

Axminster District Councillor's Report;

Cllr. Sarah Jackson

August 2019

Contents

Subject	Page
Next meeting of East Devon District Council	2
Recent meetings of EDDC	2
Planning	2
Dog Waste and Recycling	3
Climate Emergency	3
Wild Flowers	4
Community Grants Panel	4
External Funding Opportunities	5
Reforming Governance	5
Section 106	5
Axminster Regeneration	5
In the press	6
What's on	6

Foreword: I apologise for the length of this report, it is the first one I have submitted and coincides with the bi-monthly full council meeting and as such there is rather a lot to cover. I hope that future reports will be somewhat more concise.

Next meeting of East Devon District Council

Full Council meets again on 23rd Oct in Honiton and all members of the public are welcome to attend and ask questions / make representations as they wish.

There will be motions to be debated and a series of written questions to Leader of the Council (which can then be followed up with additional verbal supplementary questions).

In the meantime, there are other meetings which the public are welcome to attend. Please see www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Recent meetings of EDDC:

All minutes / decisions / audio recordings should be available online under the relevant committee at: <https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

Scrutiny	July 4 th
Cabinet	July 10 th
Full Council	July 24 th
Overview	July 25 th
Development Management	Aug 6 th

Planning:

18/2538/FUL This application was deferred from the previous meeting at which I conveyed concerns around public and highway safety and insufficient parking provision. These concerns were shared with the town council and with my fellow ward members, but stood in contrast to the recommendations of the Highways Agency. The development management committee felt these were legitimate concerns and deferred the decisions until the most recent meeting where a member of Highways could explain the rationale behind their recommendation. I was sadly unable to make the most recent meeting but this time Cllr. Moulding presented our shared concerns. However, the committee found that this was not sufficient enough to refuse the application and as it would likely fail against an appeal, voted in favor of approval.

I am frequently asked for updates on the application **19/1074/MOUT** (Crowne estates central parcels). This is currently under review by officers, no decisions have been made and no date set for it to be presented before the DMC for in-depth consideration.

There is no further update on the HIF loan/grant funding status from Homes England which underpins the Axminster Masterplan.

Dog Waste and Recycling:

In June, I was invited to visit the Greendale waste and recycling plant in Woodbury to see how Suez (EDDC's partner) recycle our household waste – a fascinating undertaking.

East Devon are one of the top performers for recycling across the country and top within our county. Much of this is to do with the efforts made by the general public to ensure the properly clean and sort their recycling in to the available bins. But there is still more we could be doing.

Recent adverse TV coverage of plastics ending up in Malaysia has understandably brought this issue to the forefront and as a result many questions were raised by myself and colleagues about how Suez prevents such incidents.

Very little of our waste is put into landfill. This is made up almost entirely from the ash generated by the energy from waste plant and, until recently, several hundred tonnes of dog poo. Historically, dog waste has been collected separately from general litter. The waste-from-recycling plant, in Exeter, is not equipped to handle significant concentrations of dog waste, however they are able to accept it when mixed with general waste as the hazard is diluted. This was challenged at our visit to Greendale and then again more recently at the waste and recycling board. I now understand that the general litter and dog waste collections have now been combined which will enable dog waste to be burned for energy which further reduces how much is sent to landfill. It also means that Town and Parish councils need not replace dog waste bins with general litter bins.

Climate Emergency:

East Devon District council recently declared a climate emergency at their Cabinet meeting. A member of XR spoke eloquently about the need to make proactive changes and to start this now. The proposal made by Cabinet was to adopt the Devon County plans to tackle climate issues with the initial target of being carbon neutral by 2050. The plan is to work with our partners in neighboring Devon districts in collaboration with the County Council and Exeter University to undertake research assessing our current carbon emissions and form a strategy to tackle this with the intention of bringing this deadline forward. Given overwhelming evidence, many members felt that 2050 was far too far ahead to generate any real drive or urgency. At Full Council, a motion was proposed by Cllr. Luke Jeffery (LD) (the youngest District Councillor) to bring this forward to 2040, adding an extra decade of urgency to demonstrate to our partners that East Devon is serious about tackling climate issue in the hope that they will follow suit. A recorded vote was taken and the motion passed. I certainly hope that, following the results of the proposed research, this deadline is brought closer still, but I will report back with further developments.

At full Council, a motion was also brought forward by Cllr. Eleanor Rylance (LD) for an exploration to be made around the appropriateness and viability of installing electricity recharging points into car parks across the region for electric vehicles. This too was upheld and investigations referred to Overview Committee.

Minutes and recordings from this meeting can be found on the East Devon website.

Full Council: <https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=237&Ver=4>

Cabinet: <https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=227&Ver=4>

Wild Flowers

Devon Wildlife Trust are currently undertaking a fundraising appeal for a project to help them restore wild flowers and meadows to various areas across the county. You can read more about how they are undertaking this and ensure the right seed for each specific area on their CrowdFunder page below. Perhaps the town council might like to open a dialogue with the Devon Wildlife Trust who may be interested in extending this project to include the Axe Valley, or give guidance about how to effectively and safely undertake such a project in order to protect existing habitats and boost biodiversity?

https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/blooming-wild-devon?fbclid=IwAR1nXEUWj_JrgVSxpx_s1Ta9ekU6riSAdnjO1yqYOiYNIJhquGI5bjRSe1oM

Community Grants Panel

You may (or may not) be aware that I sit on the Community Grants Panel. One of the funding streams available through East Devon District Council is CrowdFunder. There is around £100k available in the pot that can be distributed to charities, or community enterprise. Providing the project meets the funding criteria, they could receive up to £10k or 50% of the target amount from East Devon. It's also worth noting that Devon County Council and Devon and Cornwall Police also have funds available through CrowdFunder and applicants could receive funding from all three.

The Community Waffle House have already benefited from this scheme and it would be great to see more local community projects also take advantage of this additional financial support. If you would like more information about this funding stream please get in touch with me sjackson@eastdevon.gov.uk or contact Jamie Buckley at East Devon District Council who is the officer responsible for this funding stream.

External Funding Opportunities

External funding opportunities often present themselves. More often than not, the Town Council are not eligible to bid on these funding streams, but should I become aware of something that may be of interest, or that the Town Council may be able to pass on to another community/charity organization for the benefit of the town, I will of course bring it to the attention of the Town Council (assuming you haven't already been made aware by officers at EDDC)

Reforming Governance

Following feedback from members of the public and councilors alike, a motion was made by Cllr. Paul Millar (IG) Portfolio Holder for Transformation to investigate the structure of governance at EDDC. The investigation will seek to establish if the current cabinet system should be replaced by committee system or perhaps something in-between. This was resolved and Overview will set terms of reference for reports on the subject with Cllr. Millar leading a Think Tank to investigate options.

Section 106

Member comments were requested in relation to the proposals made to the Town Council last month for the use of S106 monies collected from the Cloakham Lawns Development. I have submitted mine to officers and I now believe this to have been referred back to the Town Council for their consideration.

Correspondence in relationship to Jubilee Field is ongoing, and I will continue to support the Town Clerk in her attempts to get this matter back on track via the S106 officer at EDDC

Axminster Regeneration

There have been a lot of preliminary meetings concerning Axminster, its opportunities, its needs and those of the neighboring wards, over the last few weeks as the new administration look to understand the challenges facing the district. I don't yet have anything tangible to report but will look to do so when possible.

In the Press:

Recent press releases from EDDC:

09 August 2019 - *Honiton Gate to Plate - new date set for Saturday 28 September*

06 August 2019 - *Owner of straying dog in Ottery St Mary fined £220*

01 August 2019 - *Doctor's surgery in Newton Poppleford not justifiable in planning terms*

01 August 2019 - *'We're the tops!' East Devon residents are the best recyclers in the county – official*

30 July 2019 - *Amazon to bring jobs boost to East Devon*

29 July 2019 - *Blockbuster films showing this summer at the Open Air Cinema at Exmouth's Queen's Drive Space*

What's On:

Events run by or in collaboration with EDDC

24 July 2019 - *Evolver Prize 2019 exhibition*

13 August 2019 - *Free Family Workshop - Tributes to Trees*

15 August 2019 - *What's that bird?*

15 August 2019 - *Bug hunt at Honiton Bottom, 2.00 - 4.00 pm*

20 August 2019 - *Seaton Wetlands Summer Holiday Club Tues 20th to Thurs 22nd August*

Details of all of these initiatives, news stories and events can be found online via the website and social media feeds.

You can also find me in Facebook by searching @cllr.SarahJackson