

Mr Timothy Spurway  
East Devon District Council  
The Knowle  
Sidmouth  
Devon  
EX10 8HL

**Our ref:** DC/2006/000243/AP-  
18/IS1-L01  
**Your ref:**  
**Date:** 19 June 2015

Dear Mr Spurway

## **APPLICATION TO DESIGNATE A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA FOR COLYTON PARISH**

Thank you for your consultation of 12 June 2015 providing us with the opportunity to comment on the above designation request.

We have no objections to this application to designate the parish as a neighbourhood plan area. However, at this early stage in the neighbourhood planning process we would like to take this opportunity to highlight the environmental constraints that are likely to need further consideration as the plan develops.

The floodplains associated with the Offwell Brook, River Coly and Umborne Brook puts parts of the parish at risk of flooding. Whilst the majority of existing development in the settlement is located outside of these areas the northern and north-western parts of Colyton are shown on the Flood Map to be at risk and to have recorded flood history. In line with the National Planning Policy Framework we would seek any new development to be directed to areas outside Flood Zone 3 (High probability) and Flood Zone 2 (Medium probability). Any new development which has to be located in these flood zones would need to be safe for its lifetime (including allowance for Climate Change), not increase flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, reduce flood risk over all.

In addition, we would be looking for new development to manage surface water drainage on site through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems to ensure that surface water flooding risks are not increased and, where possible, are reduced. Nonetheless, please note that Devon County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, is now the lead authority for surface water matters.

With regard to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive the water bodies in the parish are not presently at Good Ecological Status. The Offwell Brook is at Poor

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Ecological Status and is failing with regard to macrophytes, phytobenthos and phosphate. The Lower Coly is also at Poor Ecological Status and is failing with regard to fish. The Upper Coly is at Moderate Ecological Status and is failing with regard to phosphate. The Umborne Brook is also at Moderate Ecological Status and is failing with regard to macrophytes and phytobenthos. It is the target for these water-bodies to meet Good Ecological Status by 2027. Therefore, any new development must not cause deterioration from the present status and the Neighbourhood Plan should seek opportunities to meet the desired status.

We also recommend that the plan references the Catchment Based Approach; not necessarily how the plan ties in with the East Devon Catchment Partnership but at a more local scale what consideration will be given to the environment up and down stream of the area.

We would welcome further consultation on the next stage of your plan to identify any opportunities to deliver positive outcomes for shared priorities through it.

Yours sincerely

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