

East Devon Local Development Framework

OUTCOME OF TOWN CONSULTATION EVENTS

SIDMOUTH



Spring 2010

The Outcome of the Consultation Events

Spring 2010

Introduction

This report has been prepared following the public engagement that took place during Spring 2010 to inform the preparation of the Core Strategy for East Devon. The Core Strategy will be a key document within East Devon's Local Development Framework (a new type of development plan that will replace the Devon Structure Plan and the East Devon Local Plan). One of the main principles of the new planning system is that local communities and stakeholders should be involved from the outset in the preparation of planning policy documents. The Core Strategy will set out an overall vision for East Devon and the strategic elements in the planning framework for the District. It will not allocate specific sites for development, but it will identify which broad areas are suitable for new homes or jobs. The Core Strategy will look ahead to 2026, which is the same timescale as the emerging Regional Plan.

The purpose of this report is to outline the consultation which informed the production of the Core Strategy and to summarise the process and results of the consultation.

Consultation Process

In order to manage the consultation process effectively, and in accordance with the guidance of the Planning Advisory Service, the following process was undertaken:

Step 1- Set Objectives	Inform stakeholders about the LDF and the requirements of the RSS for growth Identify the community's key concerns and aspirations for the future- Parish Plans and Vision Statements will be used as the starting point for discussion Involve stakeholders (and the wider community) in prioritising options and shaping future policy
Step 2- Review Schedule	6 weeks to organise, book venue and prepare briefing papers- commence consultation w/c 8.3.10 Complete all events by mid-May Feedback over Summer
Step 3- Identify who to involve	Equalities Impact Assessment- identify minority groups Stakeholders Including statutory consultees Interest groups Elected representatives Wider Community
Step 4- Choose the right method	Method will depend on consultee group but it is envisaged that standard approaches will be tailored to meet the needs of the process and the attendees- Towns- Afternoon/evening workshops in each main town using RSS requirements and Parish Plan/Vision Statement as starting point, with stakeholders present to discuss constraints and issues pertinent to each settlement. Parishes- Evening meeting open to all PC's using Parish Plan/Vision Statement as basis for discussion. Parishes provided with clear and specific guidance on which to base discussion at their next meeting, following which they will be asked to provide a written report. Hard to reach/minority/interest groups will be consulted depending on their individual needs. East Devon Talk, Forums, Local Press etc
Step 5- Deliver Activities	Town meetings (at which there may be stakeholders with strongly opposing views/interests) will take form of workshops, with Officers present to answer questions and explain the process

	<p>Officers will facilitate the Parish meetings as these will focus on explaining the process and enabling Parish Councils to produce the information required themselves</p> <p>Hard to reach/minority/interest groups consulted according to individual needs</p> <p>All representatives will be asked to provide copies of any credible, relevant evidence they may have to justify their opinions, ie survey results from Parish Plan production, so that they can be used to support the Council's position.</p>
Step 6- Collate, review and export	<p>As far as possible information will be quantitative to enable statistical analysis and collected through structured proformas or in a standardised format so that comparison is possible.</p> <p>Raw, qualitative data (ie from meetings, records of workshop discussions, questionnaire returns and notes) will be presented discursively to minimise subjectivity before interpretation. Everything will be retained to provide an auditable evidence base.</p> <p>Analysis will be carried out by Officers, assuming sufficient resources are available, then reported to the relevant Committee</p> <p>Outcomes will be assessed to identify key themes and areas of broad consensus, as well as other relevant points.</p> <p>Some issues, ie significant objections from key stakeholders, may require additional information and research.</p> <p>Attendees will be provided with notes of the meetings</p>
Step 7- Evaluate Effectiveness	<p>As part of the 'consultation statement' the methods of engagement, parties involved, key outcomes and their role in shaping the core strategy will need to be set out. The process will need to be shown to be effective and questionnaires to all attendees will inform this process and enable evaluation.</p>

If you have any queries relating to this document please contact:

Planning Policy Section

East Devon District Council

Knowle

Sidmouth

EX10 8HL

e.mail: ldf@eastdevon.gov.uk

phone: 01395 516551

Meetings with Town Councils and Local Organisations in Spring 2010

A series of 6 afternoon and early evening workshops were held, in Axminster, Exmouth, Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Seaton and Sidmouth. Each meeting consisted of two main facilitated exercises prepared and conducted by the planning policy team, together with an introductory overview explaining the role of the Core Strategy and the opportunities and constraints facing the town over the next 20 years. A District wide map was also available for people to comment on.

In the case of Exmouth, LDA Consultants were commissioned to produce a Development Brief for Exmouth Town Centre, and a visioning exercise formed a fundamental component of this. The timetable for this dovetailed with the LDF workshops and interested parties may also wish to view the LDA Brief for additional information on the town centre issues. The Exmouth workshop followed the same format as the other town workshops.

Attendance at the meetings

Attendance at the meetings was usually by postal invitation (followed up by an e.mail), and these were issued to the Town Council, Ward Members, local interest groups (including business, amenity, local interest, sports, elderly and young persons groups etc) and relevant statutory consultees (ie Environment Agency, Highway Authority). Details of the invitees are listed in the Appendix but the list for every town was extensive, with around 500 people asked to attend across the District. A press release informing the public that these meetings were taking place was issued to numerous local newspapers and this invited interested local organisations to put themselves forward if they had not been asked. It also informed the public that they could become involved through the subsequent Town Council meeting in their town if they wished to.

Thirty-five people attended the Local Development Framework workshop in Seaton on 23 March; around 18 people attended the workshop in Honiton on 24 March; 22 people attended the Axminster workshop on 29 March; and 21 people attended the Ottery St Mary workshop on 30 March. The Exmouth workshop, held on 11 May, was attended by 56 people.

A central venue was selected in each town, and these were all hubs of the communities within which they were located. The feedback on the quality and accessibility of the venues was generally positive and the timing of the meetings, 1.30-5.30pm, was considered appropriate by most attendees. It should be noted, however, that the timing may have been a factor in preventing some bodies from being represented. Refreshments were available before and during the meetings.

Each attendee was provided with an information pack specific to their settlement, containing statistics taken from the most recent census, house building rates and numbers, Council house waiting list numbers, a synopsis of their Town Plan and a summary of the responses to the Issues and Options report relevant to their particular town. A questionnaire relating to the attendees experience of the event and a pre-paid envelope was also included.

Format of the meetings

An introduction to the meeting was given by Planning Officers. This set out the strategic context of the Core Strategy and explained the Government requirements for additional development in the District, stages of Core Strategy preparation, key-drivers for change, spatial issues and additional information about the consultation.

The first of the two workshops took a 'speed dating' format, with two Officers (one to facilitate discussion and one to note points made) addressing each of the following subjects:

- Economy
- Housing
- Environment
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Community

- Rural Issues

Attendees were allocated their first subject upon arrival; this determined the order in which the subjects were discussed by each group in rotation. Officers noted all the points made on their particular subject during a 15 minute period and then moved onto the next table to repeat the exercise. This session culminated in the identification of key themes by Officers, which were presented to the whole group as a basis for subsequent discussion. Summaries of the points are presented in the next Chapter, the full text is available in the Appendix.

This was followed by a 'fun' exercise where attendees were asked to write a postcard from the perspective of a visitor to the town in 2030. This was well received by most attendees and produced some thought-provoking results, available to read in the Appendix.

The second workshop was a map-based exercise, again led by Planning Officers. Attendees were asked to consider how their town might grow over a twenty year period and illustrate this on A1 maps. They were asked to identify areas for retention, areas of particular importance for sport/recreation, employment, housing, landscape character and other facilities/land uses. Again this was well received and, although many different opinions were expressed, there was a surprising degree of consensus. Results of this exercise are collated onto maps presented in the next Chapter.

All material produced at the meetings is available to view at the District Council offices.

Local Development Framework Core Strategy Consultation

Sidmouth 'Speed Dating' Workshop

12 April 2010

Method

94 representatives of established voluntary and community groups, all members of the Town Council and all East Devon Elected Members from Sidmouth as well as other organisations e.g. schools were invited along to an event to discuss the future of Sidmouth up to the year 2030. This was part of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy Consultation. 37 people attended the event, they were as follows:

- Various from Sidmouth Town Council
- Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce
- Vision for Sidmouth
- 3 Sidmouth Councillors (EDDC)
- Speak Now Panel
- Sidmouth Sports Centre
- Lions Club of Sidmouth
- Sidmouth Rugby Football Club
- Sidmouth and District Hospitality Association
- St Francis Church Hall Woolbrook
- Sidmouth Junior Badminton Club
- Sidmouth Youth Centre
- Sidmouth Help Link
- Sidmouth Cricket Club
- Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis, Croquet & Hockey Club
- Sidmouth Amateur Dramatic Society
- Sidmouth Reablement Service
- Cornerstone Housing
- Spectrum Housing Association
- Sidmouth Parish Church
- Leisure East Devon
- Strategic Planning- DCC
- East Devon District Councillor
- East Devon Churches Together and the Diocese of Exeter
- Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary
- Port Royal Steering Group
- Sidmouth Amateur Dramatic Society
- Environment Agency
- Catholic Church
- Devon and Cornwall Housing Association

The full list of invitees is provided in the Appendix.

The attendees were split into different tables. Council Officers moved round the tables spending 15 minutes at each table discussing one of the following topics:

- Community

- Economy
- Environment
- Housing
- Transport

The following is a summary of the results of those discussions.

Summary

Housing

- There needs to be a mix of housing- but mainly for young people and the elderly.
- There needs to be a limit on the number of second homes
- Homes need to be more energy efficient, particularly new homes, but care need to be taken with the aesthetic impact of this upon Sidmouth.
- Existing housing needs to be fully utilised.

Community

- There needs to be greater support for special needs children, Sidmouth has a high proportion.
- There are good links between all the schools in Sidmouth
- There needs to be provision of lifelong education.
- Bicton College needs to stay open.
- Sidmouth College will need to expand but where it is now it can't.
- There are no major employers once young people are educated.
- The Drill Hall needs to be removed or used and be put to community use.
- There are enough community buildings.
- The health centre and library need to be relocated, current buildings/ parking is not fit for purpose, but still need to be central.
- More provision for the care of the elderly is needed e.g. care homes. Care services need to be able to meet the increased need of the elderly population of Sidmouth.
- Sidmouth is well served for sports and sports facilities. There were mixed strong views about the moving of the Rugby/ Cricket Clubs to the North East of the town.
- More youth provision is required.
- More should be made of the seafront- more sea based activities.
- Protect the appearance of Sidmouth.
- Concern about Pennington Point cliff erosion.

Environment Issues

- More cycle routes are needed to link to surrounding areas.
- Footpaths need to be promoted.
- There could be a shuttle bus that takes people to destinations such as Peak Hill, Connaught Gardens.
- Pennington Point cliff erosion needs to be tackled.
- Flooding needs to be borne in mind.
- Sidmouths open spaces are very important and need to be retained. More trees are needed.

Economy

- People that work in Sidmouth cannot afford to live there.
- Local food production is an important aspect to Sidmouth.
- Alexandria Road Industrial Site does not have adequate access routes. There were mixed views about whether it should remain as an industrial site.
- Mixed use redevelopment is needed.
- It is important to keep independent shops. Make it easier for more independent shops to exist.

- Tourism is an important industry in Sidmouth- this needs to be maintained/ improved.

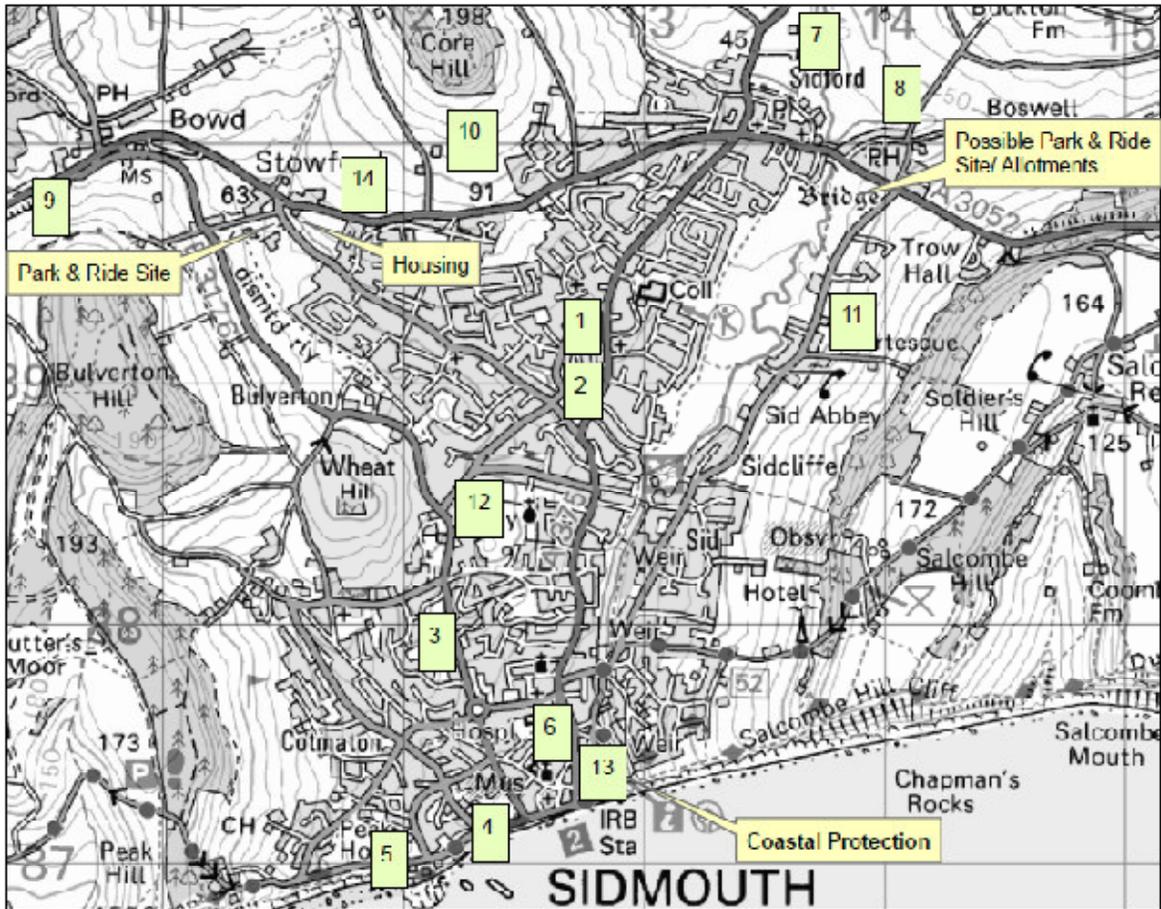
Transport and Infrastructure

- Pedestrianise Fore Street.
- More car parking, a better use of what car parking there already is, or a park and ride needs to be provided.
- More smaller shuttle buses around the town are needed.
- A direct link to a railway station is required.
- Broadband is not a real issue in Sidmouth.
- Could wind or tidal energy be provided?

Rural Issues

- Make sure affordable housing is affordable and remains affordable.
- Community pubs and shops need to be encouraged and supported.
- Local food initiatives need to be encouraged and supported.

Sidmouth



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NO CONSENSUS

- 1). Youth centre
- 2). Health centre/ Swimming pool
- 3). Housing/ medical centre/ District heat and power plant / park & ride
- 4). Car free with jetty for boat access
- 5). Bridge/ 2storey carpark/ park & ride
- 6).Town centre pedestrianisation/ LEV/ electric car parking only
- 7). 8). 9). Light industrial
- 10). Relocate school
- 11). 12). Housing
- 13). Market with canopy on Ham carpark/ community facilities
- 14). Replace civic amenity site

NO SPECIFIC SITES IDENTIFIED

Bike storage lockers tracks along seafront
 Move lifeboat station to western town
 seafront toilets
 use boats to reduce car use

RURAL SIDMOUTH

Wind turbines
 More cycle paths
 Tidal energy

Please note that this map is indicative of the views expressed at the consultation event and has not been endorsed by the District Council

Meetings with Young People through the Youth Clubs

To provide a wider range of opinions as to how the District should develop in the future, a number of consultations were carried out with young people during Spring 2010. These followed a set format- young people attending youth clubs/groups in each town were asked to photograph the features they liked, disliked and would like to see in the place where they lived using disposable cameras. They were then asked to return the cameras for processing and were invited to an informal discussion with Council Officers during a youth club session. Questionnaires were distributed during these sessions and there was an opportunity for a young person from each group to win a £25 music voucher as a questionnaire was drawn at random at the end of each session.

Sidmouth Youth Club

21 July 2010

Summary

- There is not really enough for young people to do in Sidmouth but they like the skate park, beach, open spaces and countryside.
- The skate park is very good but could do with less litter, more ramps and floodlights.
- More shops for young people especially clothes, sports and food shops.
- Most young people can easily get to where they want to go, but the buses are too expensive.
- More frequent organised activities that are cheap for young people e.g. open up the Youth Club more often. Special places to go to practice arts and sport are needed and play areas/parks suitable for all ages up to 18.
- Most will be in Sidmouth in ten years time. Of those that wouldn't stay there were a variety of reasons such as wanting to travel or live somewhere bigger.
- The young people want the town to be cleaner and tidier and the cliffs to stop falling down.
- There should be more jobs suitable for young people, and businesses need to take young people seriously.

Methods

1. Members of Sidmouth Youth Club were given 6 disposable cameras to take pictures of what:
 - They don't like about Sidmouth
 - They do like about Sidmouth
 - What they would like to see in Sidmouth
- 3 of the cameras were returned successfully containing 10 photos of what they did like about Sidmouth and 5 photos of what they didn't like and 2 photos of what they would like to see.
2. Short one page questionnaires were given out at a meeting of Sidmouth Youth Club on 21 July 2010. 19 young people completed these questionnaires. From all the completed questionnaires one was drawn at random and they won a £25 music voucher.
 3. A discussion group was held with 4 young people from Sidmouth Youth Club for about 20 minutes.

Results Summaries for each method

Discussions

- The young people generally like Sidmouth as a place to live. They like the beach.
- There needs to be cheaper clothes shops for young people.

- More jobs suitable for young people, and businesses need to take younger people seriously when they apply for jobs.
- The sports centre, buses and cinema are too expensive to use.
- More cheap things to do e.g. The Arches- but there needs to be more activities there. The Youth Club should be open all Summer.
- The skate park has too much litter in it.
- There was a general feeling that they would live with their parents for several years.
- A light is needed on The Byses at night.

Questionnaires

- 26% of young people felt there was enough to do in Sidmouth.
- The young people would like special places for them to go and hang out and maybe practice arts or sports. Some also felt the youth club should be available more often or other grouped activities. There was also a need for clothes shops for younger people.
- 67% can easily get to the places they want to go to. Of those that couldn't get to places they wanted to go to most said it was because the buses are too expensive.
- In ten years time 63% of the 19 respondents said they would still live in Sidmouth. Of those that said they wouldn't stay they had a variety of reasons such as wanting to travel and live somewhere bigger.
- When asked what one thing they would improve about Sidmouth the most popular suggestions were shops for young people, particularly sports and food shops, an improved skate park with more ramps and floodlights, less elderly people, a water park, more/ better sports areas and parks for all ages (0-18 years old).

Photo Project

- The young people really like Sidmouth Skate Park, and the gardens/ open spaces/ countryside.
- They didn't like the falling down cliffs, chewing gum on pavements or rubbish in the streets.
- They would like to see an Odeon cinema and a HM Forces recruitment centre in Sidmouth.

Sidmouth Youth Club Photo Project

21 July 2010

Summary

- The young people really like Sidmouth Skate Park, and the gardens/ open spaces/ countryside.
- They didn't like the falling down cliffs, chewing gum on pavements or rubbish in the streets.
- They would like to see an Odeon cinema and a HM Forces recruitment centre in Sidmouth.

Method

Members of Sidmouth Youth Club were given 6 disposable cameras to take pictures of what:

- They don't like about Sidmouth
- They do like about Sidmouth
- What they would like to see in Sidmouth

3 of the cameras were returned successfully containing 10 photos of what they did like about Sidmouth and 5 photos of what they didn't like and 2 photos of what they would like to see.

Results

What did they like about Sidmouth?

Of the 10 photos of what they did like the results are shown below

Photo	Number of photos
Sidmouth Skate Park	4
The gardens at Lymebourne Elderly Persons Home	2
New clothes shop	1
Open space	1
South West Coast Path	1

What didn't they like about Sidmouth?

Of the 28 photos of what they didn't like the results are shown below

Photo	Number of photos
Falling down cliffs	3
Chewing gum on the pavement	1
Buckets of building rubbish in the street	1

What would they like to see in Sidmouth?

There were two photos, one of an Armed Forces Careers Centre and one of an Odeon cinema.

Summary of Discussion

- The young people generally like Sidmouth as a place to live. They like the beach.
- There needs to be cheaper clothes shops for young people.
- More jobs suitable for young people, and businesses need to take younger people seriously when they apply for jobs.
- The sports centre, buses and cinema are too expensive to use.
- More cheap things to do e.g. The Arches- but there needs to be more activities there. The Youth Club should be open all Summer.
- The skate park has too much litter in it.
- There was a general feeling that they would live with their parents for several years.
- A light is needed on The Byes at night.

Method

A discussion group was held with 4 young people from Sidmouth Youth Club for about 20 minutes.

Results

What do you like about Sidmouth?

It's nice and quiet- better than cities.

The beach is close.

You can sunbathe, BBQ and swim at the beach.

We have a cinema but it's quite expensive at £4.30 each.

What don't you like about Sidmouth?

M and Co is too expensive and posh for clothes.

QS has changed and now only stocks clothes for older people.

When you ask for jobs in the town employers don't take you seriously. They say they'll get back to you but they never do.

The sports centre is too expensive- we can't use it.

There is too much rubbish in the skate park.

Will you be living in Sidmouth in ten years time?

Won't have enough money to move away so will stay in Sidmouth with parents.

Want to get own houses- don't want to stay with parents forever.

What one improvement would you make to Sidmouth?

We need a Primark- clothes for 14/ 15 year olds.

More jobs.

More part-time jobs.

More jobs suitable for younger people.

Get rid of the old people- they push us out into the road.

The Youth Club to run all Summer.

A games area at the Arches. Want to go down there but there's nothing to do.

Need lights at the Byes at night so we feel safe- lots of people drink down there.

Clean up the skate park.

What do you want to do for work?

Want to work with children

Want a more active job like gardening.

Want to work for a radio station.

Want to go to University

Public Transport

There are buses to Exeter but it's too expensive to travel.

Summary of Questionnaire

- 26% of young people felt there was enough to do in Sidmouth.
- The young people would like special places for them to go and hang out and maybe practice arts or sports. Some also felt the youth club should be available more often or other grouped activities. There was also a need for clothes shops for younger people.
- 67% can easily get to the places they want to go to. Of those that couldn't get to places they wanted to go to most said it was because the buses are too expensive.
- In ten years time 63% of the 19 respondents said they would still live in Sidmouth. Of those that said they wouldn't stay they had a variety of reasons such as wanting to travel and live somewhere bigger.
- When asked what one thing they would improve about Sidmouth the most popular suggestions were shops for young people, particularly sports and food shops, an improved skate park with more ramps and floodlights, less elderly people, a water park, more/ better sports areas and parks for all ages (0-18 years old).

Method

Short one page questionnaires were given out at a meeting of Sidmouth Youth Club on 21 July 2010. 19 young people completed these questionnaires. From all the completed questionnaires one was drawn at random and they won a £25 music voucher.

Results

Q1. Is there enough for young people to do in Sidmouth?

Of the 19 young people that answered this question 26% (5) felt there was enough to do, 74% (14) felt there was not enough to do.

Q2. Is there enough for you to do, what else would you like to be able to do?

12 of the young people commented:

- Younger age shops. Free paintball. A free running course.
- More activities. More jobs.
- I would like to be able to have a special place where really talented artists can go and graffiti
- Have more things that are fun.
- Carp ponds/ fishing. More mens/ boys shops.
- More younger people shops like Cult and Republic.
- Just more stuff for teenagers like during the week at nights- youth club open more

often.

- There could be more grouped activities and places for us to go and enjoy ourselves.
- Careers advice.
- Make a park or area for people to practice.
- Something fun
- Dirt track for motorbikes. Youth Club open more often.
- More areas for teenagers to go at night instead of hanging around the streets. Better sports areas.

Q3. Can you easily get to the places you want to go to?

18 respondents answered this question:

67% can easily get to the places they want to go to

33% cannot easily get to the places they want to go to

Q4. If you can't get to the places you want to go to, please tell us why:

6 respondents commented:

- The buses need to be cheaper.
- Money. Buses are too expensive.
- None of my family drives and I live too far away from some of the places I would like to go.
- Can't get to Exeter if you don't have enough money for the bus.
- Exeter- can't get there as buses too expensive.
- Times are bad. Don't go to the right places.

Q5. Do you think you will live in Sidmouth in ten years time?

19 respondents answered this question:

63% will still live in Sidmouth

37% will not live in Sidmouth

Q6. If you think you will leave, please tell us why:

7 respondents commented:

- I want to emigrate to America
- My family lives very far away from me and I would probably live with my mum.
- Because it is too small and I want to go somewhere different.
- Better job prospects away. Will be travelling in the next 10 years.
- It's boring and full of old people.
- Needs cheaper prices for everything. Food and drink is too expensive.
- Nothing to make me stay- I want to explore bigger cities.

Q7. If you could improve one thing about Sidmouth what would it be?

All respondents commented:

- Less old people. More facilities for teenagers- clothes and sports shops.
- Get rid of old people. Get more young people to live here.
- Have more jobs.
- A water park
- Parks for little children because there isn't enough space for the little toddlers to explore.
- The skate park and making it bigger- more ramps and bigger ramps.
- Get rid of the old people.
- Water park. In the summer have a BBQ shop on the seafront that sells disposable BBQs etc.
- More things for teenagers and for older people to not think they are 'thugs'.
- It would be better if we improved the lack of food and sports shops and also fishing shops. I also think there is a lack of football pitches for young children.
- More stores like sports shops, KFC. More kid stuff and more 0- 18 year old play areas.

- Housing for young/ homeless people.
- The skate park- bigger and more high ramps.
- More fun stuff- free athletics/ running course.
- The skate park- more ramps and floodlights.
- Not to have to have a license to go fishing in the river.
- Cleanliness or better area for teenagers.
- Better young people shops.
- Better shops for young people.

APPENDIX

	Sidmouth LDF Consultation Event 12th April 2010	Full list of invitees
	Sidmouth LDF Consultation Event 12th April 2010	Full list of points made in workshop 1
	Sidmouth LDF Consultation Event 12th April 2010	Postcard Exercise results

Sidmouth LDF Consultation Event

12th April 2010

Invited	Organisation	Attended
e-mail	Sidmouth Town Council	Yes (x4)
e-mail	Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce	Yes
e-mail	Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce	Yes
e-mail	Devon and Cornwall Police	
e-mail	Vision for Sidmouth	Yes
e-mail	Vision for Sidmouth	Yes
e-mail	Sidmouth Town District Councillors (x3)	Yes (x2)
e-mail	Sidmouth Rural District Councillor	Yes
Letter	Sidmouth Hospital	
Letter	Sidmouth Infants School	
Letter	All Saints Church of England Junior School	
Letter	St Nicholas Church of England Junior School	
Letter	Sidmouth College	
Letter	Speak Now Panel x5	Yes
Letter	United Reform Church	
E-mail	Sidmouth Sailing Club	
Letter	Sidmouth Carnival	
Letter	Sidmouth Town Football Club	
Letter	Parochial Parish Council	
Letter	All Saints Church- Sidmouth	
Letter	St Giles and St Nicholas Parish Church- Sidmouth	
E-mail	Sidmouth Youth Theatre	
Letter	Sidmouth Sports Centre	Yes
Letter	Sid Valley Cycling Club	
Letter	Sidmouth Swimming Pool	
Letter	Sidmouth Sea Angling Club	
Letter	Lions Club of Sidmouth	Yes
Letter	Sidmouth Rugby Football Club	Yes
Letter	Kennaway House	
Letter	Sid Vale Association	
Letter	Sidmouth United Reformed Church Hall	
Letter	Primley United Reformed Church	
Letter	St John Ambulance	
Letter	Emmanuel Baptist Church	
Letter	Sidford Tennis Club	
Letter	Sidmouth Music Club	
Letter	Sidmouth and District Hospitality Association	Yes
Letter	St Francis Church Hall Woolbrook	Yes
Letter	Macmillan Cancer Support	
Letter	Sidmouth Junior Badminton Club	Yes
Letter	Sidmouth Choral Society	
Letter	Sidmouth Golf Club	

Letter	Sid Vale Heritage Centre	
Letter	Sidmouth Bowling Club	
Letter	Roman Catholic Church	
Letter	Sidmouth Methodist Church	
Letter	Sidmouth Lifeboat	
Letter	Sidmouth & District Guide Association	
Letter	Sidmouth Youth Centre	Yes
Letter	Sidmouth Town Band	
Letter	Stagecoach Theatre Arts School	
Letter	The Manor Pavilion Theatre & Arts Centre	
Letter	Citizens Advice Bureau	
Letter	St Theresa's Hall	
Letter	Sidmouth Consolidated Charities & Educational Foundation	
Letter	Sidmouth Victoria Hospital	
Letter	Community Mental Health Team over 65s	
Letter	Sidmouth Help Link	Yes
Letter	St John Hall	
Letter	Sidmouth Cricket Club	Yes
Letter	Sidmouth Help Link - Bereavement Group	
Letter	Inner Wheel Club of Sidmouth	
Letter	Sidmouth Sports Centre Gymnastics Club	
Letter	Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis, Croquet & Hockey Club	Yes
Letter	Rotary Club of Sidmouth	
Letter	Sidbury United AFC	
E-mail	Royal British Legion	
Letter	University of the Third Age	
Letter	Age Concern Devon	
Letter	Sidmouth Stroke Club	
Letter	East Devon Dance	
Letter	Sidmouth Society of Artists	
Letter	Sidmouth Amateur Dramatic Society	Yes
Letter	Sidmouth Voluntary Car and Minibus Service	
Letter	Sidmouth Reablement Service	Yes
Letter	Sid Vale Over 60s Club	
Letter	Probus Club	
Gen Letter	Devon Carers Link	
Gen Letter	Cornerstone Housing	Yes
Gen Letter	Sidmouth Learning Community	
E-mail	Spectrum Housing Association	Yes
Letter	Sidmouth Parish Church	Yes
Gen Letter	East Devon AONB Partnership	
Gen Letter	Leisure East Devon	Yes
Letter	Sidbury Art Group	
Letter	Sidbury Cricket Club	
Letter	St Peter's Fellowship	
Letter	St Peter's Church	
Letter	Sidford Badminton Club	

Gen Letter	Strategic Planning- DCC	Yes
Gen Letter	East Devon District Councillor	Yes
Gen Letter	East Devon Churches Together and the Diocese of Exeter	Yes
E-mail	Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary	Yes
E-mail	Port Royal Steering Group	Yes
	Sidmouth Amateur Dramatic Society	Yes
Gen Letter	Environment Agency	Yes
Letter	Catholic Church	Yes
Gen Letter	Devon and Cornwall Housing Association	Yes

Comments in full

Housing Issues

Numbers of houses to be built:

- Limit numbers of housing.
- Increase density?
- Sidmouth has high demand for housing.

Type of Housing:

- Look at housing type and mix.
- Retirement communities, where should they be located?
- Need to try and keep younger people in town.
- Lower the threshold for provision of affordable housing – consider a sliding scale.
- Encourage housing that allow occupants to remain independent for as long as possible.
- Retirement communities – debate over whether this is appropriate or not. Mixed type of housing more appropriate.
- Ensure minimum space standards.
- Keen to see the current rural exceptions site model used in towns to encourage affordable housing.
- Build properties for first time buyers that don't appeal to prospective second home owners.
- Need to provide housing for younger working people.
- Provision needs to be made for 'care' homes for the elderly.
- Design needs to take account of needs 'Lifetime Homes'. Is this a reasonable expectation.

Second Homes

- There is a problem with second/empty homes – how can this be managed?
- Limit second homes through various mechanisms.
- Need to restrict numbers of second homes – how?
- Limit number of second homes by controlling amount of new homes.

Where could they be built:

- Sidmouth constrained physically by topography and landscape designations.
- Need to develop brownfield land before expanding boundaries.

Energy Efficient Homes:

- Costs involved in upgrading energy efficiency of existing housing stock.
- Impact of energy efficiency equipment on historic environment.
- Encourage energy efficient housing.
- Keen to see the bar being raised for energy efficiency.
- Important for new residential development to improve energy efficiency.
- Bring in policies to improve energy efficiency/code levels in private housing.

- Need to consider balance between aesthetics and heritage issues against renewable technologies.

Improving/ utilising existing housing:

- Compulsory purchase or find other mechanism to ensure houses are fully used (no empty homes).
- Incentivise people to move out of larger family homes.

Infrastructure for Housing:

- Housing needs to be linked to new employment land provision.

Other- Housing:

- How should planning gain from housing be spent? On what and where?
- Housing should be future proofed.
- Questions raised over impact of sustainability agenda on design.

Community

Schools and Education:

- If going to have affordable housing need a better standard of schools with no temporary buildings.
- No amenities available around Sidmouth College, current college site very limiting.
- Possible to have increased networking of all the schools with shared facilities and infrastructure. (Piece of land in Sidford being offered to college).
- You cannot do adult night classes at Sidmouth without going to Exeter.
- Special needs (150 children who go to EST centre). High proportion of special needs children.
- Greater support for special needs children.
- Lifelong education.
- Interpretation centre and a lecture theatre to promote education about the Jurassic Coast.
- Redevelopment of school.
- Lifelong learning for the elderly.
- Supporting widows and widowers who need to learn to cook or budget if that role was previously done by partner.
- Concerns that young people are leaving to get training and work.
- No major employers.
- Third of pupils at Sidmouth College have special educational needs.
- Need more apprentice places.
- Concerned at the closure of Bickton College and the affect on farming and training.
- Need the skills from Bickton.
- More of a skills base to education.
- Renewable energy generation could be developed to create employment.
- Need jobs to go to when trained.
- Schools (well provided for) and well placed.
- There is a very good schools network, good links between them all.
- Sidmouth college needs to be adequate.
- Concerns on where Sidmouth College should expand which land to use or whether to have two sites.

Community Buildings:

- New community centre being built.
- Community buildings are adequate.
- No parking for Manor Pavilion, need some.
- Use drill hall!

- Big open space has been left due to drill hall.
- Support Manor Pavilions and Kennaway House.
- Secure the removal of the drill hall.
- More drop in centres.
- Centre for healthy elderly people to meet a cafe meeting place.
- Plenty of community buildings, we don't need a new community centre near Waitrose. There are plenty (subjective).
- MoD needs to respond to Drill Hall query.
- Relocate the library?
- Could library go in drill hall?

Health Care:

- Could do with a new health care centre.
- Relocate the health centre.
- Considerable number of elderly people, not enough good care homes. More provision for the elderly e.g. nursing care.
- Place to run health groups do not have a room large enough to run health groups that are cheap enough to use.
- Integrated health and education service.
- Third worst health centre in Devon.
- Inadequate health service lack of parking, dated premises, needs a lift.
- Preserve the cliffs, sell the red cliffs of Sidmouth.
- Is the health centre in the right place? If a new one make sure its more central to all.
- Large number of elderly.
- Seaton/Axminster/Sidmouth largest proportion of over 75 year olds in the world. Will health services be able to cope with the expansion of this group.
- Lack of care homes.
- Pressure on community services for large number who want to be cared for in their own homes.
- Need to encourage businesses in care/homes to come into the areas support by Council, financial incentives.
- 50% of the population over 60.
- Council run care homes?
- Pressure on GPs caring for the elderly.
- Would like/need a better health centre with parking.
- Care services need to meet of increase needs.

Recreation Space and Play Space/ Leisure:

- Seems to be enough recreation provision.
- More cycling with proper promoted cycleways for tourists and locals. Cycle park in Sidmouth where you can leave your cycles, make it secure.
- Difficulty accessing sports facilities if you work full time (LED).
- All the sports clubs should stay in the centre of the town.
- Well served for sport lack of arts.
- Lots of clubs and societies.
- More of a communal hub for community services, health, sport, youth, leisure on one site.
- Move swimming pool to be combined with other facilities.
- Concerns can't expand the sports hall as surrounded by residential houses.
- A sports complex.
- Crèche, coffee shop, health centre, combined with sports centre.
- Lots of sports teams.
- Nowhere where sports can train in the evenings under lights.
- GP referral scheme at sports centre working well.
- New health centre fit for purpose. Automatically opening doors.

- Frustration that things need updating e.g. sports centre.
- Protect the position/venue of the Sidmouth Cricket Club as it is well known.
- Use the Rugby Club as the position for a new health centre and the Rugby Club could relocate.
- Cricket and Rugby Club could expand if had land to expand onto and or use.
- Improve school facilities and link this resource to the Rugby and Cricket Club.
- Multi-purpose, multi-use, sports facility in Sidford for use by Sidmouth.

Children and Young People:

- Update youth centre, is it big enough for all the young people?
- Lack of things for young people to do if they are not sporty.
- Indoor play area.
- The swimming should have indoor play area and link with outdoor play area.
- Need additional facilities for youth.
- Somewhere else for youth to meet.
- Not enough provision for youth.
- Need to have youth provision in the town.
- Good links with provision for young people and town council.
- Extend the Byes to the sea, indoor wet weather facility for children near pool.
- Have youth club at a venue that has other facilities i.e. a park.
- Youngsters used to play football at Stowford Rise, make sure it is replaced.
- Sports Centre is great but could do with expanding. Needs to be more facilities for young people.
- New outlet for youth service down at the seafront. Town Council supporting it. Does seem to work quite well.

Use of Seafront:

- Pedestrianise the centre of town.
- Coastal towns all provide a different experience, keep Sidmouth's character.
- Tourism impacts of surfers on Sidmouth.
- Showers on seafront.
- Encourage use of the sea and seafront.
- Need to use the sea more often, more storage for sea based activities. Will be good for all ages.

Protect the community:

- Concerned about Pennington Point and flooding.
- Sidmouth is very special, retained its special character and the look of it.
- Don't develop the hills – this would spoil Sidmouth.
- Save the town from eroding cliffs.
- Quite happy with Sidmouth as an appealing place.
- Preserve and support the hotels and retail businesses.
- Sidmouth is a good community.

Other- Community:

- Better multi-agency working.
- Wet weather facilities to encourage tourism.
- Sidmouth has a lot of entrepreneurs – business community.
- Protect small businesses/family run businesses.
- Infrastructure to be in place to support growth.

Environment

Access to Open Spaces and Safe Routes:

- The Byes – key natural asset, easily accessible.

- Firebeacon Hill – access needs improving – pedestrian and cycle links to any development in Woolbrook area.
- Shuttlebus – scheme could be expanded.
- Awareness/publicity of recreational areas outside the town.
- Roads in/out of town are currently too dangerous – need to be more cycle friendly.
- Cycle parking needed in the town.
- Shuttle scheme for cyclists up Peak Hill.
- Footpaths need to be promoted and integrated into facilities e.g. SW coast path.
- Cycle path – should extend to Sidbury. Feniton – Sidmouth route along old railway line.
- More cycle parking needed.
- Permissive footpaths/access should be explored and developed.
- Safer pedestrian access to Connaught Gardens.
- Hopper bus very well used transporting people to Connaught Gardens. This scheme could be expanded?
- Coherent promotion of footpath network is needed. Footpath plans? Signed routes?
- Education needed for pedestrians and cyclists to share paths.
- More dedicated cycle routes.
- Mountain biking – provision of routes/areas outside town especially for young people. Haldon Hill very successful outside Exeter.
- Proper cycle routes needed to link to surrounding villages/towns.
- Section 106 should focus more on cycle/pedestrian routes, not just play areas etc.

Protection and Enhancement:

- Pennington Point erosion/protection.
- Cliff erosion needs to be tackled urgently.
- New development must avoid areas at risk of flooding.
- Protection of SWW pumping station. Could be at risk of flooding.
- Encourage and provide habitat for otters on Sid.
- Preserve boundaries of town. Protect surrounding countryside from development.

Open/ Recreational Spaces:

- Sidmouth felt to be rich in open spaces.
- Retain formal gardens – prime tourist attraction.
- Status of the Byes – is it for recreation or wildlife?
- Cricket club – have to have a second ground at Bicton College. Need a ground within Sidmouth to provide for young players.
- Sidmouth Sports achievements are very good historically. More facilities would keep young people off the streets.
- Enough space in Byes for mixed use.
- More street trees – sponsorship, community involvement, ownership.
- Recent development has not included enough open green space or trees. This should be an area to improve on in future development.
- New play/recreational areas should involve young people and communities. Should be more imaginative – not just swings and climbing frames.
- Potential developers must pay for facilities.
 - Play areas.
 - Footpaths/cycle paths.
 - Sports facilities.

Other- Environment:

- Sustainability needs to be central to all new development issues.
- Parking and charging points for electric vehicles.
- Bio-fuel readily available and could be utilised in future development.
- There should be consultation on restrictive policies i.e. SSSIs.
- Local food production should be better supported by EDDC.

- Community market – should be better promoted.
- Shortfall of allotments – range of sizes should be available.
- Too much traffic in town – park and ride needed.

Economy

Jobs:

- Loss of job centre – difficulty of getting to Honiton. Outreach job centre would be useful.
- Problem of unaffordable housing, for people working in tourism.
- Care homes/LA's./shops/schools/tourism. Keyworkers commute in but not able to afford to live in Sidmouth.
- Imbalance between 'rich' people moving to Sidmouth and local employment.
- Local food production should be a priority – retain and support Bickton College.
- Training needed in food production – attitudes need to change. Dairy farmers still going out of business. Encourage people into farming.
- Training Days? Wilson's Government.
- Housing Association have to take on apprentices.
- Do we need to worry about jobs? Need the train to access jobs at Science Park.
- Not enough local people to employ in local businesses – not just hotels but retail also.
- Hotel industry is providing better training now.
- Donkey Sanctuary employs almost 250 people – 200,000 visitors a year – all staff training.

Employment Land

- Need new industrial land to attract business that can operate anywhere.
- Mixed use redevelopment – in town centre (not consensus) live work units?
- Community market for local trade – maybe outside.
- Need to upgrade existing industrial sites (not consensus).
- Redevelop Alexandria Road for housing.
- Need new industrial sites around town if well designed – Sidford Sewage Works – needs infrastructure links. Opposite station? Unlock ransom strip to Alexandria Road – would be better industrial estate.
- Need to improve Alexandria Road but with link road to main road – can you CPO the link road?
- Alexandria Road needs access to main road.
- Consider live/work units, if land can be found.
- AONB constraints stopping economic development (minority view?)
- Protect/substitute industrial land if redeveloped for housing.
- Improve quality of existing employment land.
- Need new 'Alexandria Road' Industrial Estate – could redevelop for housing. AONB constraints.
- Need mixed use redevelopment in future not just housing.

Shops and Retail:

- Charm of Sidmouth is small independent shops. Multi-nationals would spoil.
- Offset business rates for 6 months for local independent people.
- Shops and tourism work together.
- Restrictive leases puts people off starting local small shops.
- Shop sharing?
- Shops for young people – music/trendy clothes needed.
- Need to keep independent shops – good that we have butchers/bakers.
- Business tax breaks.
- Small individual shops important – whole group thinks important to keep independent shops.
- Most interest in shop units from multi-national companies – not private interests – risk factor to owner of building so pay less rent.

- Link hotels and independent shops.
- Pedestrianise town centre to keep individual shops.
- Shops critical to local economy.
- Small shops providing individual experiences is what locals and tourists come for. Don't want lots of national big chain stores.

Tourism:

- Need to retain hospitality year round. Town full of visitors in April!
- Visitors come because of unique features of Sidmouth.
- Tourism most important industry in Sidmouth.
- Diversity of shops depends on tourists.
- Need tourists to stay in town.
- Contribution of tourists important to local economy.
- Tourism big earner in Sidmouth.

Other- Economy:

- Local renewable energy – models for tidal energy? Could be growth area for Sidmouth economy.

Transport and Infrastructure

Cycling and Walking:

- Still want to continue cycle route Sidford – Sidbury and from Ford to seafront.
- Secure, cycle storage – covered, by swimming pool would help.

Car Parking:

- Bedford Car Park – new entrance off Esplanade – so one-way in and one way out to decrease congestion.
- Disabled parking.
- 400 spaces within 20 minutes walk of town centre, via yellow lining, development etc. – really efficient park and ride, one option to resolve. Need to focus on day visitors. Parking is major problem for town. Need open debate. (2nd tier on Ham/Manor Road car park).
- Sports Clubs (cricket and rugby) have problems with parking.
- Car parks in Sidmouth very expensive compared to other towns.
- Parking at hospital problem.
- Serious issue for town – car parks don't work for local community, Manor Road Car Park empty for most of year – could use for park and ride, free to park on road.
- Lots of car park space but poorly used.
- Suggest use Knowle 'arena' for park and ride car park.

Roads:

- Fore Street – more pedestrianised.
- Wider pavement/pedestrianisation in Fore Street – part-time using bollards.
- Pedestrianisation of town centre – happening through LTP3.
- Pedestrianisation in centre of town.
- Bridge over the Ford required – especially if Ham developed.

Public Transport:

- More public transport – bus – town-loop, especially for elderly – low step etc. (every 20 minutes).
- Smaller buses more regularly (rather than empty, unenvironmentally friendly double deckers).
- A pick-up service throughout winter as well as summer.

- Waitrose to town loop (funded by Waitrose) – to serve those in town without cars and those visiting from a distance to Waitrose (40 mile catchment), need encouragement to visit town centre.
- Knowle – park and ride not just park and walk.
- Need stronger links to Honiton railway station.
- Single delivery point for town then smaller shuttle/pick up and collection.
- Park and Ride at Woolbrook – given planning permission.
- No links to other towns in East Devon past 6.30 p.m., unless on Exeter 52 routes.
- Better links between end of Byes and seafront needed.
- Bus town-loop service – similar to Honiton and Ottery – e.g. Higher Woolbrook Park (hopper bus preference – stigma with ring and ride).
- No bus to/from Honiton station on Sundays at present.
- Should be direct bus links to Exeter St Davids.
- Only 1 bus each day each way from Sidmouth-Sidford via Fortescue.
- Train Exeter – Honiton – need to link in with it.
- Need smoother roads and cyclists on road.

Broadband:

- No real problem.
- No real issue.

Green Energy:

- Housing Association are required to reach higher ‘code for sustainable homes’ than other new houses – using photovoltaics.
- Tidal barrage on River Sid – showcase and protect cliffs and possible energy production near rock groynes.
- Wind energy second preference to tidal – sites near Harcombe always have wind.
- Hydro-electric on River Sid.
- Carbon – capture.
- Make old buildings energy efficient e.g. allow double-glazing on listed buildings.
- Need to heighten awareness of insulation for houses.
- Solar panels on (all?) roofs.
- Photovoltaics – especially on street lighting, as replaced – use LEDs – on large roofs.
- Tidal power.
- Not windy enough in Sidmouth for wind energy.

Other- Transport and Infrastructure:

- Discussion on thresholds.
- Gas Pipe – is there enough pressure for new houses at Woolbrook. Need to be mindful of gas as a resource.

Rural Issues

Housing and Affordable Housing:

- housing stock remains ‘Affordable’
- “bringing land forward”
- smaller villages offer 5 units, larger towns 15 units
- land values
- 5 open market houses = ... Affordable Housing
- Retain “Affordable” – Key requirement – covenant for key workers and Housing Association
- 4% of Sidmouth and 40% of Branscombe are second homes.
- Need for housing is linked to employment.
- future for rural areas? > coalescence of villages (Sidford/Sidmouth)

- concern for 'Urban Development' – (need for Policy to address threshold 15/5)

Rural Facilities:

- Alphington/facilities linked to housing
- Talaton/Plymtree Community Shop
- "Pub is the Hub" – Community Pub
- Community ownership of pub, etc
- Touring shops like a fishmonger and a grocer.

Farming and Traditional Rural Industries:

- produce goes away (local produce?) – farmers market
- diversification to sustain way of life
- AONB constraints (?)
- Branscombe .. Valley – farms have increased in size/lower no. of tenants
- (scale of farming).
- Small scale for Tourism
- Not village for produce alone
- Local food initiatives to be promoted
- Community food production opportunities
- Buying local – changing habits (superstores) – cultural (?) / cost?
- better connections to link people and places
- diversification

Rural Transport:

- Rural T – Sidbury – **Footway safety!** to Sidford (**Cycleway links** (Sustrans), Riverside walks).
- Donkey Sanctuary & ECT. > 200,000 visitors (90 parking spaces).
- Bus stops, - walkers ... linking to WHC
- "Village Life" – enhance improve access (?)
- Transport – poor – improvements to link communities & NHS Dentist – West Hill
- Transport – improve cycleways, bus services etc

POSTCARD COMMENTS FROM SIDMOUTH WORKSHOP 2010

Lovely seafront and pretty listed buildings. Lots of individual shops and very few chain stores. Plenty of good walks. We liked the cinema and the Manor Pavilion. The swimming pool is also excellent. Would like to see Alexandria Industrial Estate developed.

The Ham area needs smartening up and something should be done urgently about Pennington Point.

Here I am sitting on the newly set back sea-front – wonderful, locally grown food for lunch – this follows a great cycle ridge – me on a hired bike! - all the way round the town.

We are getting the park and ride bus back to the Donkey Sanctuary soon.

Managed to catch the train to Sidmouth!

There is something for everyone, a wonderful new Youth Centre and the local schools are thriving. Hired a bike and rode the cycle track/pathway to Sidbury.

The lovely new affordable housing means my daughter can move back to the town she grew up in and their ban on the second home ownership is a very good idea.

Nothing's changed.

Still got traffic jams.

Doctors has long queues.

Library still too small but the shops and people are still wonderful.

Sidmouth 2030

Dear Son

I enjoyed going back to Sidmouth! It's lovely to see the town conserving the old and embracing the new.

- Pedestrianised town centre.
- The electric tram bring people from Exeter.
- The surfing and diving activities.
- The many yachts in the bay.
- The wonderful new hospital.
- The redeveloped schools.
- The shops in the High Street.

Love Dad

Dear

Visited Sidmouth and was very impressed with the Marina and the general traffic flow – car parking, public transport all worked well.

Impressed with all the local sporting facilities within the town helping to keep all residents from 5 – 95 years fit and healthy. The variety of local shops, the seafront and the general accessibility of all that is attractive was exceptional.

Will be visiting again.

Sidmouth 2030

Sidmouth has topped into the trend for green tourism and is a thriving coastal holiday town – year round, not just summer only.

The town centre is bustling with small independent retailers and the municipal camping area in the Bays attracts families and younger tourists to the town. The new business park has created some well needed decently paid employment and the population is now not as aged as 2010!

Cycled over, using the lovely cycle path and paused to visit the wildlife sanctuaries on the way. Lots of exciting shops leading to the harbour side with some really expensive yachts.

Beautiful floral arrangements largely maintained by apprentices.

Town very strong on environmental issues. Liked it so much that decided to buy holiday home – only to find I couldn't due to planning regulations.

Visited Sidmouth for the first time in years, caught the boat from Exmouth and landed on a pontoon off the seafront.

Seafront hasn't changed much, but a notable addition was the bike hire business near the Ham.

Hired a couple of bikes and set off through the Byes to Sidbury, where we visited the Mill. On the way back we stopped at Sidford, where we could off-hire the bikes, and caught the bus back to Exmouth, interestingly the bus stopped at a park and ride site near Woolbrook, so that has finally been introduced.

All in all an interesting day.

12/04/2030

I must say things have changed here in the last 20 years and yet Sidmouth retains its charm. The front has not changed at all except there are very few private cars. There are, however, many bikes that people have been able to hire for a nominal charge at the same place as you park for the "park and ride" into town. The park and ride is excellent – very frequent and well used. I think in the past so many vehicles just drove round and round Sidmouth looking for somewhere to park. Lots of interesting individual shops.

I fell in love with Sidmouth when I saw it for the first time 25 years ago. I am delighted that it has not lost its allure and is still able to engage the heart for those that have always been here or never been here before.

May this valley always be defended by armies of devotees jealous for its past and protecting its future for posterity. It stands still but has done so by not standing still.

12/04/2030

Sidmouth is a beautiful resort largely because the work which has been done to stop the erosion of the red cliffs means it is a really interesting section of the Jurassic Coast.

The shopping is still as individual as it was 20 years ago – in fact. It's better as there are not so many charity shops. The parking is still awful, but they can't help that – there's no space – so they were best to leave it alone and introduce the CONTINUOUS around town scenic buses service. There are some ugly blocks of flats but hidden away and I'm well, glad they haven't any more.

Hello from Sidmouth 2030

Great for residents young and old.

Sae transport by bike and foot to ensure, health and youth facilities. Children and parents go everywhere by bike.

Balance of local rural/farming/tourism.

Really efficient, cheap transport links to Exeter, Cranbrook and Honiton to enable local people to work and live in the area.

Tourist facilities on the Ham and Port Royal – outdoor recreation to take advantage of unique natural resource.

Leisure/swimming/youth facilities in the heart of the town (long park) – no parking fees, cheaper to run.

Cohesive groups and families – nicely planned clusters.

Dear

April 2030

We have visited the Regency Town by the sea. The hotels along the esplanade are excellent family run establishments and the independent shops with the PEDESTRIAN access are a joy to buy our presents. Our visit to the Manor Pavilion Theatre to see the performance by the local operatic and arts society was as good as a London production.

We enjoyed our walks along the coastal paths of the Jurassic Coast and we appreciated the visit to the INTERPRETATION CENTRE. We also took a boat ride along the coast. The red sandstone cliffs having been stabilised have seen the town protected from coastal erosion.

The local sports facilities have allowed us to play bowls and tennis and watch games of cricket.

Regards

Dear Edna

I have enjoyed my visit to Sidmouth. There is a new cycle path tying up all the villages. A park and ride which has enabled Fore Street to be pedestrianised. A new industrial park with really attractive buildings (very vibrant).

The golf course is well maintained as is the whole town with beautiful floral displays.

I could go on but I need a cup of tea.

This is such a vibrant little town with all the centre pedestrianised. Over the ford there is a lovely bridge taking traffic to the complex on the Ham. There in the complex is a theatre, sports facility and swimming pool.

At the mouth of the Sid is a small boat harbour and marina.

We drove to the park and ride at the Knowle and walked from Knowle Drive into town. Only a short walk.

Dear All

12/04/2030

Couldn't park. The town lacked wet weather facilities. There was no family undercover for children. Was surprised to find all the hotels closed – locals said that all planning applications for new hotels were turned down.

Fields still open but all other independent shops now gone and replaced by multi-nationals – couldn't park.

Disappointed to find Rugby Club gone and now playing at Sidford. In 2010 they had three teams, now they only have one. Pedestrianisation working well, but couldn't park.

Enjoyed the guided tour of charity shops. Sad to see the Sidmouth Herald closing – the last issue referred to a meeting called by EDDC to consider the problem of erosion at Pennington Point – three town centre floods in three years is causing concern. We were pleased to learn that negotiations to buy the Drill Hall are proceeding well. Stuart Hughes looks very old. Hope he's ok.

Dear Dawn and Irene

12 April 2030

This is the first holiday I have taken alone as one of the carless mass that is the over 80s. I left Exeter and had a smooth and picturesque journey to Sidmouth on Monday. From the bus terminal at the Triangle (quaint bus turnaround point) I was picked up by the hotel "golf buggy" and safely landed at the Jamie Oliver's 50+ hotel – wow what a light and airy room and with much coveted sea views. It was off to Steins seafront restaurant to sample the local seafood. (Stein wasn't there of course but his old protégé is now head chef). I have attended the Jurassic Coast centre and tomorrow I am off on a guided Segway tour – use Segway along seafronts at the Jurassic coast towns. Weather promises to be fine, so hope my balance is up to par for segwaying as the centre made it sound so exciting. I will check and book rest of my tour from my hotel room – Broadband working so well. Perhaps will book a 'hide' place on the Byes to do some 'bad bird watching'.

See you soon. Wish you were here!

A Summer's Day in 2030

I decided to visit Sidmouth with my children from my home in Exeter, using our bikes.

We travelled by train to Honiton where a bus with cycle storage took us to Sidbury. We cycled along the cycle path from Sidbury to Sidmouth seafront. We parked our cycles in the rack along the Esplanade. We used the toilets and changing rooms on the Esplanade and enjoyed a swim in the sea. We showered in the seafront changing rooms, had our tea in the Esplanade Cafe on the beach and then went in the town to have a look around the shops which are now open all evening. We then rode to the Marina at the Ham to catch a ferry boat to Exmouth Harbour. From there we caught the train back to Exeter. (The clocks had changed to summertime so it was still light when we arrived back in Exeter). A lovely day was had by all!

Dear Matt

12/04/2030

20 years ago fearing another Labour government, I sold up and migrated to the Antipodes! Having always dwelt in the valley the pull to return and see how the dear old town has survived.

I am not surprised that there are moorings at the Ford.

The Fortfield has now become a 'listed ruin'.

Apart from that the time continues and the average age appears to be over 100 years.

Hi Mum

April 2030

Down in Sidmouth once again!

I love it here. The atmosphere is wonderful and everyone is so friendly. The population is incredible with people from all walks of life. The local food grown here tastes magnificent and the energy centre near the seafront really shows how Sidmouth has become the place to be creating their own power using tidal, wind and solar energy.

Young people are everywhere working hard in the fields and playing sport and leisure with equal enthusiasm.

It's so easy to get around here with their cycle network and walkways, people are happy, healthy and fit.

Can't wait for my next business work trip here.

Luv

Here I am in Sidmouth a beautiful regency town surrounded by unspoiled countryside and stunning coastal scenery. The town offers much in the way of a varied and interesting shopping centre and a wide range of accommodation.

There can be a problem parking in the town at certain times and relief by way of a park and ride is overdue. The town is home to over 70 clubs and associations catering for a wide spectrum of interests.

An annual Folk Festival brings a week of music and dance to the town.

The ownership of the coastline locally by the National Trust ensure it's future is safeguarded.

Dear

We went to Sidmouth and parked very easily in a long term car park close to the Town Centre. It cost less than many other towns in the area. The town is fantastic with independent shopping offering a variety of food and durables. We walked through beautiful gardens along a connected path to the River, which runs through a fantastic park all the way to a nearby village of Sidbury. We are staying in a new Five Star hotel on the seafront on the East End of the Esplanade – Sidmouth is a superb mix of new and old buildings side by side. Clearly the towns people have not tired to preserve it, as it was. A lot of young people live here now and work at home or in London part of the week and there is very good skills training across the spectrum for adults. It is really a happy place although most of the residents are 'incomers' and they have become 'locals' so there is no friction between the two groups as in other places.

We had a great time in Sidmouth. We left our car at the edge of town and hired bicycles to cycle around. The main street had a wide variety of independent shops. We were served by young people who were really enthusiastic about their town! There was a separate cycle route over to the estuary where we looked at an innovative tide barrage system across the river mouth. It was generating electricity for half the town! There was a wildlife sanctuary which was an attractive place for our picnic! They even had a wave machine where the young "dudes" were displaying their surfing skills!

On the way home we stopped at the swimming pool which had been refurbished. It had a water slide which was great fun! Around the swimming pool was a new affordable housing scheme which we were advised that were only for people local to Sidmouth and the environs – not good for us!! All in all, Sidmouth was a vibrant and interesting town to visit and seemed a popular place to live.

2030

In 2010 the worst part of Sidmouth was the Ham Car Park behind Boots and I was delighted to see that this area has been redeveloped into a happy vibrant community of residential and business accommodation. The complete pedestrianisation of the centre has worked wonderfully well and the quality of the shopping and recreational experience is far improved. It was a delight to arrive on the tram from the old railway line into the new Sidmouth transport hub at Woolbrook and catch the hopper down to the town's gateway at the triangle. Now the traffic has been moved out of town the place is far better to spend the time of day.

Dear All

12/04/2030

What a wonderful place Sidmouth is, traffic free, great park and ride facilities. A fantastic Interpretation Centre and lecture theatre giving information about the WH Site (Jurassic Coast). Cycling facilities are also great and I cycled from the town centre through to Sidbury and then to the Bowd and out to Feniton. Public transport is second to none with laser guided buses operating around the town. The coastal defence scheme that was installed has blended in really well and vegetation is now growing on the cliffs and the coast path has been reopened at the rear of Cliff Road properties.

The last time I visited the town in 2010 the cricket pavilion thatch was being replaced and the second ground was at Bicton College. I now marvel at the new sports facilities in the area between the top end of the Byes and Trow Hill which include the cricket club's second ground, the new astro pitches for hockey and the range of rugby pitches. I am sorry that the Blackmore was told off, but the Health Centre, begun in 2020, is now a splendid facility. What is so good about the sporting complex is that it can be used in the week by pupils at Sidmouth College (now with 1500 students) and by the various different sports clubs, including the town soccer club, which has now two fine pitches.

The transport facilities to the grounds for cycles and electric vehicles are good and the access to the A3025 is excellent. At the same time the main cricket ground in the Fortfield remains as iconic as ever.

Sidmouth hasn't changed much – thank goodness.

I could still park at the Ham, though a bit pricey at £2 per hour – so I used Manor Road at £1.20 per hour instead and enjoyed the walk by the Connaught Gardens and Cricket Club.

Manor Pavilion Theatre still going strong and thankfully not many new blocks of flats, except for the old Fortfield Hotel. The town was busy as ever, with fewer cars around now that Old Fore Street has been closed to cars and rejuvenated itself. Interesting to see the wider use of the Knowle Offices by clubs and societies, now that EDDC has been cut down following its merger of functions with South Somerset. I gather an offer has been made by a company to site its new headquarters there soon. Must go now – due at the hairdressers soon – still plenty of choice in the town!

Love Auntie Flo

Sidmouth - April 2030

The community gardens and allotments are a wonder to households with the communal manure heap, compost store and bio-mass generator at the Knowle where the Earl of Sidmouth used to live. The food in all the shops and hotels is produced right here in the parish with a farmers collective funding apprentice schemes based at Bicton College, which has been retro-fitted to the levels of energy efficiency achieved long ago by nearby Clinton Estates. There is a lovely little donkey sanctuary which brings in tourists, as well as the traditional folk festival but the main attractions now are the surfers wave outside the tidal energy generating reef that protects the eastern town and the centre for renewable energy generation where display area at the Old Drill Hall explain how the micro factories up and down the valley provide employment for many of the local young people. Multi-generation houses with retro-filled fuel efficiency complete the sense of well being in this community.

A wonderful weekend in Sidmouth, contemporary yet full of history, the kids cycled to Sidbury, we took the free bus to the Donkey Sanctuary. The hotels and shops as good as ever, you can now even sit in the High Street for an al-fresco coffee!

As for the theatre and Pool at the Ham. Wow!!

April 2030

Since visiting Sidmouth in 2010 – when the town was suffering from an economic depression with a number of charity shops and vacant shops in key locations. The town is now a vibrant tourist resort with a number of good class hotels. Although the town still has a high proportion of retired persons, steps have been taken to address the need and retain young people in the town through well targeted accommodation and the safeguarding of affordable housing. Accessibility in terms of footpath, cycleway and public transport has been continually improved to the extent that most trips in the town are buy walking and cycling, as the use of cars no longer plays a role for short term trips (for example to school and work). There is an increasing threat from climate change. The sea defences on the coast have again been strengthened and steps are being taken to overcome flooding in the town by green flood prevention measures on the upper reaches of the Sid (to help prevent the Boscastle type scenario). The town squares and parts are now a delight, being well managed, well connected, and appropriately staffed / lit etc. The Ham car park is now a multifunctional space used to a weekly market, stayed events and general recreation area. The Manor car park, Stowford Cross car park are now fully functional park and ride sites for those who visit Sidmouth.

Sidmouth has reinvented itself into the greenest seaside town in Europe and is now world renowned, with visitors wanting to stay in the Sidmouth area during all times of the year.

A good place to visit.

- Encourage more sea based activities and the use of bicycles.
- Support and protect small family run businesses.
- Concerns that there is no incentive for young people to stay here when they finish school – no apprenticeships and few job opportunities.
- Wanted more for non sporting people to do.
- There was a consensus that something done about drill hall stalemate.
- Concerns about flooding.
- Lots of people wanted a multi-purpose, multi-use health and education facility.
- An indoor play area as a wet weather provision.
- More provision for care of the elderly including care homes, day centres and lifelong learning.
- A meeting place/cafe for the elderly.

Full of vitality and excellent shops and pedestrian free shopping.
Beautiful landscape.

Dear Postcard

Sidmouth in 20 years time should be a vibrant community with decent homes at prices local people can afford. There will be good transport links to other communities and will include a local transport policy to ensure all residents and visitors can access the community safely. The town centre and seafront will remain as it is in 2010 with local independent traders. New development will be served with adequate infrastructure and community facilities to keep the development sustainable.

Sidmouth has changed very much and not necessarily for the best. The public transport though not perfect but compared with 50 years ago it's great. Being a 76 year old and can only ride on a bicycle when navigating the town. The roads are disgusting, not swept so consequently grit washes into drains blocking them. See Sidford 20 mph. You are joking? Bridge over the Ham? Years ago though in practice. What is an affordable house. Even Council houses cost about £100,000 if bought.

The vision groups ideas seem to be covered by the Sidmouth Town Council?

The Vision Group. How is it funded?

The opinion of a lady born here thinks that Sidmouth is being ruined (70 years). I have the Ham cannot and must not be developed.

Thank you.

Transport

- Waitrose free bus?
- Link with Honiton?
- Bike route to coast.
- Combined delivery – Barnstaple has one.

Rural Areas

- Farming – by employer but important for community and infrastructure.
- Pub is the hub – crucial link for food, jobs, community and school.
- Rural affordable housing priority for locals, lower the limit.

Community

- Too much?!
- Sports need more.

Health

- New centre – dated, no longer fit for purpose.
- Library.

Housing

- 305 waiting list October 2009 (1400 Exmouth, 200 Seaton)
- 40% affordable.

12/04/2010

Sea defences. Alma Marina – landing pier for private craft etc.

A shopping centre for small firms to start up. Not big name shops.

Cycle park to lock bikes in safely.

Dear All

Having a fantastic time in Sidmouth. Nice and sunny, those days of washed out folk festivals are long gone! We spent yesterday doing the Sidmouth loop, as cycle path that links up all the town's green areas. There is even a fantastic bike hub in the town centre so we could stop off and do a bit of shopping (great shops with lots of character).

Just been playing on the town's flood lit astro pitch which is a fantastic facility with a much expanded sports centre close by.

Hope all is well.

PS Don't forget to feed the cat!!