
From: Robert Murray
Sent: 16 December 2019 18:49
To: Planning Policy
Cc: Richard Cohen; Alison Hayward
Subject: RE: Otterton Regulation 16 Consultation: Economic Development

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Claire,

This is a substantial piece of work. My review is limited to the economic and employment objectives and suggested policies of the plan and the extent to which they are effective in promoting quality jobs provision in the area. As such, my views may inevitably be at odds with some of the contributing respondents, around 50% of whom are retired.

From an ED perspective, the following views are offered:

- The appendices include responses to questions on PT/FTE hours and work location showing Otterton has more PT workers than Full time and that the majority work outside of the parish. Part time roles are around 3 times more likely to be low paid, something the Plan doesn't directly address. The split between working and retired/not working respondents in Otterton is almost 50/50 showing a worryingly high degree of economic inactivity in the parish.
- PO.4 Economy/Business/Employment.

This objective promotes support for existing small tourism and farming businesses. These do typify many of East Devon's village economies but the approach is not seeking to facilitate the emergence of more valuable jobs. Tourism and agricultural jobs are amongst the lowest value in terms of levels of pay and productivity/GVA. They are also largely seasonal with the risk of reduced hours and no income during winter months. Future employment provision of value in Otterton would be served by linking the desire for stronger broadband and mobile data connectivity to support higher GVA sector development such as creative and knowledge based businesses which:

- 1) are perfectly compatible with increased levels of home working
 - 2) have no impact on the natural or built environment
 - 3) reduce the need for commuting to more distant employment locations, reducing traffic and supporting self-containment
 - 4) provides potential careers within the settlement giving younger residents and families a reason to stay
- The Future Vision is honest in sharing the most commonly expressed view that 'Stay the same' is the most commonly held local aspiration for the Plan. Sadly, the economic objectives appear to reflect this also. Why were young people not asked about what local jobs and businesses they'd like to see developed in/around Ottery?
 - Policy ONP6 seeks to encourage small scale economic development, but actually risks doing the very opposite in the restrictive pre-qualifying criteria for support set out. Can we stipulate the jobs provided must be for local people? This assumes they have the required skills, knowledge and experience that a future employer might need. Condition 3: What are 'sustainability terms'? Point iii leaves ample scope

for subjectivity in terms of what constitutes impact on amenities, the street scene, the AONB and rural character. This wide array of personal assessments which can be called upon to block commercial development would deter most potential investors.

- Policy ONP7 appears restrictive and it is clear the traffic generated by the Holiday Park is the primary factor in this. I'm unclear on whether the view given that the Park has grown to its maximum size within the permitted boundary is subjective or factual. The local employment and economic benefit of the business is not addressed. I would urge Policy colleagues to check compatibility with both existing Local Plan policy and site specific planning history on this point.

Happy to discuss if useful.

Kind regards,

Rob

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