

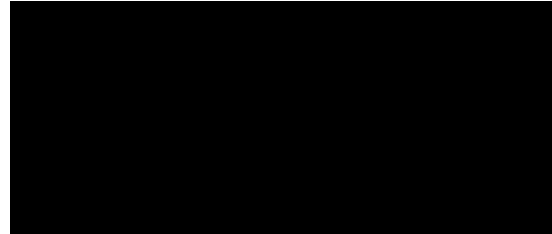


Woodbury Parish Council

(serving Exton, Woodbury, and Woodbury Salterton)

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. Anne-Marie Bates



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East Devon District Council
Blackdown House,
Heathpark Industrial Estate,
Honiton
Ex14 1EJ

28th May 2024

Dear

We are writing to express our deep dissatisfaction with the lack of communication and consultation between the East Devon District Council (EDDC) and the Parish Council.

We believe it is essential that EDDC engages in meaningful discussions with Parish Councils to ensure diverse perspectives are properly considered and taken into account leading to better-informed and fairer outcomes.

Unfortunately, there have been many instances where the District Council have proceeded without adequately involving the Parish Council. This approach is simply ignoring the valuable insights and local knowledge that the Parish Councils have. We can only conclude that this remote and top-down approach is not best for the communities we represent. We play a vital role in representing the interests of our communities, we live and work in these communities and we bring essential local context and understanding. Our input should be actively sought and considered during and prior to decision-making processes especially since our impression is that your depleted staffing resource must be limiting your opportunity to be close enough to local context and issues.

An example of this is the emerging Local Plan and the expectation without prior discussion and due notice that the Parish Councils will carry out this important consultation. In the first instance a meeting with the parish councils preferably in meaningful groupings where proposals impact upon multiple parish boundaries would have been very use useful. We could have discussed potential development sites, business areas, infrastructure, coalescence, SANGS, green wedges etc. and their implications. Having this meeting could have given you vital information to better prepare the consultation respecting previous parish councils' submissions or explaining EDDC's view of those submissions. would have known our views. Some of the smaller villages might have asked for some development.

Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. C. McGauley (Woodbury)

Vice Chairman: Cllr. R. Ball (Woodbury)

Exton Cllrs: Mrs. S. Cole, S. Parks, C. Hoar

Woodbury Cllrs: Mrs. S. Knighton, R. Parr, K. Perry, J. Pyne, A. Wills

Woodbury Salterton Cllrs: S. Andrews, Ms. H. Morrell, B. Irvin

There has been significant deficit in dialogue and communication but more of a tick box exercise that is confusing, inefficient as well as it being led by your desk based assessed preferred sites, thus not open and transparent.

This lack of transparency undermines trust in the local government and hinders effective community participation. Handled differently it would have fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility among residents.

We hope that you can address these concerns and restore confidence in the process.

Yours sincerely



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Woodbury Parish Council



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