

Mr Alan Libretto

13 January 2023

Mr E. Freeman
Service Lead Planning Strategy
and Development Management
East Devon District Council
Blackdown House
Border Road
Heathpark Industrial Estate
Honiton
EX14 1EJ

BY HAND

Dear Mr Freeman,

Proposed changes to East Devon Local Plan

I am unable to use Commonplace as I do not have a computer or any kind of IT access. I have had to rely on others to write this on my behalf.

I have been a Farringdon resident for almost 40 years, and I write to object strongly to the proposed new town referred to as Option 1 and Option 2. I have enjoyed my time being a member of this community but I have also witnessed the ever growing presence of the Hill Barton Estate, which is very close to my property. That in itself has been a travesty allowed to happen, completely out of character for this area. A further development of a whole new town would completely ruin the character of this rural parish; a very distressing thought for me and my neighbours.

I am very disappointed that we have not had the opportunity to meet with officers of EDDC face to face in our own village hall to discuss these matters, especially when 2 out of the 3 options affect directly the Parish of Farringdon. The time allowed for completing the consultation has been wholly inadequate and it cannot be said to be have been of a sufficient length or timed appropriately, given that this has taken place primarily over the Christmas period.

I understand from information received from our Parish Council and through our local residents' association that we have not been given the complete picture by EDDC. There are apparent plans behind the scenes which are far more advanced than those that have been disclosed so far. There is an intended new road to run through the parish thereby dividing an established community in two. The lack of transparency is worrying given the extent to which the proposed changes will affect so many.

It is also my understanding that government policy has recently changed and the premise upon which the consultation was commenced has been derailed by this. The government are no longer requiring a fixed number of houses to be built so why is this even being proposed?

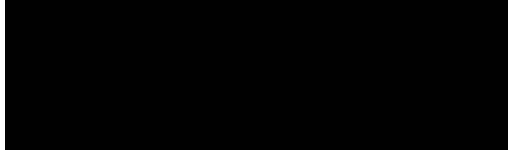
I am concerned as a Council tax payer that I have to be responding at all when the continuation of the consultation can no longer be said to have any validity and should be halted forthwith.

A recent article written in the Sidmouth Herald by Councillor Allen reflected his concerns about the whole process and I see that he is intending that this matter should go to the Council's Scrutiny Committee of which he is Chair as well as being a member of the Strategic Planning Committee. I hope that the Strategic Planning Committee will recognise that they have been called to account and that the proposed changes cannot continue in their present form. This process should be suspended with immediate effect.

I submit that Option 1 and Option 2 should be dismissed. I would clarify that, in making this submission, I also do not consider Option 3 suitable either. Where there are housing needs they should centre around families and should be built in their families' localities across the district of East Devon and across Devon and the county as a whole.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.