

## **Report from the Chair of the Planning Committee, Cllr. Sara Leat**

### **Axminster Annual Parish Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – 7pm Guildhall**

I apologise for not being with you tonight however I can confirm that since the last Annual Parish Meeting in May 2021, the Planning Committee has met on 19 occasions- that may seem a lot in comparison to other Committees however planning applications must be responded to within a set time limit, usually 21 days. So, this means that the planning committee have to meet more frequently as dictated by the number of applications - thankfully these meetings are often quite short!

There have been a number of new members to the committee this year which has meant we have taken the opportunity to thoroughly discuss applications and explore the planning process with fresh eyes.

As usual there have been a wide variety of applications from new builds to listed buildings, from CCTV to numerous agricultural buildings of all shapes and sizes. However, with this Council declaring a Climate Emergency, it's always gratifying to see applications for solar panels and other carbon reducing designs.

As of yet, climate change is not a material planning consideration however with the government's commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 100% by 2050 it is only a matter of time before this incorporated into the National Planning Policy Framework. Hopefully, we are ahead of the game and have made this a part of our standard process.

Our meetings are always open to anyone and the relevant agenda for a meeting, detailing the applications we will be discussing, is easily available on our website. Each agenda also has handy links to the relevant application on the EDDC planning website with all the documents available to help us make our decisions. So, why take a look at the website and then pop along to one of our meetings, we would be very happy to see you and answer any of your queries.

Many thanks

Sara