



SOUTH EAST DEVON  
HABITAT REGULATIONS  
PARTNERSHIP

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## Agenda for South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee Thursday, 3rd November, 2022, 2.00 pm

### Members of South and East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

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

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

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Wednesday 26 October 2022; re-issued 28 October 2022

- 1 Public speaking  
Information on [public speaking](#) is available online.
- 2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 May 2022 (Pages 5 - 8)  
To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2022.
- 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



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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 **Visitor Access Improvement Works update**

Presentation from Kim Strawbridge, site manager, Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust.

## 8 **Clarification regarding the recommendations in the 2022-23 Annual Business Plan**

At the previous meeting of the Executive on 17 May 2022, the following was unanimously agreed:

**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.

Since that decision, the following has been clarified in respect of resolution 1:

### **a) Exe Estuary Code of Conduct – Personal Aircraft.**

The intention is to include drones and other aircraft in a single code of conduct in the same way as the [Exe Water User's code](#) combined best practise guidance for a number of different water-based activities. This grouped together a variety of similar activities which all have the potential for waterborne disturbance and were comparable in terms of the type of disturbance and appropriate guidance governing responsible behaviour. The Personal Aircraft Code is intended to fulfil the same role for airborne disturbance and also:

- Provides consistency of approach with existing codes.
- Ensures cost efficiency with one set of codes being printed rather than two (or more).
- Helps to reassure user groups that they are not being singled out.
- Prevents a confusing scenario where there are a multitude of codes covering every conceivable activity.

Note that the Civil Aviation Authority are responsible for regulation of civilian airspace and the Royal Marines are responsible for appropriate use of the landing area/s at Lypstone. The personal aircraft code is intended to provide best practise guidance rather than licensing, governance or legislation relating to these activities.

The recommendation in the ABP outlines two potential options for the work as detailed in [Appendix B](#):

Option 1 cost estimate £1,534 – based on focused consultation with specific stakeholders and affected user groups.

Option 2 cost estimate £2,850 – based on wider public consultation.

As outlined in the original report, the Officer Working Group recommend Option 1 but of course, confirmation from the Executive Committee is required as to which option to pursue.

#### **b) Pebblebed Heaths Visitor Access Improvements – rationale for phased approach.**

A phased approach achieves a number of different objectives in terms of, preparation, implementation and communication:

- Allows prioritisation of works which encourage visitors towards car parks where habitats are more robust and away from more dispersed access points.
- Economies of scale can be achieved in terms of materials and labour.
- Tenders become more attractive due to the amount of expenditure.
- Proposed phasing of works would appeal to different sized contractors.
- Budget can be allocated without risking funding needed to ensure ongoing delivery of other projects.
- Phased improvements enable continued access to the heaths with as little disruption as possible.
- Works can be organised so as to provide significant improvements prior to any scheduled restrictions of access in other areas of the heaths.
- Planning applications can apply to whole phases rather than per proposal.
- Communication to visitors and other arrangements about the works can be more easily co-ordinated.
- A clear, phased communications plan can be implemented to inform the wider public about the works and act as a reminder for why they are needed.

The car parks in phases 2 and 3 changed slightly from that outlined in the July 2020 ABP in response to advice from Kim Strawbridge at PHCT regarding the car parks experiencing the highest impacts due to Covid-19 and increased visitor pressure.

#### **9 Ridgetop Park SANGS update**

Presentation from Estelle Skinner (Green Infrastructure Officer, TDC) and Sian Avon (Senior Ranger, TDC)

#### **10 Clyst Meadows update**

Presentation from Naomi Harnett (Principal Projects Manager, EDDC).

#### **11 Habitat mitigation team update (Pages 9 - 22)**

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[Decision making and equalities](#)

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