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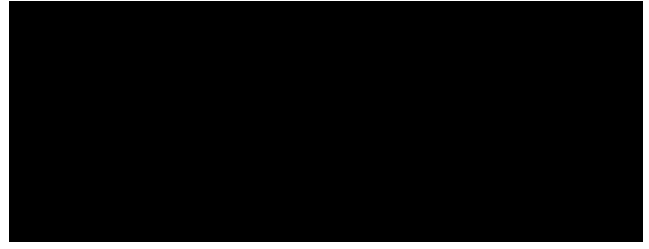


Woodbury Parish Council

(serving Exton, Woodbury, and Woodbury Salterton)

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. Anne-Marie Bates



East Devon District Council,
Blackdown House,
Border Road,
Heathpark Industrial Estate,
Honiton, EX14 1EJ

25th November 2024

Dear Cllr E. Rylance, Cllr P. Arnott, Cllr S. Jackson, Cllr T. Olive, Cllr O. Davey, Andy Wood, Ed Freeman, Wendy Ormsby and Jonathan Smith

Re: Inadequate Consultation and Communication with Woodbury Parish Council

Woodbury Parish Council would like to formally express our deep concern with the inadequate consultation and communication we have experienced from East Devon District Council (EDDC). As the first tier of local government, we believe it is vital that we are given the opportunity to engage meaningfully in the decision-making process regarding potential development site allocation and in considering significant planning applications within our community, and not just be part of a tick box exercise.

Woodbury Parish Council has been proactive in engaging with the community and organising public consultations to ensure that the views of our residents are heard. We have been supportive of East Devon District Council's broader objectives, but we are deeply frustrated throughout the process by the lack of consultation, the lateness of information provided and limited time allowed for due consideration resulting in excessive pressure being placed on Parish Councillors and the Clerk. Our queries are often not answered and information not provided in a timely manner to enable us to perform our important role in ensuring that the local context and realities on the ground are given due consideration by those producing policy and recommendations to committees.



Chairman:	Cllr. Mrs. C. McGauley (Woodbury)
Vice Chairman:	Cllr. R. Ball (Woodbury)
Exton:	Cllrs Mrs. S. Cole, S. Parks, C. Hoar
Woodbury:	Cllrs Mrs. S. Knighton, R. Parr, K. Perry, J. Pyne, A. Wills
Woodbury Salterton:	Vacancies

Due to insufficient time being allocated for us to hold formal meetings under our Governance structure, we are often forced to make critical decisions under delegated powers, without the opportunity for proper public consultation or reflection. Furthermore, the lack of meaningful engagement of this Parish Council in the early stages of potential developments is a missed opportunity with decisions being made that have significant long-term detrimental consequences for our community.

We are not opposed to development. However, we firmly believe that development should be in the right place and of the right type. They should also be of benefit to existing communities which will be affected by a series of developments, within and near the Parish, leading to significant cumulative negative impact on important infrastructure. services and the environment.

As local representatives, we know our villages, their context and challenges, and its people better than anyone. The current process has completely ignored this, and we are now seeing rushed decisions being made with little regard for the needs or concerns of the local community.

We respectfully request that East Devon District Council acknowledges these concerns and commits to a more inclusive, transparent, and collaborative process in the future. It is imperative that as the local authority closest to the community, Woodbury Parish Council is engaged early and meaningfully in any significant proposed development site discussions or planning applications within the Parish including, when relevant, with the early discussions concerning appropriate Section 106 Agreement contents providing mitigation or benefit to the expanding community.

We trust that this letter will be taken seriously, and that a more effective and cooperative approach will be adopted moving forward. We would welcome the opportunity for further discussions and hope to receive a response outlining how East Devon District Council intends to address these issues.

Yours sincerely



Anne-Marie Bates
Clerk to the Council



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