

## Band get store cash handout

SIDMOUTH Town Band has gratefully received £260 as part of Waitrose's Community Matters Scheme.

Musical director Adrian Harvey (pictured left) and band secretary Hilary Costa picked up a cheque from the store's Sasha Hargrave (right).

Members expressed their thanks to shoppers who chose to benefit the cause.

The band relies on the generosity of the local community.

It has now started its summer season of concerts in Connaught Gardens, which run every Sunday at 8pm until September 1.



▲ Sidmouth Town Band got a cash boost from Waitrose

# Concern over planning move

DISTRICT councillors fear a 'democratic deficit' if plans go ahead to allow unelected officers to decide the fate of so-called 'departure' planning applications.

Staff at East Devon District Council (EDDC) could make a behind-closed-doors call on matters which do not conform with national guidelines - to help lighten the load for members.

But town and parish representatives could still object and ask that the matters be referred to the development management committee (DMC).

Councillor Roger Giles expressed concern at the potential move and said: "I don't know where it's come from but it's going to have a detrimental effect on all of us - it's profoundly undemocratic."

"It's giving officers the power to change the constitution - only the full council can approve changes."

The proposals are to have officers consider applications which depart from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - the introduction of which has increased the workload of the DMC. EDDC chief executive Mark Williams said: "It's for minor or inconsequential

decisions - I don't see any problem." Cllr Eileen Wragg questioned the classification: "What would be minor to one person might be of considerable importance to others."

An EDDC spokesman said: "In order to continue complying with the NPPF, some developments now have to be treated as 'departures' from EDDC's existing Local Plan, some elements of which do not accord with latest Coalition policy."

"These minor and technical 'departures' now need to be determined by the DMC even though officers and the relevant ward members may agree on the recommendation."

"To avoid going through this time-consuming and inefficient activity, the proposal was that such departures - for example barn conversions - should be determined under delegated powers at a meeting with the DMC chairman."

"It should be stressed that ward members and town and parish councils would still be consulted and, if they disagree with the officer's recommendation, the item could still go to committee."

The proposal was discussed at the EDDC annual meeting last month.

## Village fete set for visitors

SIDBURY'S village fete will attract scores of visitors tomorrow (Saturday, June 15), organisers hope.

The fun starts at 2pm with music and entertainment and games including a human fruit machine, pig racing and a dog show.

There will be two bouncy castles - for over eights and under eights - and fun races for children.

Ice creams and a barbecue will be on hand, with teas served separately in the

village hall throughout the afternoon.

Plants, flowers, soft fruit and vegetables, cakes and bottles of all varieties will all be there, as will clothes, books, CDs, DVDs, jewellery and gifts.

Fete goers can try their luck with the soft toy tombola or the grand draw - offering many attractive prizes alongside the first prize of £50.

Entrance is 50pence for adults and children get in for free.

The event is sponsored by Stags.

**PETER BETTERIDGE**  
THE BED & SOFA EXPERT  
A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS SINCE 1972

COMFORT Range  
HYPNOS

VI SPRING

The Aintree

Cash National

**AMAZING DEALS AT SALE PRICES**

JENSEN

COMULY

**DOUBLE AWARD WINNER**  
Customer Service Award & Lifetime Achievement Award

The Bed Expert Exeter  
1 Paris Street (opp John Lewis)  
Tel: 01392 255999

The Bed Expert Honiton  
115 High Street  
Tel: 01404 549992

The Bed Expert Kingsbridge  
30 Fore Street  
Tel: 01548 853503

The Sofa Expert Kingsbridge  
60 Fore Street  
Tel: 01548 852041

peterbetteridge.co.uk • countrywide delivery

# B Mobile

SALE

## Second-hand mobility scooter clearance

All Fully Serviced  
and with  
24 hour  
Breakdown  
cover

01395 260075

1 & 2 Brixington Parade, Exmouth EX8 4JS

East Devon's Premier Mobility Provider

bmobileinexmouth.com