

December 2022.

Dear Sir/Madam.

After trying to negotiate the 'East Devon Plan' website, I decided it would be easier to write to share my opinion & the feeling of many others that I speak to.

I attended The Victory Hall a few weeks ago to view the Plans for Future Housing.

I left the Hall feeling quite depressed & helpless. As far as I understand, The Government are dictating the amount of homes we need. It is however East Devon Council I gather ^{who} can make decisions on how this will look?!

How sad therefore that this opportunity is sadly lacking any imagination. Look at Cranbrook, sprawling pockets of thousands of houses with any town centre etc. etc.

Why are even more green fields being covered with solar panels, instead of incorporating on ...

the houses or huge warehouses?
Why are there no facilities made to enable
waste water to be used in draught conditions?
etc etc.

My main question however is, why do we still
not have homes for local, hard working people?
(Earning under £30,000)

Those that have lived here most of their lives,
& not just a 3yr connection.

As you will see, I have enclosed an interesting
letter & picture in a local Paper of just one idea.

I am one of many people in East Devon who
have an Adult Son living back home & seeing
no way out: (He has an 8yr old son).

Affordable Housing! ? Shared ownership Scheme?
Rent at ridiculous amounts.

It appears that houses in East Devon are being
built at such a rate, no thought what so ever
is going into them. Sadly, whatever we all think
& feel, I would be very surprised if our views will
be listened to and acted upon.

Yours Sincerely Mrs. Liz Silk.

Not just criminals who operate 'scams'

RECENTLY, our local police force, presumably acting on Government advice, conducted a public campaign warning us of the dangers of accepting offers which seemingly emanate from official bodies but are actually bogus, commonly called scams.

Yet it is not just criminals who try to encourage or even force people to part with their money. There are numerous legal schemes which purportedly are fair and equitable but are blatantly unjust.

Most people know that income tax was first levied in this country to fund the Napoleonic wars, and was supposedly initially based on a person's ability to pay.

Over the centuries, the system has become so complicated that numerous explanatory books have been published, some running to hundreds, if not thousands, of pages.

There are now so many allowances and exemptions that many of the wily, the most erudite as well as the nefarious need pay little or no tax on their income. So much for ability to pay.

Then there is the more recent infamous Value Added Tax, so called, but difficult to see how it can add value. We have taxes based simply on mercantile transactions which are often based simply on a percentage of the value of the asset.

In an earlier attempt to levy a local charge for local services, the Government of the day introduced the ill-fated community charge, which was soon replaced by the council tax, based on property values. The value of a property is not decided by an individual but by external factors completely beyond their control. So much for the ability to pay.

Tax on motorists has never been hypothecated, and from the earliest days of the horse power tax to the present policy on electrical propulsion, tax levied is based on possession rather than road use.

It is worth noting that the organisation most vociferous in warning us of scams should also impose the most pernicious and inequitable imposts.

Anthony G Phillips
Salisbury, Wiltshire

We need to provide more homes

BRISTOL has a housing crisis, there's no doubt about that. We have sky-high prices to buy and very high rents too.

Younger people in particular are facing a very hard time of it.

We urgently need to provide more homes, and preferably the kind of homes that people want to actually live in. That means more homes and not high-rise tower blocks with questionable cladding and fire risks.

One part of the solutions mix could be what are called "meanwhile homes".

These are modular homes put up quickly and less expensively on brownfield (pre-used) land. They can provide temporary housing and then be taken down easily later on and dismantled so that the land can be used for other things, including for "permanent" housing.

London, it is claimed, could create 250,000 homes like that. If Bristol can do the same, then maybe

> An example of a 'Modpod' temporary home
Tristan Porter



What do you think?

Are temporary homes a solution to the housing crisis? Join the debate by emailing letters@westemdailypress.co.uk and including your name and address

we could provide 14,000 to 15,000 homes this way.

Pie in the sky? Maybe, but it should be looked into.

The cynics, carpers, whingers and unhappy sceptics should look at things positively. There are lots of people around who will moan and groan and prefer to stay in their misery and ignorance rather than consider real world solutions. Let them stew in their own ignorance and negative waves.

We should build communities as they did in the past, and build them near good transport links.

"Meanwhile homes", meanwhile, could help people in housing need. Worth looking into!

Simon Lloyd
Bristol

Transport designed for fantasy not reality

FORTY years ago I read: "The new car is 50mm wider and 75 mm longer than the old." The process, known as upsizing has continued, and the latest vehicles are now half a metre wider and a metre longer.

The numbers of these large, often huge, vehicles has also increased, restricting roads when parked and blocking narrow lanes.

You can't blame the buyer, who most probably doesn't notice, and advertising (vast 4x4s racing across the empty wastes of Arizona) obscures the motoring reality (15mph stop start crawls).

Most cars are too powerful, many are now too large for the cities and much of our road space is used as