

Mr Phill Twamley  
East Devon District Council  
The Knowle  
Sidmouth  
Devon  
EX10 8HL

**Our ref:** DC/2006/000243/AP-  
33/PO2-L01  
**Your ref:**  
**Date:** 17 October 2018

Dear Mr Twamley

### **Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 16 Consultation**

Thank you for your consultation of 04 September 2018 in respect of the above.

We support the neighbourhood plan's objective to protect, conserve and enhance the special natural environment assets around Exmouth. Similarly we welcome the range of environmental policies set out in the draft plan. In particular we are supportive of policies **EN2** regarding the protection and expansion of the Bapton and Withycombe valley parks and **EN3** which seeks to create a green corridor at land along the Littleham Brook. We are pleased to see recognition of the wide ranging benefits that green infrastructure provides including recreational, amenity, wildlife and flood risk management benefits. Green spaces can also help in protecting water quality.

We are pleased that the neighbourhood plan (Natural Environment paragraph 2) acknowledges the objectives of the Water Framework and Bathing Waters directives. The plan notes that the Exe Estuary is presently at Moderate Ecological Status and is failing with regard Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (indicative of high nutrient levels) and due to heavily modified nature of parts of the estuary. It acknowledges New development must not cause deterioration from the present status and opportunities to achieve a good status should be sought. With this in mind we support policy **EN5** which will require surface water controlled so as to not cause harm to the surrounding environment, wildlife or water quality.

We are strongly supportive of the plan's flood risk management objectives, in particular the requirement for new development to contribute towards alleviating flood risk across the town wherever possible. Likewise we support the flood risk related policies **EN6** (regarding sustainable drainage), **EN7** (regarding safeguarding of flood defences) and **EN8** (regarding natural flood management. The related community actions are also supported. The plan also acknowledges that the programme of flood and coastal erosion risk management investment from 2015-2021 includes an Exmouth Tidal

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Defence scheme. More information on the investment programme is available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/programme-of-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-schemes>.

Yours sincerely

**MARCUS SALMON**  
**Sustainable Places Planning Specialist**

