

Alex Stevens

12th Jan 2023

By email: planningpolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk

Cc: Cllr Paul Arnott, Cllr Ian Thomas

Dear Planning Policy Dept,

East Devon Draft Local Plan 2022-2040

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the East Devon Draft Local Plan 2022-2040.

In addition to my response through the Commonplace portal, I wanted to send a note to outline some thoughts on the settlement designation process around the sustainability and viability of housing developments and to urge that perhaps an open mind ought to be kept to those Parishes and settlements on the cusp of your eligibility criteria.

It is clear that to meet environmental, social and economic aspirations in East Devon, more housing (and other infrastructure) is needed and I absolutely support the notion that this should be targeted in the most appropriate locations – some of which have been identified in your consultation.

In line with your aspirations for the district, I would like to see my village thrive and be as resilient as possible as a place to live and work. For this to happen, and to protect the facilities in our village I am convinced that more homes, particularly those that are affordable/attainable for people who may otherwise move away from the area, are required.

Upottery as a Parish has a thriving pub that also acts as a village shop for essential items, a primary school, community buildings/village halls, a large village green with associated play areas (including a multi-use all weather surfaced area), cricket and football pitches, a visiting Post Office service, allotments in the Parish, superfast fibre to the premises broadband, bus routes, great proximity to the A303/A30, is handily located between a number of towns which are a short distance away both in Devon and Somerset and is served by the a nearby GP surgery just up the road at Churchinford in Somerset. Apologies for the long sentence but it is an impressive list!


I was a little surprised to see some of the settlements that have been identified as suitable for more housing do not have many of the items on this list and that there has seemingly been no exercise to rank or prioritise these items. Surely a school is more of an asset than

an infrequent bus service that operates at times which make it unusable for a commute to work for example.

To maintain the wonderful services that Upottery can offer and to make it viable to offer more in the future, I hope that East Devon District Council can recognise that Upottery is a sustainable village and it should have a role to play in helping the district to meet it's objectives. I am proud of what the village has to offer and I sincerely hope that when the Local Plan is refreshed at a later date Upottery still has at least all that it does now – but I am fearful that without homes to offer to families that will not be the case.

Please could you reconsider Upottery's status within the Local Plan, review the settlement scoring criteria, and ensure that an already sustainable village remains that way.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Alex Stevens.

Alex Stevens