

## **Planning Committee report – Cllr Sara Leat**

The Planning Committee has had a very light year in comparison to all the other council committees, according to the EDDC planning portal we have only had 72 applications in the last year. The vast majority of which have been either agricultural or very minor alterations. Which is why we haven't had to have any separate meetings as decisions have been made at our full councils meetings.

Following a report from Natural England on the phosphate level of the river Axe we have received advice that we should no longer be looking to support planning applications for any development that would increase the discharge of phosphates into the river.

A significant proportion of phosphates in the area come from residential uses and so this means that developments for new dwellings and holiday accommodation whether through new build or conversion may not be permitted unless they can mitigate the phosphate discharge from the development so that their impact on nutrient levels is neutral.

As a council we have pledged to behave responsibly towards our environment and this pledge has been very much part of our process when making recommendations on planning applications.'