



# NEWTON POPPLEFORD & HARPORD PARISH COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2014

Available on the website +++ Emailed on request to: [newtonpopplefordcouncilnews@gmail.com](mailto:newtonpopplefordcouncilnews@gmail.com)  
Collect your own from boxes on Parish Council Noticeboards.  
[www.newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk](http://www.newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk)



### COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Due to the recent resignation of the Chairman of the Parish Council there is now a vacancy in the Harpford ward. Please see the noticeboards or the website for details of how to apply.



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### CODE OF CONDUCT IS FOR EVERYONE!

It is worrying to see how grown people sometimes behave when attending meetings of the parish council. The parish council (and hence all councillors) has adopted a Code of Conduct which requires courtesy and respect to all, and specifically precludes making defamatory comments about others; the same standards should apply to members of the public - in other words, good manners should be the usual standard followed by everyone.

Please **don't** follow the example of our MPs' behaviour at the House of Commons, especially during Prime Minister's Questions! Even there, if an MP calls another 'a liar' then that MP must immediately retract and apologise, or will be suspended from the House by the Speaker. MPs have the benefit of immunity through Parliamentary Privilege - which does not apply to Parish Councils.

Bear in mind that it is not unknown for legal action to be taken for slander (and libel if the comments are distributed in writing) - even at parish council level.

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### WHICH PLAN IS WHICH?

In recent months there has been discussion about the plans that are being developed at different levels of local government to guide the future of the area at District and Parish levels. From this has arisen some confusion which we now attempt to clarify:

**Local Plan:** This is the plan currently under development by **East Devon District Council** which will apply to the whole of East Devon. There are many component sections to this, including the 'Villages Plan'. Planning for the villages uses information from the Parish Councils and their Parish Plans as a basis for each village. The Local Plan was submitted to the government's Local Plan Inspector in August 2013; following this a number of Post-Publication Changes have been submitted. So far the Local Plan has been through 5 consultation stages and is currently undergoing a further consultation.

**Villages Plan:** This is a part of the Local Plan that applies to each of the villages and can be seen either at EDDC's offices, some libraries, or by downloading from the EDDC website (N.B. This is a large document; the part relating to the NP&H starts around page 137. There are several other documents about the villages available on the EDDC website, most of which are worthy of careful reading.)

**Parish Plan (PP):** This is a plan developed by each town or parish and pertains only to that town or parish. Residents of the community are consulted by questionnaire and various open session consultation days; from those results the written plan is produced. The Parish Council decided that a Parish Plan for this parish was needed and this was developed between 2010 and 2012, with the final public review and feedback in January 2012. The Plan was formally adopted by the Parish Council in September 2012, and by EDDC in December 2012.

**Neighbourhood Plan (NP):** This is a later version of the Parish Plan, and was introduced by government around 2011. In order for any Neighbourhood Plans or Orders to be adopted they will need to conform with planning policies and guidance at the local, national and

European level. More detail about NPs can be seen in EDDC's Local Plan, starting at page 243 (and in many other places on the internet). If/when a Neighbourhood Plan is produced for this parish it will supersede the Parish Plan.

*Previous types of plan sometimes referenced:*

**Village Design Statement (VDS):** This was the early means - starting around year 2000 - by which communities could make a clear statement of their wishes about the design of new development in their areas. A VDS could relate to a whole town, village or parish, or sometimes to a specific section of a larger area. The VDS was superseded by the Parish Plan around 2003. No VDS was produced for this parish.

**Local Development Framework:** The LDF was introduced at District Level around 2008 to replace the Local Plan which had previously been produced, but the naming was later changed (yet again) by government decree to be a Local Plan. Confusing or what?

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### THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

As everyone will be aware, the NHS is under pressure to reduce costs while maintaining and improving services - a serious challenge!

One of the areas under review is how the community hospitals may be best used. The local Trust cannot afford to keep very small wards open in all the community hospitals so one possibility is to reduce the number of locations but increase the number of beds in others (achieving economy of scale - better/more staffing, more skills etc.). Result: possibly no beds in some hospitals, but retaining the same number of beds overall as at present. Money saved from closing some of these smaller wards would enable improved and increased services in people's own homes under the Transforming Community Services Programme which includes and emphasises improved service provision in people's own homes. The well-received 'hospital at home' scheme, piloted in the Woodbury/Exmouth/Budleigh (WEB) area, is one of the models amongst others being tested out over the last couple of years. These schemes are all intended to provide better care for people in their own home, thus avoiding hospitalisation or returning earlier home with all necessary health and social care support.

Budleigh Salterton has already decided to change their hospital from a conventional one and to become a 'Community Hub' instead. This

means it will have no in-patient beds, but will instead provide day care services (for the elderly and/or dementia services) and a number of specialised facilities such as physiotherapy, geriatric clinic, audiology and podiatry, a dementia-specific area, community nursing, practice nurse, perhaps a cafe and community meeting rooms. This will be supported by a patient/community transport hub.

Consultations with the public are and will be conducted. Please watch the website and let Shân Merritt know if you are interested in taking part in future meetings/consultations.

With many possibilities under discussion, our community hospitals are likely to change, but residents will have an opportunity to influence the direction.

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### MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Whilst some councillors and members of the public would like the minutes of meetings to be more or less a verbatim record, this is neither possible nor reasonable. Recent versions of minutes have been highly detailed, but these seem to lead instead to confusion rather than clarity.

Your attention is directed to the 'bible' for parish councils: Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration - Page 65:

*7.36 Minutes of proceedings of a council and of its committees must be kept. They are intended to be formal records of official acts and decisions, not reports, still less verbatim reports, of the speeches made by councillors. Minutes should, therefore, be as short as is consistent with clarity and accuracy, and the arguments used in the discussion need only be recorded if the decision cannot be clearly expressed in any other way. Short simple minutes are less likely to be defamatory than long reports.*

The council's minutes are becoming HOURS! Maybe audio recording is the way for the future? - although this could in itself lead to all sorts of other issues.



## PROTECT YOUR EMAIL CONTACT LIST!

It seems that an increasing number of people are falling victim to spoof emails and hacking that can insert viruses onto your computer and may sometimes steal your contact list. If notified soon enough, some service providers can recover your contacts list and restore this to your computer . . . But wouldn't it be better if you had a backup ready?

Check your email set-up: Email services usually provide the option to 'export' the list to another operator or to print out the list. I strongly recommend that you use one of these and keep your contacts records safe.

**TIP:** I have done this, but instead of printing out the very large list I copied it into an Excel spreadsheet, so it's available to print if I wish or to view on the computer.

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## COMMEMORATION OF WORLD WAR 1

The Parish Council has been asked to arrange one or more events to commemorate the outbreak of WW1. At time of writing the form of the commemoration has not been decided, but is likely to be late July/early August (Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914).

If you have any **ideas or suggestions** for a suitable commemoration please contact either the Clerk or any Councillor as soon as possible.

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## HIMALAYAN BALSAM

After three years of effort trying to keep Back Brook and the river clear of this plant, the Parish team have made good progress and want to continue from where we left off last season.

We are looking to set up a database of volunteers to help in the Parish effort to help clear this weed, not only in the Back Brook but Harpford and other local locations as well. Work will not start until about next June, but we need to get more people helping us this coming season. We will try to arrange sessions to suit everyone's spare time, but please do try to help. Even if you can only make one session it would be much appreciated.

If you feel you can contribute to our efforts, or would like to discuss what is involved, then do please get in contact.

Telephone **Ted Swan** on 01395 567450 or email at [swanstandg@btinternet.com](mailto:swanstandg@btinternet.com)

## COUNCIL TAX 2014/15

Overall fairly good news for our council tax bills. The increases are finalised as follows:

Devon County Council	1.99%
East Devon District Council	0.00%
Parish Council	0.00%
Devon & Cornwall Police Authority	1.99%
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue	1.99%
<b>Overall Increase:</b>	<b>1.80%</b>

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## DO NOT CALL THESE DIALLING CODES: **0809 0284 0876** THESE ARE SCAM PHONE NUMBERS

Do not fall foul of a telephone marketing scam that could cost thousands. It has been reported that scammers leave a polite voice message on the voicemail asking people to call them back, sometimes saying a family member is ill, has died or been arrested.

The number is prefixed with **0809, 0284 or 0876** but you are warned that allegedly these numbers are registered in the Dominican Republic and are apparently charged at up to **£1,500 per minute** to you. Because you actually made the call, neither your local phone company nor the long-distance carrier will want to get involved and will most likely tell you that they are simply providing the billing for the foreign company. You will end up dealing with a foreign company that argues they have done nothing wrong.

As a general recommendation, do not respond to any approaches that ask you to call them back, or want any bank or credit card information - you will almost certainly lose out financially!

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## CYBER CRIME

A new interactive website provides advice and support to protect you against the rise of cyber crime. The threat to all that use electronic communication is rising; homes and businesses are targets. Check out the advice on:

[www.cyberstreetwise.com](http://www.cyberstreetwise.com)

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## OTTERY COMMUNITY MARKET

The next dates for this monthly market in The Institute are: **29 March, 26 April, 31 May, 28 June, 26 July, 30 August, 27 September, 25 October, 22 November, 13 December.**

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## DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

DCC is looking for input on the future of the county.  
To participate go to:

<http://new.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay>

Topics currently under review include:

- \* Heritage Trust for Devon & Somerset
- \* Youth Services

There are also consultations on aspects of residential care, adult social care, meals services.

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## LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS

Most people will know Dave Wallace, who has been our Beat Officer for a number of years. Dave now has extra support in the form of 2 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). These are PCSO Chris Bolsover and PCSO Steve Blanchford-Cox. If you need to contact one of them please use the new non-emergency phone number: **101**

They can also be contacted by email:

**sidmouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk**

Of course, in any emergency always call **999**.



## COUNCILLORS AS AT MARCH 2014

Name	Tel.	Address	Ward
<b>PARISH COUNCILLORS</b>			
Jean Clarke	01395 568815	Thornlea, Exeter Rd, Newton Pop EX10 0BJ	N Pop
Maureen Cook	01395 568348	24 Littledown Orchard, Newton Pop EX10 0BQ	N Pop
Dave Jeffery	01395 568897	Old Orchard, Burrow EX10 0BP	N Pop
George Pearce	01395 568571	25 Turner Close, Newton Pop EX10 0EN	N Pop
Graham Salter	0798 0798 628	Little Shule, Farthings Lane, High Street EX10 0BU	N Pop
Ed Slattery	01395 567111	7 Down Close, Newton Pop, EX10 0JD	N Pop
Bill Phillips	01395 567786	7 Chestnut Way, Newton Poppleford EX10	Harpford
Hazel Jeffery	01395 567821	The Stables, Hoppins, Southerton, EX11 1SD	Harpford
Vacancy			Harpford
Makala Tillotson	01395 567961	Badger Close Newton Pop EX10	Harpford
Chris Cole - Vice Chair	01395 567621	Court Barn, Southerton EX11 1SE	Venn Ottery
<b>County Cllr</b> Christine Channon	01395 442927	12 Cricket Field Court, Cricket Field Lane, Budleigh Salterton	N/A
<b>District Cllr</b> Ken Potter	01395 567147	Bayford Lodge, Exmouth Road, Newton Pop	N/A
<b>Clerk to Council</b> David Atkins	01395 264003	Potters, Lympstone Hill, Exmouth EX8 5AF <a href="mailto:parishclerk@newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk">parishclerk@newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk</a>	N/A
<b>Local Police Officers</b> PC Dave Wallace PCSOs Chris Bolsover & Steve Blanchford-Cox	101	Our beat Officers can be contacted by email on <a href="mailto:sidmouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk">sidmouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk</a>	N/A
<b>Website &amp; Newsletter</b> Shân Merritt	01404 812733	Venn Ottery Barton, Venn Ottery, EX11 1RZ <a href="mailto:webmaint@newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk">webmaint@newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk</a>	N/A
<b>Village Hall booking</b>	01395 568571	Janey Drake	N/A
<b>Pavilion</b> David Zirker	01395 567430	Brookfields, Venn Ottery Rd.	N/A

## NEXT BLOOD DONOR SESSIONS

Next sessions will be held as follows:

Ottery Football Club 7/5/14 & 11/7/14

Budleigh Salt'n Public Hall 14/5/14

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## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN

East Devon District Council's council tax is frozen for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row! It is the lowest council tax in Devon and still provides a balanced budget for 2014/2015.

East Devon District Council's plan for the period to 2026 is currently being reviewed by the Government Inspector and it will be good for us all when this is finally approved and adopted.

It is great that spring has arrived and, hopefully, some sunshine!

*Ken Potter - District Councillor*

The Parish Council meets monthly, with additional or interim meetings as necessary.

The monthly meetings are held on the last Monday of each month - check noticeboards/website for details and agendas. Correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk to the Council.