.

People living near dump sites in Malaysia and other countries where we send our plastic waste say that plastic pollution and burning plastic are causing respiratory issues such as coughing and difficulty breathing, headaches and itchy, irritated eyes, and are concerned that exposure to these toxic fumes may also be causing problems with menstruation or higher rates of cancer. The consequences of the UK's 'recycled' exports are disproportionately felt by poorer communities and communities of colour. The UK's current approach to plastic waste exports is part of a legacy of environmental racism. It is modern colonialism carried out through wealthy, predominantly white countries dumping toxic pollutants on people who lack the power and resources to resist.

2. Plastic can only be recycled a couple of times

Unlike glass and metal, most plastic can only be recycled once or twice before it becomes unusable. Recycling plastic decreases the length of the polymers that they are made up of. Polymer length determines the strength, flexibility and weight of plastic. The shorter they are, the lower their quality. This common misconception that plastic can be indefinitely recycled has been exploited to justify the continuous overproduction of plastic that no one really wants or needs. Recycling should still be a piece of the puzzle, but it will never be the core solution. Greenpeace is calling for a 50% reduction in single use plastic – that remaining 50% needs to be plastic that we can easily recycle in the UK.

3. We don't have the capacity

Official government stats tell us that the UK's recycling rate in 2019 was 46.2%... but we think this number is in fact far smaller. In the UK we currently are recycling just 230,000 tonnes a year domestically, yet we produce over 5 million tonnes. Something's not adding up! No one knows exactly what happens to all of our household plastic because there's no data on this (yet). However, given our low capacity for recycling here in the UK and the fact that we know much of our exports end up dumped or burned... it's clear that we aren't recycling anywhere near 46%. And even if we were – it still wouldn't be good enough

4. There's too much

Nearly 370 million tonnes of plastic is created globally annually, 8 million of which end up in our oceans (the equivalent of one truck load every minute of every day of the year). On top of that, despite all our best efforts – switching to reusable water bottles, (almost) always remembering to bring reusable bags out to the shop, and of course... recycling – plastic production is actually set to quadruple by 2050. Whilst it's undoubtedly important that we properly deal with plastic once it's no longer useful (i.e. NOT dumping or burning or shipping to other countries to deal with), the bigger problem is that the amount of plastic currently being produced is completely unmanageable.

5. It's not cost effective

Most types of plastic are recyclable. However whether or not they actually are recycled tends to rely on economic and technical factors. For example, soft plastics (like salad/bread packaging) are extremely hard to recycle and there is a limited market for them. No market demand = no money to be made from recycling them = not gonna happen. Therefore, what we end up with is plastic that is theoretically recyclable not being recycled because it's not commercially viable. The Government needs to stop delaying our long awaited Deposit Return Scheme. By adding value to worthless 'throwaway' plastic, DRS could help recover over an estimated 8 billion drinks containers wasted in the UK every year. What's even better is that since these schemes keep plastic in much better condition, DRS can be used to collect reusable packaging!

6. Fossil fuel companies are using it as justification to extract more oil and gas

Plastic is made predominantly from oil and gas – and it's no secret how bad that is for the environment. Fossil fuel companies that are infamous for destroying our planet (think ExxonMobil, Shell, etc) are now heavily investing in the petrochemical chemicals that can be derived from oil, such as those used to make plastic. Industry as a plan B to justify their dirty, extractive destructive ways. In fact, petrochemicals will account for more than a third of the growth in world oil demand by 2030, and nearly half of the growth by 2050. This is why we need to shift the focus to the other R's – reduce and reuse. We can't continue over producing non-essential plastic under the false pretense that we can recycle our way out of the colossal plastic crisis.

So no... we don't think recycling is working either. Now, this may sound bleak but don't stop doing your bit. Recycling is still part of the solution. What's important to note is that no one wants all this non-essential plastic, it is forced upon us. We need to transition to a system of reduction and reuse, which would allow us to stop exporting our plastic and manage what we produce in the UK. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, this more circular economy could also be worth up to US\$10 billion!

We know that at least 85% of people in the UK want the government and retailers to cut the amount of plastic packaging. They have the power to sort this out now... so what is Boris waiting for? The long awaited Environment Bill, The Environment Bill, is meant to be the UK's new post-Brexit framework for protecting and enhancing the environment. It will introduce new rules, regulations and targets on issues from biodiversity to air quality to plastic pollution. will give the government new powers to set legally binding targets, including on waste. The PM needs to turn his rhetoric into action and take this chance to set a target to reduce single-use plastic by 50% by 2025. The bill also gives the government powers to limit the export of plastic waste, which they should use to stop the export of plastic waste completely.

[Six reasons why Boris Johnson is right about recycling | Greenpeace UK](#)

EDDC have their own Plastic Free Challenge week

Monday, 6 June 2022 marked the start of our #PlasticFreeEastDevon challenge. Apologies for not including this in last months report. This is what the website said:

Throughout this week we have been posting different ways you can re-use the single-use plastics we use every day and we want you to join in - it's not too late!

#PlasticFreeWeek is a personal challenge, but is part of a district effort – for our oceans, for cleaner streets and for our planet. We invite you to take part in our plastic free challenge. You can make a real difference!

Check out some of the highlights of the week!

Monday's #SwapOfTheDay was for all our coffee lovers.

Instead of countless single-use coffee cups, invest in a reusable one and the discounts will come rolling in!

Check out the savings you could make when bringing a reusable cup to your favourite coffee shops:

- Caffe Nero - buy five drinks, get one free
- Costa – buy four drinks, get one free

- Starbucks - 25p off
- Pret a Manger - 50p off
- Greggs - 20p off
- M&S café - 25p off

(NB – My favourite coffee shops are the independents, not the national chains) *On Thursday's #SwapOfTheDay, we wanted you to see how much you could save by buying loose fruit, vegetables and bread rather than packaged produce at your local supermarket.*

To trial it out, here's what we found:

- Pack of five bananas – 77p
- Five loose bananas – 39p
- = Saving of 38p
- Pre-packaged broccoli stalk – 98p
- Loose broccoli of around the same size – 41p
- = Saving of 57p

So buying #PlasticFree does not only help our planet, it also saves you money too. You'd be silly not to try yourself!

Latest vacancies at East Devon District Council [visit our jobs website](#)

Following up from last months article on working for EDDC, here are the jobs being advertised in early June 2022. Search for the reference via the online link above. I have included a very short description of the latest roles advertised at the bottom of the list but there is more information on the website especially about the skills you will need to have to be eligible for interview.

Wildlife Warden

01-06-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED007123P

Salary: £22,129 per annum

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

Cleansing Operative

31-05-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED009332P

Location: Exmouth

Salary: £19,264 - £20,444 per year

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

Property Lawyer and Planning Lawyer (2 posts)

31-05-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED002057P and ED002058P

Location: Honiton/Exmouth

Salary: Up to £43,853 including Market Supplement

Package: Generous Leave, flexitime, LGPS pension, Flexible working; see benefits for complete list

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

Maintenance Technician

27-05-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED003345P

Salary: £22,129 - £23,484 per annum

Package:

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

Building Cleaner

27-05-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED009386P

Location: Honiton/Exmouth

Salary: £19,264 - £20,444 pro rata per annum

Contractual hours: 22

Basis: Part time

Service Lead - Environmental Health

01-06-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED005005P

Location: Honiton/Exmouth

Salary: £55,000 - £63,503 + benefits

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

Animal Health and Licensing Officer

15-06-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED005071P

Location:

Salary: £26,446 - £29,174 per year

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

Dog Enforcement Officer

15-06-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED005072P

Description:

About the role: As part of the Environmental Protection team you will play a key role in promoting compliance with legislation with specific responsibility for dogs and animal welfare including the encouragement of responsible ownership, animal control and welfare, dog fouling, strays and nuisance dogs. You will work closely with other agencies to participate in, develop and implement innovative solutions to the issues.

Salary: £22,129 - £23,484 per year

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

Maintenance Technician (StreetScene)

13-06-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED008013P

Description:

About the role: As a Maintenance Technician, you will be responsible for undertaking repairs and maintenance on StreetScene managed land and buildings which will include carpentry, painting and decorating, basic plumbing, and general handyman duties. The work is varied and you will carry out a range of tasks that include; basic repairs in public toilets, installation of memorial benches, fixing

health and safety defects, installing fencing, carrying out building maintenance, and other external works.

Region: West

Location: Exmouth

Salary: £22,129 - £23,484 per year

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

StreetScene Area Officer (Grounds Maintenance and Cleansing)

13-06-2022 01:00 AM BST

Reference: ED009204P

Description:

About the role: Leading and co-ordinating the efforts of the StreetScene teams assigned to you, your role is to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of our public realm and open spaces, with health and safety at that heart of everything we do. Your remit involves everything from grounds maintenance and fly tipping to street/beach cleaning and supporting our events teams to deliver functions in the East of our district. You will be responsible for ensuring your teams are equipped to carry out their roles (through allocation of appropriate resources and training) whilst working to budget and deadlines. You will also play a critical role in building and maintaining positive relations with various community stakeholders and elected members as well as motivating your multi-skilled teams and supporting them through continual change.

Region: West

Location: Exmouth

Salary: £26,446 - £29,174 per year

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

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.

Free workshops being held on applying for grants in East Devon

Are you part of an East Devon voluntary, community or social enterprise group? Do you need help with applying for grants? If so, Devon Communities Together are working with East Devon District Council (EDDC) to run two **FREE** workshops that could help you.

These 'Writing Winning Funding Applications' workshops will cover how to write applications to grant providers which are eligible, to the point, comprehensive, engaging and more likely to be successful.

Each workshop will cover the same material, so you only need attend one or the other. Both events are only for groups based in East Devon.

They will be:

- Monday, 11 July from 2pm to 4.30pm. This will be a Zoom online event, [book here](#).
- Wednesday, 13 July from 2pm to 4.30pm. This will be an in person event at EDDC's main offices in Honiton, for those that prefer face to face training. Places at this event will be limited, so [book early here](#).

These workshops are free through a grant from EDDC and are also supported by New Start Devon Enterprise Coaching, a European funded project of Devon Communities Together.

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

"Grant funding is becoming an almost essential tool for the continual delivery of our vital community, voluntary and social enterprise sector across East Devon. These workshops will give groups the necessary tools to boost their chances of success in applying for grants and hopefully ensure future delivery of these groups for years to come."

The workshops will be facilitated by Hannah Reynolds, Project Manager for Devon Communities Together, who has a background as a National Lottery Grants Officer and funding adviser.

More Information

Jamie Buckley – East Devon District Council: Email JBuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk or call 01395 517569.

Hannah Reynolds – Devon Communities Together:
Email: hannah.reynolds@devoncommunities.org.uk or call 07985 488177.

Improving Road safety in Newton Poppleford petition - still open

This petition is available online using Change.org but there are also paper versions of the petition available. Gill Cameron-Webb collected more signatures outside of Newton Poppleford School prior to the petition being presented with over 700 signatures to Devon County Council on 8th June at a meeting attended by Cllr Jess Bailey and Mrs Cameron-Webb. Having previously stated that Newton Poppleford would be put forward as a site for the new 20 mph zones and improved crossing places, Cllr Stuart Hughes has now stated that over 100 villages are being considered so competition will be fierce to be in the first tranche of these and it remains to be seen exactly how they will determine which few villages win their bids for this work and the criteria they are judged against.

Many thanks to the venues who have been holding and promoting the paper petitions, look out for more around the village and please do sign if you are interested in supporting improved safety measures in our village.

Changes to vehicle restrictions at your local recycling centres

From Monday 4th July 2022 a van permit system will come into force at Knowle Hill (Exmouth), Sutton Barton (Honiton) and Sidmouth Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

The HWRC van permit system will require DCC residents with privately registered panel vans (both small and large van size) or flat-bed vans to apply free of charge for a permit in order to access the two sites. The van must comply with the [vehicle restrictions policy](#). The system has been in operation at Exton Road and Pinbrook Road HWRCs (both Exeter) since the beginning of April.

DCC residents can apply from Monday 13th June for their free van permit online or via a postal application. The permit will allow for 12 visits per year. Permits will only be issued to vans registered to individual residents and not to vehicles registered to companies/businesses.

*Cars, pick-ups, bicycles, motorcycles, fully-fitted campervans and minibuses, mobility type vans designed to carry people in wheelchairs, van-based people carriers/family type vans (with factory/professionally fitted seats and windows in the rear for carrying passengers) **will not require a permit**. Vans hired to a householder from a legitimate hire company (for a hire period of less than 3 days) will also not require a permit, providing that the hire agreement is shown to site staff. Those vehicles which do not require a permit must still comply with the [vehicle restrictions policy](#).*

From Monday, residents can apply for a permit and view all the information (including the terms and conditions) on the [van permit scheme](#) webpage on our website. Alternatively, residents can call the Customer Service Centre on 0345 155 1010 for further information.

I have been asked to direct enquiries regarding the van permit system to Devon County Council's Customer Service Centre by calling 0345 155 1010

Here are the standard restrictions that must still be adhered to:

[Site user restrictions](#)

Recycling centre facilities are available only to householders delivering their own household waste.

Waste from the following groups/premises/activities is **not accepted** at recycling centres:

- Landlords disposing of waste from rental properties.
- Parish/District/County Councils or council premises.
- Educational or medical establishments.
- Charity shops, charitable organisations and premises (except where otherwise agreed in writing with DCC).
- Any club, society or other association of persons (including allotment organisations).
- Religious establishments.
- Prisons or probation service.
- Agricultural holdings, including small holdings and paddocks (excluding waste from the farmhouse itself).
- Waste from shops, businesses, traders including business waste associated with people working from home.
- Removal firms.
- 'Man and van' or house clearance operators.
- Waste from rented holiday homes/holiday lets/campsites/caravan parks.
- Fly-tipped waste (unless delivered by the district council with prior agreement from DCC).

Also see [Chargeable waste](#).

[Vehicle restriction policy](#)

The vehicles listed below **will not be permitted** at any recycling centre in order to keep unloading times to a minimum and to ensure sites have enough capacity to serve as many people as possible, to improve site safety and tackle abuse by trade/commercial users:

- **Any vehicle over 3.5 tonnes gross weight** (including hire vehicles).
- **Any vehicle over 6m in length** (including hire vehicles).
- **Any vehicle tipping.**
- **Box vans/Luton vans including [horse box vans](#)** (with the exception of vehicles hired to a householder from a legitimate hire company for a hire period of less than 3 days and appropriate documentation can be produced).
- **Any trailers over 3m (10 feet) internal/body length***.
- **Large vans (Transit size) and pick-up vehicles** are not permitted towing any trailer of any size** (fully fitted camper vans/fully fitted minibuses*** are excluded from this restriction).
- **Tractors/Agricultural machinery.**
- **Vans which do not comply with the [van permit system](#).** Please see below for further information.

* trailer size limit at Maclins Quarry, South Molton is 1.8m internal/body length due to the very small and restricted nature of the site.

** Pick-up truck/vehicle – a vehicle having an enclosed cab (or enclosed double cab) and a separate rear cargo area with a tailgate. The rear cargo area may or may not be enclosed.

***A minibus will only be considered 'fully fitted' if it has professionally fitted seats from the front to the rear of the vehicle which must be in their original position and upright.

[Van permit system](#)

Vans require a permit to access the following Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs):

- [Exton Road \(Exeter\)](#)
- [Pinbrook Road \(Exeter\)](#)
- [Knowle Hill \(Exmouth\)](#) – from 4th July 2022
- [Sutton Barton \(Honiton\)](#) – from 4th July 2022
- [Sidmouth](#) – from 4th July 2022
- [Brunel Road \(Newton Abbot\)](#) – from 4th July 2022

The van permit system is open for applications.

If you are intending to visit any of these HWRCs in a van, please ensure you have checked whether your van requires a permit.

Please see [van permit system](#) for all information.

Code of Conduct – Register of Interests training

All Cllrs have until 24th June to update their register of interests for the year. This includes registering Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) (these are matters where a councillor might be affected financially by a decision) and registration of other interests (ROI). The ROI is important where a councillor might be affected more than the average person. In either case the cllr should not take part in a discussion at EDDC nor vote of the matter. Cllrs are allowed to speak as a member of the public, not in their capacity as a cllr but must still be mindful of the above. The code is very new and will take some time to adjust to for some cllrs but should make openness and transparency more clear.

Examples of where some feel the Register of Interests needed to be changed are in planning matters for example, where a cllr owns land close to where planning applications are active and the decision affects family members either financially or personally, or they are friends of the applicant and are also on the planning committee and have undue influence on whether an application is approved or not.

As the current administration have raised concerns about cllrs not declaring their interests, there has been a noticeable rise this year in interests being declared and it only goes to highlight how many interests were not disclosed historically as some of us always suspected. For some councillors one wonders how they will ever be able to vote on an application in their ward when they or their family own so much land in the area.

Another area of concern was the recent leakage of documents to a journalist from a Part B meeting which is a clear breach of the Code of Conduct.

Handling of Petitions by EDDC

This matter was debated at the Scrutiny meeting on 9th June 2022. Three separate petitions were circulating in Sidmouth recently with regard to the rise in car parking charges. The three were worded slightly differently by different authors. EDDC sets the number of signatures needed to be debated by different committees, that is whether the petition should go to Cabinet, or Full council or not reach the threshold at all. There is a lot of background work to this counting of signatures and requires all signers to provide their postcode. For example, a number of signers of the online petition lived in Australia or other countries where they would rarely be affected by the content of the petition. Some people signed all versions of the petitions and thus it was important to ensure they were not double or triple counted as legitimate. The scope of the debate was not the charges

themselves for car parking but whether the process of handling petitions was fair, whether there had been sufficient consultation, had equality issues been taken into account etc.. It was also suggested that EDDC should have its own petition area online to ensure it met all criteria. Some Cllrs felt it is really important to have both paper and online versions and others felt all participants should have their details entered online even if that was by cllrs collecting signatures on their ipads, to reduce the amount of manual work officers have to be in checking if everyone who signed the petition was eligible to do so. The matter was referred back to Cabinet as advised by the EDDC Monitoring Officer.

Local Housing needs - training and information session

This was a really useful and interesting training session for councillors. More next month.

Aquabatix - free introduction to Synchronised Swimming for under 16s



LED are excited to share with you details of a new Junior Swimming Class that they will be launching at Exmouth Leisure Centre - Aquabatix.

It is essentially an introduction to synchronised swimming and will attract swimmers, gymnasts, dancers and any young person wanting to try something new. There are a few prerequisites:

- *Must be a competent swimmer - we are suggesting Stage 4 and above, but if you aren't taking lessons with LED then it is ESSENTIAL you are comfortable in deep water and "competent swimmers"*
- *Under 16s only (if popular, we will look to run an Adult class)*
- *Lower age guide is 7. If anyone younger is keen we just need to check their swimming ability i.e. if they are in Stage 4 or above in our lessons*

(Apologies that the 'taster session ran in June but there is still time to contact Exmouth Pool if you or a family member are interested).

We hope these sessions will be popular, and that we can continue to run them on a weekly basis. If so, the sessions will be bookable each week, like the Junior Activities (e.g. gymnastics) and they will be included in the Junior Swim membership (NOT Get Active).

Local Matters

[Joney's Cross Footpath closure and re-opening.](#)

It was agreed at an EDDC planning committee meeting that a footpath at Joney's cross from the car park to the A3052 that Clinton Devon Estates proposed to block off, should remain open to allow users to cross the A3052 more safely. However, Clinton Devon Estates went ahead and closed it by blocking it off completely anyway. Luckily a colleague on the Colaton Raleigh Parish Council David Smith, noticed this and pursued it through EDDC and me and the EDDC enforcement officer has now confirmed that the path is re-opened.

Disabled Car Parking Space

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), the bay is not conveniently placed on this narrow and busy section of School Lane and I will be working with the householder to have this removed or relocated to a more suitable location.

Upgrading of local council houses by the occupants

I was asked whether there is any financial support for this. More on this next month.

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
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Job opportunities at East Devon District Council