



SOUTH EAST DEVON
HABITAT REGULATIONS
PARTNERSHIP

East Devon District Council
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Agenda for South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee Thursday, 28th July, 2022, 2.00 pm

Members of South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Councillors R Sutton, M Wrigley and G Jung (Chair)

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

Contact: Debbie Meakin 01395 517540; email dmeakin@eastdevon.gov.uk

(or group number 01395 517546)

19 July 2022; re-issued 22 July 2022

There are no facilities at this venue currently for Members or Officers to join via zoom. Whilst there is drinking water available, there are currently no other refreshment options, so please bring with you what you require.

- 1 Public speaking
Information on [public speaking](#) is available online.
- 2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 May 2022 (Pages 3 - 6)
- 3 Apologies
- 4 Declarations of interest
Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)
- 5 Matters of urgency
Information on [matters of urgency](#) is available online
- 6 Confidential/exempt items



Exeter
City Council



To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the Press) have been excluded. There are no items which officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.

7 **Habitat Mitigation team report** (Pages 7 - 11)

8 **Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) in Teignbridge**

A presentation will be provided on the acquisition, establishment, funding and maintenance of SANG in Teignbridge.

[Decision making and equalities](#)

For a copy of this agenda in large print, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01395 517546

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee held at Council Chamber, Teignbridge District Council, Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbott TQ12 4XX on 17 May 2022

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 3.00 pm and ended at 4.04 pm

90 Public speaking

There were no members of the public registered to speak.

91 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 March 2022

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the SEDHREC held on 3 March 2022 are confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.

92 Declarations of interest

Cllr Martin Wrigley: personal interest - his property overlooks the estuary, and he is a member and Treasurer of Cockwood Boat Club.

Cllr Geoff Jung: personal interest- he is a Board member of the Pebblebed Heaths NNR Advisory Board and also a member of Woodbury Parish Council, the area of which includes part of the pebblebed heath and marsh.

93 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

94 2022-23 Annual Business Plan and 5 Year Delivery Plan

The agenda report set out the principles for the projects which had been recommended as a priority for delivery over the next 12 months by the Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager. The recommendations had been reviewed and agreed by the respective organisations which constitute the Officer Working Group. The projects were contained within Appendix A to the agenda report, as the Annual Business Plan.

It was considered that further justification was required in relation to: the proposed expenditure for the car parks and what this would achieve; and clarification on drones and the code of conduct and avoidance of disturbance to wildlife.

It was unanimously

Resolved that the Executive Committee:

1. Approves the 2022-23 Annual Business Plan (Appendix A) and the commitments and actions set out therein, subject to:
Delegated authority be granted to the Principal Projects Manager, Growth, Development and Prosperity in consultation with all members of the Executive

Committee for approval following clarification on drones and justification for expenditure for the car park.

2. Notes the updated 5 Year Delivery Plan also shown in Appendix A.
3. Receives a further report relating to any proposed changes to the mitigation strategy regarding Dawlish Warren and the Exe estuary in relation to the Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme. Timing dependent on completion of a review by the Environment Agency.

95 **Financial report April 2022**

The report updated the Executive Committee on the overall financial position of developer contributions received by the partner authorities as mitigation payments towards measures identified in the South East Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy. This included details of the contributions received from inception to date and anticipated income from contributions where planning permission had been granted but the contribution has not yet been paid. Details of expenditure against the 2020/21 Annual Business Plan, as well as total expenditure to date were also provided.

It was unanimously

Resolved that the Executive Committee:

1. Notes the update on the overall financial position including contributions received, expenditure and anticipated contributions (from signed S106 and CIL).;
2. Notes the expenditure against budget for the 2021-22 Annual Business Plan and reasons given for any variance.

96 **South East Devon Visitor Survey 2020-21**

Consideration was given to the agenda report which informed the results of the first South East Devon Visitor Survey monitoring programme undertaken as part of the mitigation Strategy and compared them with the initial visitor surveys carried out to establish the original evidence base for the Strategy. The objective is to determine the efficacy of the approach to preventing recreational disturbance across the protected sites. This is important because without robust and effective mitigation which enables the partner authorities to be certain of no net impact to protected sites, continued development as outlined in respective local plans and within 10km of the estuary is at risk of legal challenge. The 10km “zone of influence” within which new residential dwellings are considered likely to cause a likely significant effect as a result of increasing recreational demand. The zone of influence identifies an increase of approximately 30,000 dwellings from the respective Local Plans.

Members commended the work and acknowledged the achievements with the current resources.

It was unanimously

Resolved that the Executive Committee:

1. Notes the results from the South East Devon Visitor Survey 2020-21 report.
2. Notes the interpretation and discussion relating to proposed operational changes in light of the report.
3. A review is undertaken as part of the strategy process within 24 months.
4. A post meeting is held for an explanation of differences.

97 **2021-22 Annual Business Plan - Annual Report**

The Committee commended the Plan which outlined the delivery of ongoing measures established in previous ABPs as well as a range of additional measures. In total, the plan released funding for projects estimated at £369,954.

It was unanimously

Resolved that the Executive Committee:

1. Notes the progress made in delivering the 2021/22 annual business plan.
2. Notes the status of mitigation measures from each of the plans, as well as explanations given for measures subject to delay and revised completion dates.

98 **Habitat mitigation team update report April 2022**

The chair referred to the agenda report which updated Members on the initiatives, partnership working and day to day activities of the public-facing staff. Continued and effective delivery of the Strategy and the development this enables remains of very high importance to all partners.

It was unanimously

Resolved that the Executive Committee:

1. Notes the updates provided by the Wildlife Warden and Devon Loves Dogs project co-ordinator.
2. Receives a further update at the next meeting of the Executive.

99 **Risk Register Report 2022**

The agenda report updated Members on the status of the risk management register, which was set out in Appendix A to the report, and the status of risk management across the partner authorities at this time.

It was unanimously

Resolved that the Executive Committee:

1. Notes the identification, categorisation and prioritisation of risks as recorded in the accompanying Risk Register, associated with delivery of the South-east Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy.
2. Notes the control measures in place to mitigate the risks identified.
3. Receives an updated Risk Register report in 12 months.

100 **Communications report April 2022**

The report provides the results of the communications report for August 2021 – February 2022. It provided useful and interesting information on the current and new website and impact of work before the launch of the new website, South East Devon Wildlife (SEDW), the public facing brand for the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership.

It was unanimously

Resolved that the Executive Committee:

1. Notes the results of the communications report for the period August 2021 – February 2022, further to earlier communications report for this period.
2. Will receive future communications reports on an annual basis with the next report due in March 2023.

101 **Warden vehicle**

It was noted that the wardens' vehicle was recently involved in an accident. Fortunately, the warden suffered only minor injuries, but the vehicle would not be repaired, and a replacement vehicle was required.

It was unanimously

Resolved that the Executive Committee:

1. Approves funding for the temporary hire of a work van, preferably an electric vehicle (Citroen eBerlingo or similar) for a period of up to 26 weeks or until a replacement vehicle is available to purchase.
2. Approves funding for outright purchase of a replacement work van (Electric Vehicle, Citroen eBerlingo or similar), with associated livery, vehicle tracker and dashcam.
3. Approves funding for replacement of equipment (telescope, gazebo, body cameras, etc.) held in the storage compartment of the damaged vehicle – if required.
4. Receives an update at a future meeting relating to the insurance settlement and actual costs of replacing the vehicle and/or equipment.
1. A review of the insurance cover be undertaken to ensure it covers the three authorities.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

R Sutton ECC

G Jung EDDC

M Wrigley (Chair) TDC

Officers in attendance:

Trish Corns

Jill Day, Principle Project Manager (Strategic Policy) Exeter City Council

Ed Freeman, Service Lead Planning Strategy and Development Management

Naomi Harnett, Enterprise Zone Programme Manager

Fergus Pate, Princicap Growth Point Officer, Teignbridge District Council

Alison Slade

Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (and Deputy Monitoring Officer)



SOUTH EAST DEVON
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South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Habitat mitigation team updates.

*Neil Harris & Naomi Harnett
Growth, Development & Prosperity,
East Devon District Council
July 2022*

Legal comment/advice

There are no legal implications arising.

Finance comment/advice:

There are no direct financial implications set out in the report.

Public Document:	Yes
Exemption:	None
Review date for release	None

Recommendations.

It is proposed that the Executive Committee:

1. **Notes the updates provided by the Wildlife Warden and Devon Loves Dogs project co-ordinator.**
2. **Receives a further update at the next meeting of the Executive.**

Equalities impact: Low

Risk: Low.

The purpose of this report is to provide a regular update from the habitat mitigation delivery team. This enables the Executive Committee to maintain a good understanding of the initiatives, partnership working and day to day activities of public-facing staff. Continued and effective delivery of the Strategy and the development this enables remains of very high importance to all partners.

1 Wildlife Warden (previously Habitat Mitigation Officers (HMOs))

1.1 Caius Constable started as a full time Wildlife Warden with the team in April this year. As both previous post holders are no longer currently in post, Julie Owen from Devon Loves Dogs has been guiding Caius through his first weeks in role. The remainder of this section is an update from Caius.

1.2 Since starting on 28/04/22 I have met with site managers and familiarised myself with the layout and characteristics of each site. I have discussed disturbance issues with site managers to understand how best to approach any issues.

1.3 We have been making regular foot patrols on the Pebblebed Heaths. We have focused on positive engagement with dog owners and reinforced messaging regarding bird breeding season and the importance of keeping dogs on paths and in sight. A few incidences of conflict between dogs and horses have been reported and we have responded to this by making dog owners aware of the likely presence of both recreational horse riders and grazing animals.

1.4 Patrols at Dawlish Warren have generally targeted either particularly low tides or busy weekend days. On days with a low tide we have used the feather flag at groyne 9 to clearly mark the furthest extent to which dogs are permitted. This continues to be a highly useful tool for limiting disturbance towards Warren Point.

1.5 On busier weekend days we have seen a seasonal increase in the use of BBQs on the beach. Signage options have been discussed with the site manager and we will use social media to promote this message. Signage at the defined landing zone has proved effective with only occasional incidence of boats landing outside it.

1.6 Having completed a suite of courses we are making regular use of the patrol boat and a smaller inflatable to carry out patrols on the river. We have organised further training with Exeter Port Authority in order to improve our understanding of the estuary and establish a basis for communication with the Harbour Master with regards to disturbance in the estuary.

1.7 I visited the new Ridgetop Country Park with Sian Avon, Senior Ranger at TDC. It is a fantastic site and I look forward to pointing more people towards it once the car parks have been completed.

1.8 Since recent changes to staffing, I have been working with Julie for the majority of the time. We have been able to use the Devon Loves Dogs gazebo for regular 'pop-up' style engagement. This has been well received by visitors both with, and without, dogs. I have also attended several Waggy Walks, talking to dog owners about the protected wildlife on the sites. Julie and I attended 'Turn the Tide' in early June at Dawlish, a great event attended by hundreds of local people who we were able to engage with.

1.9 The rental electric van has been delivered and has proved to be very useful. Charging and range have not caused any issues and I look forward to receiving a fully branded vehicle in the future as this will improve visibility when we are on site.

2. Devon Loves Dogs (DLD).

2.1 Since my last update, I have remained working as both DLD Coordinator and as a Wildlife Warden, this report mainly details activities for Devon Loves Dogs.

2.2 In April we welcomed Caius to the team and together we undertook all of the necessary training for us to be able to use the Patrol Boat, this included Sea Survival and VHF Radio Operators training with Seasports Southwest and RYA Powerboat Level 2 with the Harbour Authority.

2.3 I have continued to work with SCCAMP (Southern Counties Canine Access Management Partnership) and at the end of March we had a week dedicated to joint working. Despite the geographical distances we were able to utilise our social media platforms to highlight best practise from other areas. This culminated in a joint online quiz event hosted by Dog Countryside Access guru Stephen Jenkinson, with representatives from some of the partner organisations taking part. We all agreed that the style and format of the event was well received and we hope to develop this idea further in the future.

2.4 At the end of April I was interviewed on the BBC Radio Devon Breakfast Show to promote the work of Devon Loves Dogs and explain the summer beach restrictions across our area.

2.5 Over 60 staff from Natural England's Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly area team enjoyed a site visit to Dawlish Warren during May and I was able to explain the work that we do across our protected sites.

2.6 EDDC are running a summer dog roadshow campaign across the districts beaches and I have attended a pop up event in Exmouth with more planned throughout the summer. It was great to meet colleagues from Environmental Health and a great opportunity for increased partnership working.

2.7 In my last report, I mentioned Nikki who filmed with us for Escape to the Country last year. It turns out that Nikki did relocate to Devon and she is now a fully signed up member of Devon Loves Dogs, she's a regular on our Waggy Walks and we filmed a short follow up video for social media with her too.

2.8 TDC have also been busy running a series of Park Events and I have joined the Countryside and Green Spaces Teams with the DLD gazebo at Decoy Country Park and Dawlish Countryside Park, with more dates and locations to follow.

2.9 Caius and I attended the Turn of Tide event on 2nd June at Dawlish Lawn as part of the Jubilee celebrations.

2.10 I have run 7 Waggy Walks in total with walks on the Pebblebed Heaths, Dawlish Countryside Park, Orcombe Point (National Trust), Trinity Hill and Stoke Woods (Forestry England). Kim Strawbridge (Site Manager, Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust) and I ran a very successful evening walk and walk numbers in general have been very good with many walks fully booked. I'd like to thank all of the people that have given up their time to lead walks; Kim Strawbridge, Jon Steward, Dan Nicholson, Meg Valender and Lucy Buckingham.

2.11 We have continued to be busy with the gazebo with regular pop ups at Dawlish Warren and across the Pebblebed Heaths.

2.12 Memberships are increasing steadily and we now have 922 members.

**South East Devon
Habitat Regulations
Executive Committee**

Natural England comment:

Thank you to Neil and Julie for explaining the background and varied work of the habitat mitigation delivery team to the local Natural England staff.

We are pleased that a Waggy Walk has taken place in Stoke Woods, convenient for people living on the north side of Exeter.