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**From:** Rachael Dalton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 December 2022 21:27  
**To:** Cllr Paul Arnott; Cllr Ian Thomas; Planning Policy  
**Subject:** Upottery is not unsustainable.  
**Categories:** Reg.18 consultation

### **Upottery is not unsustainable!**

From November 7 to January 15, 2023, you are consulting East Devon council tax payers on a draft of the Local Plan for East Devon up until 2040. That plan puts all settlements into one of five categories: "Sustainable" tiers (1 to 4) where specified development/growth will be allowed and an "Unsustainable" category where no development/growth will be allowed.

This has been done by EDDC without consulting the settlements it has categorised in this way and without telling the people in those settlements how they have been scored to determine what services and facilities make a settlement "sustainable" or "unsustainable".

You have decided that the parish and village of Upottery is "unsustainable" and will not be allowed development for the next 18 years. This is unacceptable and as a resident I object to this categorisation of the where I live by people who do not know my community. I can assure you it is sustainable ..... we sustain it and we need similar growth to that of the last 20 years!

I have lived in the parish my whole life (im 36) played unihoc at the youth club in the village hall, christened my children in the church, played pool in the pub and attended the school which my son now goes to. I can even remember using the phone box in the village in my younger days. As I send this email I have just returned from the village after playing a friendly game of benchball on the old tennis court with around 25 other women from the parish, all of varying ages. I think the village is thriving and bursting with life. I would not wish to see any decline in growth that would affect the current amenities, a fall in funding for the school or the play park.

Your categorisation of Upottery as "unsustainable" is particularly galling when you have already identified (in 2017) a development site (Upot\_01) in the village capable of accommodating up to 20 new homes up to 2040 and which your plan now says will not be built. Your plan acknowledges that you have not been able to find sufficient development land for all the new homes required in East Devon over the next 18 years and you now plan to build another new town but you have decided that my parish is not allowed any growth or development.

If you had consulted with your council tax payers before deeming settlements like Upottery to be “unsustainable” you may have found many more opportunities for new development. All communities need to grow and provide new homes for young people, otherwise they will stagnate or decline and if your Local Plan goes ahead without change that is what you will be condemning Upottery to. The residents of Upottery protest that this must not be allowed to happen.

A modest growth in our population is essential if our school is to thrive. It is essential if our village pub, village hall and church are to thrive. Our pub continues to sell the daily food essentials that it started doing during the pandemic but it appears that the lack of a stand alone shop is the sole reason you wish to condemn us as “unsustainable”, even though we have a very successful community shop in the neighbouring Somerset village of Churchinford. The majority of people in Upottery have access to ultrafast, full fibre broadband via which they can order deliveries from all the major supermarkets direct to their doors.

You have told us that along with three other settlements your scoring of our services and facilities only just failed to put us in the lowest sustainable tier 4. This needs to be corrected.

**Do not condemn Upottery as an “unsustainable” settlement!**  
**Do not condemn us to stagnation and decline!**  
**Allow us to grow and thrive.....We live here, not you.**

With kind regards

Rachael Dalton