

WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL
GREENACRE COUCHES LANE WOODBURY EX5 1HL

EDDC Planning
Sidmouth

24th January 2012

Comments on the Emerging EDDC Local Plan 2006 to 2026

Members of Woodbury Parish Council wish to congratulate the authors of the New Local Plan for preparing a well presented and readable document. Our comments on the Plan are given below.

We note from paragraph 3.9 that EDDC plans to promote the **expansion of Exeter Airport**. We understand that Exeter Airport currently is suffering from a substantial reduction in passenger numbers and hence income, in common with a number of other regional airports, a situation which is likely to continue well into the Plan period. We suggest that its expansion may be prematurely optimistic.

We support the **distribution of new housing** as set out in the Plan. Any further housing or industrial development which encroaches onto the good agricultural land in the vicinity of the already busy A3052 would be wrong. Notwithstanding spoiling the countryside and the character of nearby villages, the resultant traffic would lead to a further increase in the gridlock already experienced at peak travel times along the road, especially at its junctions with the A376 and the M5.

The consistently heavy traffic on the **Exmouth – Exeter road, A376**, which passes through Woodbury Parish, is of serious concern to Woodbury and neighbouring parishioners plus other road users. In addition, there will be increased traffic arising from some of the residents of new homes constructed in Exmouth and the surrounding area during the Plan period. The increase in traffic during the tourist season and the inevitable recreational journeys to the Exmouth beaches which will be made by Cranbrook residents will only exacerbate an already difficult situation unless substantial improvements to this key route are made. We believe that this matter should feature strongly in the Plan.

The forecast increase in housing development at a number of towns and villages in East Devon inevitably will require an increase in **primary and secondary level education provision**. It is essential, therefore, that for any housing development the approval conditions include the appropriate Community Infrastructure Levy / s106 contribution for children's education, including ICT provision. Such a sum should pass to the schools which provide the additional places.

Part 3 of the Plan comprehensively places a heavy burden on town and parish councils (such as Woodbury Parish Council) for the production of a **Neighbourhood Plan**. Whilst we welcome the perceived benefit and indeed the challenge of producing this important document, we earnestly request that some financial support and a nominated planning officer are made available to assist us in achieving our shared goal. We have already indicated our wish to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

Belinda Price
Clerk to Woodbury PC

cc Cllr Ray Bloxham
Cllr David Atkins
Cllr Ben Ingham