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Sent: 26 November 2022 16:19
To: Planning Policy; Exmouth Town Council Clerks
Subject: Local plan revision

Categories: Reg.18 consultation

The Exmouth Civic Society has been in existence for 46 years watching out for the town's welfare and future and has involved in every consultation required of it by Devon County, South West Region, EDDC Exmouth Town Council (ETC) etc.

This culminated in requesting ETC to gain permission to invite the Community to produce it's Neighbourhood Plan.

The Civic Society were invited to act in the capacity of Vice-Chair and several other members were accepted on to the Steering group and three onto the workhorse, being the Draft Outline Plan Group.

Four years of extremely hard work followed and eventually, after struggling over every hurdle placed in its path, a Neighbourhood Plan (thought to be the largest in England at the time) was approved in the Statutory Referendum by 88 per cent.

The Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan addressed every aspect required of it and more, and was consulted upon during formation on at least 4 occasions (more that statutorily required) to ensure that the views of the Exmouth Community were correctly represented.

This Society is beginning to wonder regarding some aspects as to why it bothered.

The most important issues that came forward into the plan were that Exmouth wished to see a reversal on the older age demographic which was not good for a balanced economic community, at the same time concentrating on work opportunities and affordable housing for our young children and grandchildren.

Also the Community was adamant that the Built Up Area Boundary (BUAB) not be extended.

All other aspects of the plan by way of transport, Community facilities, Health services, the environment and the protection of our family tourism reputation naturally tied in with the two major objectives.

What have we seen since. Firstly three years of inactivity admittedly the fault of Covid and just lately the only untouched and designated area of employment land (at Redgates/Tesco) handed over for sheltered housing for the elderly, exactly the opposite of the ENP and without a penny piece being put into the Community Infrastructure Levy to contribute towards the increased pressure that will result on infrastructure.

Now we see the proposals for the EDDC Local Plan revision which has done a complete turn about from previous proposed expansion tying in with the Greater Exeter Plan in the northern area of EDDC which placed such new development close to the employment areas east of Exeter , on sustainable highway routes and rail links, to re-allocating (it has been termed 'dumping' by an Exmouth Councillor) it at Exmouth in complete disregard to the wishes of its community, and completely ignoring the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan approved by EDDC less than 4 years ago.

The proposals in the Local Plan revision for Exmouth especially in the NE sector are NOT sustainable, will place unsupportable strain on infrastructure such as education, transport, sewerage, drainage,the environment etc. and will form coalescence with its neighbour Lympstone just as Exeter has swallowed up Topsham.

In addition to this it will also act totally in opposition to the retention of youth in the town as the proposed houses will act only as a dormitory for Exeter being unaffordable to those youngsters who wish to stay here. Goodmore' s Farm development has produced only 5 per cent of affordable houses, a mere 16 from over 300 new dwellings. This is totally unacceptable.

The proposals, as far as Exmouth is concerned, are unworthy and totally unacceptable and totally against the wishes of the Community as recently expressed in the legal entity The Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan.

A complete strategic rethink is necessary immediately.

I.G Cann Secretary and on behalf of The Exmouth Civic Society.

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