

From: Margaret Hall [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 September 2023 15:28
To: Planning Policy <PlanningPolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk>
Subject: West Hill Neighbourhood Area Consultation

Dear Planning Policy

I fully support the proposal for West Hill Parish Council to designate the parish of West Hill as a Neighbourhood Area, and I endorse the reasoning set out in the application form.

It is standard within East Devon for the Neighbourhood Area to be an individual parish. The only exception I believe is the Colyton Neighbourhood Plan, which also covers the newly separated Colyford Parish – an analogous situation to Ottery St Mary and West Hill.

West Hill is a very different settlement to Ottery St Mary and has its own development needs, environmental issues and community needs. Indeed it was some of these differences which led to the drive to create West Hill as a separate parish.

I was a member of the Working Group which developed and wrote the Ottery and West Hill Neighbourhood Plan. It was increasingly clear as that progressed that there were significant differing priorities for Ottery residents and West Hill residents. It was sometimes complex to design policies applicable to both settlements. Although West Hill has a chapter in the current Neighbourhood Plan, there are areas which need to be refined and expanded and other topics which need to be covered.

It was initially Ottery St Mary Town Council who suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan should be reviewed, and posed the question as to whether this should continue as a joint plan or whether the two parishes should each develop their own Neighbourhood Plan. This has been discussed extensively by West Hill Parish Council, and also during consultations with parishioners, and the consensus has been that the best way to proceed is as separate Neighbourhood Areas. I understand that Ottery St Mary Town Council are content for the re-designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Ottery St Mary parish on its own.

There are undoubtedly areas of mutual interest, such as the desire for a Green Wedge between Ottery and West Hill, and I am sure that the two councils will be able to work together on these issues.

Yours sincerely

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