

Response to East Devon District Council Local Plan 2023-2041

Clyst Hydon parish council, after reading the Draft Local Plan published by East Devon District Council would like to make the following points.

Overview

Overall the plan is very long with little detail on how it's laudable aims are going to be achieved. The plan appears to be based on the premise of maintaining the planning system and objectives that have been broadly in place for the 80 years since the end of the second world war. There is no accounting for the major changes in society that has occurred during that period, including changes in working patterns due to the development of the world wide web, social demographic changes including the loss of the extended family and most importantly the change in work life balance leading to a reduction in individuals willing to commute to work. The document reads as high-level aim rather than a specific plan of how to implement the changes required to achieve the plans objectives. **Because of the way the plan is written it is very difficult to give specific feedback.**

Infrastructure

The first point we would like to raise is one on infrastructure required to provide the lifestyle that most current residents and probably future residents of East Devon aspire to. The plan is very short on how the residents will be supported in terms of educational, recreational and health support at a local level. The plan makes provision for land to be put aside when a planning application is received for a moderate or large number of residential dwellings but makes no provision if the same number of dwellings are proposed in several smaller applications. The demands of the community on the supporting infrastructure will still come to the same.

The plan does not specifically look at the possibilities of producing what has been termed the 15-minute habitat, where the local community can walk to all or most facilities for work recreation and primary health within 15 minutes of their residential dwelling.

The report does not mention creation of sufficient secondary and tertiary health care facilities to support the increased demand created with the increase in population. The current level of support as portrayed currently by both the local and national media appears to be inadequate for the current population. **We think expansion of services will be required before the population is increased and should be incorporated into the final plan.**

Transport

A large amount of data has been obtained to prepare the plan included demographics on population age and work travel arrangements which is admirable and well presented. However, the plan does not directly address the issue of commuting to work. In proposals for large numbers of dwellings it is proposed to have a proportion of workspace development, but in the more rural areas which is the greater proportion of East Devon there are no plans discussed. There is also no discussion on the rapidly changing work patten, which is currently seeing more home working and more part time working. The ageing demographics of East Devon along with its rural terrain is leading residents in East Devon to find it more difficult to lead independent lives because of a lack of peripatetic support, for not only social and health requirements, but for domestic support with cleaning gardening property maintenance. **If the ageing demographic continues, then it will require putting**

in the local plan as there will be a higher requirement for car and van transport and a reduction in workspace requirement.

Green Credentials

The plan contains a lot of references to what is colloquially called green credentials and states the aim is to be CO₂ neutral by 2041. This is to be achieved by a variety of initiatives, including reducing commuting, community heating systems and increasing the tree cover of the area from 10% to 30%, which are all achievable and much desired. Previous local community heating systems have however been fraught with difficulty, and failure leads to whole communities suffering. What appears to be totally missing, is that there is no mention of how the increase in population is going to be accommodated within the water cycle. The most obvious omissions we feel are a lack of detail on how to cope with the extra sewage requirements and where the extra water supply is to come from. Both issues will require incorporation into the plan as large areas of land will be required for extra sewage treatment plants and either the laying of pipes to extract water from rivers or the development of new reservoirs, possibly outside East Devon. **Given the current issues with sewerage and water supply we feel that this requires a planning alongside increasing residential housing.**