

From: Ella Weech [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2022 10:37
To: Cllr Ian Thomas; Planning Policy; Cllr Paul Arnott
Subject: East Devon Local Plan Objection

Categories: Reg.18 consultation

Dear Cllr. Paul Arnott, Leader, East Devon District Council, Cllr. Ian Thomas, Chair, East Devon District Council and
Planning Policy Lead

It is with great concern that I have recently learned of the detail regarding our village in the draft Local Plan for East Devon up until 2040. In this draft, Upottery has been designated as "unsustainable" under the arbitrary and frankly old-fashioned scoring system used to determine the future of our thriving village. To add insult to very serious and long-lasting injury, there are no questions in the consultation questionnaires concerning the settlements which, like Upottery, have been written off as unsustainable. Therefore I hope you record my significant objection to this designation through this email.

Upottery is a vibrant, thriving community. We have a very popular preschool, a primary school which is oversubscribed in the lower years, a church, a youth club, a village hall that hosts regular community events and a bustling pub. We have tennis, football, short mat bowls, benchball and cricket clubs active throughout the year.

Your categorisation of Upottery as "unsustainable" is particularly galling when you have already identified (in 2017) a development site (Upot_01) in the village capable of accommodating up to 20 new homes up to 2040 and which your plan now says will not be built. Your plan acknowledges that you have not been able to find sufficient development land for all the new homes required in East Devon over the next 18 years and you now plan to build another new town but you have decided that our parish is not allowed any growth or development.

If you had consulted with your council tax payers before deeming settlements like Upottery to be "unsustainable" you may have found many more opportunities for new development. All communities need to grow and provide new homes for young people, otherwise they will stagnate or decline and if your Local Plan goes ahead without change that is what you will be condemning Upottery to. The residents of Upottery protest that this must not be allowed to happen. A modest growth in our population is essential for us to continue to thrive as a community.

From my understanding of the "scoring" system used to determine the sustainability or otherwise of villages, Upottery has missed out on the one "point" we would need to be assigned the label of "sustainable" because we do not have a stand alone shop or post office. We do have a once a week post office in the village hall, and the pub continues to sell necessities such as milk, bread and eggs for those caught in a pinch. Were we to have been given half a point for each of these, we would be labelled as "sustainable" and be allowed to grow and thrive. To me, this just highlights the arbitrary and frankly ridiculous nature of the whole scoring process. We aren't in 1950! Everyone has internet access and so the ability to have almost anything they can dream of delivered straight to their door within 24 hours! And why on earth is so much importance placed on having a post office? Anyone can buy postage with a few clicks on the Royal Mail App, and multiple delivery companies including the Royal Mail will collect parcels from your door! Why is our community being disregarded and condemned to decline because we don't have a physical post office when it's totally unnecessary to modern life? This is so backwards-looking it is, quite frankly, ridiculous.

You have told us that along with three other settlements your scoring of our services and facilities only just failed to put us in the lowest sustainable tier 4. This needs to be corrected.

Please, do not condemn our lovely community, where my family, like many others, has lived and worked for generations, as an “unsustainable” settlement!

Sincerely,

Ed and Ella Weech,

