



Agenda for Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 13th June, 2024, 6.00 pm

Members of Scrutiny Committee

Councillors: I Barlow, J Brown, M Chapman, B Collins, O Davey, M Goodman (Chair), A Hall, M Hall, M Hartnell, J Heath, V Johns, Y Levine, D Mackinder (Vice-Chair), A Toye and J Whibley

Venue: Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton

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(or group number 01395 517546)

Wednesday, 5 June 2024

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This meeting is being recorded for subsequent publication on the Council's website and will be streamed live to the [East Devon District Council Youtube Channel](#)

- 1 Minutes of the previous meetings held on 4 April 2024 and 18 April 2024 (Pages 3 - 11)
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of interest
Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)
- 4 Public speaking
Information on [public speaking](#) is available online
- 5 Matters of urgency
Information on [matters of urgency](#) is available online
- 6 Confidential/exempt item(s)
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 Decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules
There are no items identified
- 8 Improving green spaces for wildlife (Pages 12 - 43)

- 9 Review of Emergency Responses in 2023/4 by East Devon District Council (Pages 44 - 51)
- 10 Work programme (Pages 52 - 61)
 1. Cabinet forward plan of key decisions 1 July to 31 October 2024
 2. Priorities for the civic year 2024 - 25

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Members of the public exercising their right to speak during Public Speaking will be recorded.

[Decision making and equalities](#)

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EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting of Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 4 April 2024****Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.50 pm

81 Minutes of the previous meetings held on 24 January 2024 and 15 February 2024

The minutes of the meetings held on 24 January 2024 and 15 February 2024 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

82 Declarations of interest

It was noted that item 8 at minute 87 affects all Councillors who are members of East Devon Town and Parish Councils which are in receipt of S.106 and CIL monies.

83 Public speaking

One member of the public, Mr Ron Metcalfe, had registered to speak and made the following points with regard to his concerns about EDDC's oversight and management of the assets on Exmouth sea front:

- Residents were asking if the re-routing of the road and construction of Sideshore had caused or contributed to the recent failure of the sea wall.
- There was no evaluation of the impact of development on the sea wall either prior to, or following the failure.
- Vibrations during construction work in 2019 had been felt by residents at some distance and could have impacted the sea wall.
- Lack of rigour in assessing potential risk could have cost the Council and taxpayers in a number of ways, including financially.
- It was recently noted that there are issues of non-compliance with planning permissions on the sea front, including at the small retail units at Sideshore, the amount of square meterage agreed for retail, provision of disabled washrooms and making toilets and changing rooms available to the public. Non-compliance has not been challenged by EDDC.
- Should a TaFF be set up, this should examine the lack of rigour in planning enforcement as well as interrogating previous planning approvals.

One member of the public, Mrs Ann Membery, was unable to attend the meeting and had requested that a statement be read out. The Democratic Services Officer read out the statement which included the following points:

- The member of the public had read the comments by the Leader regarding his awareness of concerns surrounding the previous administration funding a new road and encouraging development so close to the sea wall.
- Planning application 18/0376/MFUL for the development of Sideshore included a flood risk report. The member of the public was of the view that the report should have detected that the sea wall would be vulnerable to collapse due to climate change.
- As EDDC has to meet the cost of repairing the sea wall, as a tax payer, the member of the public was of the opinion that previous officers and Councillors should be scrutinised as to why planning permission was granted and why the flood risk report did not detect a potential failure of the sea wall.
- The member of the public supported the setting up of the TaFF.

The Chair thanked the members of the public for their contributions.

84 **Matters of urgency**

There were no matters of urgency.

85 **Confidential/exempt item(s)**

There were no confidential / exempt items.

86 **Decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules**

There were no items called in by Members in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

87 **Interim update on progress with S.106 and CIL resources and processes**

The Assistant Director Planning Strategy and Development Management introduced the report which provided an update on progress with addressing resourcing issues involved in S.106 obligations and CIL administration. The report was further to a report to the Committee on 7 September 2023 and subsequent resolutions from Cabinet on resourcing these key areas of work.

The Assistant Director introduced the newly recruited Planning Obligations Team Leader.

The following points were highlighted:

- The revised S.106 Monitoring Fees charging schedule is now on the Council's website.
- Three of the four vacancies in the new Planning Obligations Team had now been filled. The Planning Obligations Team Leader was now in post with two officers starting at the end of April and beginning of May.
- The remaining S.106/CIL officer post was still unfilled, and recruitment was proving difficult as this is a very specialist area of work. An interim agency CIL officer was currently in post pending permanent recruitment to the vacant post.
- The development of the best practice guidance for Town and Parish Councils would be undertaken by the new Planning Obligations Team in partnership with the Towns and Parishes.
- The Team is transitioning from the interim arrangements and the work programme is under development.

Discussion and responses to Members' questions included the following:

- The number of outstanding historic S.106 cases had reduced from 150 to below 100. Outstanding CIL debt to be recovered was in excess of £400k.
- Future infrastructure needs are shown in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan available on the Council's website. As infrastructure needs to be provided in a co-ordinated manner with the Council's partners, funds are not necessarily spent as they are collected but are saved towards larger projects, resulting, at times, in seemingly large amounts held by the Council.
- Other S.106 monies are for specific purposes and may be unallocated currently.
- The Planning Obligations Team would be introducing new spending and monitoring processes going forward and this needs to be developed with realistic timescales.
- There is no time limit for CIL expenditure.

- The best practice guidance for Town and Parish Councils would provide a simplified procedure which would better enable Towns and Parishes to engage with the system. The new work plan included providing training for Town and Parish Councils on the new process.
- The remaining vacant post in the Planning Obligations Team was currently filled by agency staff. Recruitment of quality staff with the required specialist skills was difficult currently. Advice from the HR Team had been to wait a few months before re-advertising the vacancy in order to reach a new target audience. Succession planning included training junior officers to take on specialist posts going forward.
- There is no legislation which would allow the Council to stop granting planning permission for those developers failing to fulfil planning obligations. However, the Government is aware that some developers do not comply as required. It is very difficult to pursue payment where a developer has gone into administration.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director Planning Strategy and Development Management and his team for the report and update. The Committee noted the progress that had been made on addressing the resourcing of CIL and S.106 work. A further update report will be brought to the Committee in late summer 2024.

With regard to the S.106 and CIL Resources and Processes Task and Finish Forum (TaFF), it was agreed to request a scoping report to include a timescale and terms of reference. This would be brought back to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee in June, unless officer resources and capacity allowed for an earlier date to be found in May.

88 **Report to Scrutiny on South West Water feedback on the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2024**

A report had been circulated which set out the feedback from South West Water (SWW) on the minutes of the virtual consultative meeting held on 1 February 2024.

With regard to concerns relating to a sewage spill in the Cranbrook Country Park, raised under question 11 of the minutes of 1 February 2024 [page 19 of the report], and the subsequent feedback on this issue from SWW, Cllr Kim Bloxham had submitted comments on the SWW response. Cllr Bloxham's comments were read out and highlighted the following points by way of correcting SWW's feedback:

- The sewage spill occurred in the Country Park on the south side of the London Road and the sewers in this part of the Country Park are all adopted by SWW as they preceded the Cranbrook development.
- This leak spilled foul waste from the Rockbeare area carried in a dedicated pipeline to Clyst Honiton and onwards to Countess Wear.
- A new separate sewer system takes foul waste from Cranbrook and does not connect to the pipeline that caused the leak.

Discussion on the feedback from SWW contained in the report included the following:

- The Corporate Lead – Communications, Digital Services and Engagement is currently the single point of contact in EDDC for Member communications with SWW. The forthcoming Members' newsletter would include details of a dedicated contact at SWW.
- With regard to the Water Cycle study, the first draft has been received however, further data is needed, following which the final draft will be circulated to Members. A Member Briefing session with the consultants is currently being arranged with a date to be agreed.

- It was not clear to whom in EDDC the SWW consultation on the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) had been addressed and whether this had been responded to or not. The Water Cycle study would provide the expert knowledge to enable EDDC to challenge SWW and could lead to changes to the DWMP in the future. SWW had attended a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee in November 2022 and would have been aware of EDDC's concerns at the time the DWMP was being prepared.
- EDDC should be in communication with the Environment Agency as the body responsible for monitoring SWW.
- With regard to the length of time taken to prepare the Water Cycle study, it was noted that consultants are in high demand nationally due to the nationwide issues with sewage spills and that there had also been delays in the consultants obtaining information from SWW.

The feedback from SWW was noted.

89 **Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for the civic year 2023 - 2024**

The Annual Report on the work of the Scrutiny Committee during the civic year 2023 – 24 was agreed for submission to the annual meeting of the Council in May.

90 **Forward Plan**

1 Forward Plan

Discussion on the Forward Plan included the following points:

- It was noted that the Committee previously received reports on coastal monitoring. The Portfolio Holder for Coast, Country and Environment advised that the reports are very technical and need interpretation by engineers. The reports are continually referred to as part of the on-going beach management plan work for Exmouth, Sidmouth and Seaton.
- The Corporate Lead – Communications, Digital Services and Engagement was requested to liaise with SWW regarding a date for the Committee to meet with them again in September.

It was noted that the Democratic Services Manager is currently preparing the Scrutiny Action Plan following the review by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS).

As part of the CfGS review, it had been recommended that the Committee agree specific elements within a Portfolio on which the Portfolio Holder would be asked to report. It was noted that the next Portfolio holder to report would be Cllr Davey, Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, reporting on 6 June 2024. Issues to be covered by the report would be agreed by the Committee beforehand.

The Forward Plan was agreed.

2 Resolution from Council on 6 March 2024 regarding Exmouth sea wall

The Committee was asked to consider the resolution referred from Council on 6 March 2024 regarding the reasons relating to the failure of the Exmouth sea wall and the previous approvals that led to businesses and associated infrastructure being built next to it. The Committee considered whether to carry out further investigation and set up a Task and Finish Forum to undertake the work.

Discussion included the following points:

- There is a need to scrutinise why the Council was not aware that the sea wall did not have good foundations and whether moving the road contributed to its failure.

- The reason the sea wall failed is due to recent storms and a lack of foundations. It is unlikely that the facts could be obtained due to the age of the wall, and the Council should concentrate on repairing the wall which is a huge and expensive undertaking.
- It is crucial to agree the right terms of reference and further discussion on scoping is needed.
- Concern was expressed as to what exactly would be scrutinised and whether the Committee could achieve a good outcome and learn anything for the future.
- The sea wall failure was only one part of the issues raised by the public speaker and other items such as planning enforcement matters also need to be considered.
- It would be prudent to understand what information is still available in the Council and to ascertain whether there is sufficient information to make the scrutiny task worthwhile.

The Assistant Director Planning Strategy and Development Management advised that he had made a note of the planning enforcement issues raised by the public speaker and would report back.

It was agreed to request a detailed scoping report for either the June or July meeting to include terms of reference, a timetable for the investigations to be conducted and a date for presenting the outcomes of a TaFF back to the Committee.

The Committee also noted that a separate report on planning enforcement issues would be brought back in due course.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

I Barlow
J Brown
M Chapman
R Collins
M Goodman (Chair)
A Hall
J Heath
V Johns (Vice-Chair)
D Mackinder
A Toye

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

B Bailey
C Brown
P Faithfull
G Jung
T Olive

Officers in attendance:

Ed Freeman, Assistant Director Planning Strategy and Development Management
Andrew Hopkins, Corporate Lead - Communications, Digital Services and Engagement
Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer
Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance & Licensing (Monitoring Officer)
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Jonathan Smith, Planning Obligations Team Leader

Councillor apologies:

B Collins

S Smith

J Whibley

Chair

Date:

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 18 April 2024

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 8.13 pm

91 Declarations of interest

There were none.

92 Public speaking

No members of the public had registered to speak.

93 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

94 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There was one item which officers recommended should be dealt with in this way at minute 97.

95 Decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

There was one decision and one recommendation made by Cabinet which has been called in in accordance with paragraph 15 of Part 4.5 of the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules.

96 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, of the description set out on the agenda, is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing this item in private session (Part B).

97 Call-in request of Cabinet resolution on 27 March 2024 relating to Leisure and Sports Pitches Requirements - Cabinet minute 167 (2) & (5)

The Committee considered a call-in request in respect of the Cabinet resolution on 27 March 2024 relating to Leisure and Sports Pitches requirements. The call-in requested that Minute no. 167 (2) and (5) be re-considered as the Cabinet decision was based on the late submission of the item which prevented proper consideration by Cabinet

members, added to which some Cabinet member comments contained incorrect information which may have affected the decision.

The Democratic Services Manager outlined the call-in.

Cllr Kim Bloxham had submitted written representations which were read out.

Cranbrook ward members, Cllr Kevin Blakey and Cllr Sam Hawkins outlined their views.

The Assistant Director – Growth, Development & Prosperity outlined the background and context to the Cabinet decision of 27 March 2024. He and the Director of Finance provided points of clarification in response to members direct questions.

The members of the Scrutiny Committee outlined their views on the matter. The Chair commented for Cabinet, in their pre-meeting process, to ensure that all relevant facts are presented timely, within reports.

RESOLVED

The Scrutiny Committee agreed that it was content to let the Cabinet decision stand but was concerned that affected ward councillors should be actively engaged in the paper to go to Cabinet in June 2024.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

I Barlow
J Brown
M Chapman
B Collins
R Collins
M Goodman (Chair)
A Hall
J Heath
V Johns (Vice-Chair)
D Mackinder
J Whibley

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

B Bailey
K Blakey
P Faithfull
S Hawkins
R Jefferies
G Jung
N Hookway
T Olive
C Brown

Officers in attendance:

Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer
Andrew Melhuish, Democratic Services Manager
Sarah James, Democratic Services Officer
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Andrew Wood, Assistant Director Growth Development and Prosperity
Simon Davey, Director of Finance

Councillor apologies:

S Smith
A Toye

Chair:

Date:

Report to: Scrutiny Committee



Date of Meeting Thursday 13th June 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Improving Green Spaces for Wildlife

Report summary:

This report sets out the objectives for and reasoning behind targeted wildlife improvement areas, and covers the following:

The management of designated wildlife improvement areas; legislation, policies and strategies that apply to the transition and designation of green spaces to wildlife improvement areas; the systems used to manage wildlife improvement areas; stakeholders' consultations; communication with residents, similar work by other local authorities, and other resources and infrastructure changes required to make the transitions more efficient.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

1. Scrutiny Committee reviews the reasons that the Managing Sites for Wildlife approach was adopted and how this came about.
2. Scrutiny Committee endorses the approaches and amended process of wildlife improvement practices, and notes the wider Nature Recovery Work being led by Countryside.
3. Scrutiny Committee approves wider communication to Councillors regarding this approach, with a feature in the Councillor update.
4. Scrutiny Committee provides any further recommendations for supporting the important strategy of transitioning traditionally maintained green spaces to wildlife improvement areas within climatic (e.g., mild winters and wet springs) and budgeting constraints.
5. Councillors to be able to increase their awareness of the reasoning and history of this approach and how it relates to central and local government legislative and policy frameworks.
6. Councillors help to disseminate this message to residents/voters in order to bridge the gap between Council strategy and residents' expectations of wildlife improvement areas and the continual transition of EDDC-owned green spaces from traditionally mown grass areas to wildlife havens. This will help StreetScene continue to align its targeted work with the legislative framework and Council-wide agendas, policies, strategies and action plans.

Reason for recommendation:

Councillors have varying levels of awareness of the ways in which the creation and management of wildlife improvement areas fits in with legislation, Council policy, service plans and codes of practice. Therefore, it is important to inform and educate Councillors as a whole of the rationale for the introduction and expansion of wildlife improvement areas across the district, which will 'level the playing field' of understanding and, thus, enable Councillors to act as advocates for wildlife improvement areas.

Officer: Paul Fealey, Horticultural Technical Officer, StreetScene, East Devon District Council.

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Medium Impact

Risk: Low

Links to background information

Policies that are applicable. Include website link/previous report & minutes

[Environment Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

[Council Strategy - East Devon](#)

[Action Plan - East Devon](#)

[Service Plan objectives for 2021-22 v2 003 JA.pdf \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#)

[120122 Streetscene key service objectives for 2022-23.pdf \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#)

[streetscene-service-plan-2024-2025-final.pdf \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#)

[Nature Recovery Declaration for East Devon.pdf](#)

[Agenda for Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 5th October, 2023, 6.00 pm - East Devon](#)

[Devon Nature Recovery Network - Devon Local Nature Partnership \(devonlnp.org.uk\)](#)

[Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

Report in full

1. Green Spaces not Covered by this Report

1.1 The following green spaces are not covered by this report:

- Green spaces under the remit of EDDC's Countryside/Wild East Devon team.
- Green spaces owned by Devon County Council, which includes highways' grass verges.
- Green spaces owned by Town/Parish Councils.
- Green spaces owned by EDDC but leased to third parties.
- Green spaces designated for sports.
- Residential properties.
- Any other amenity green space not designated as a wildlife improvement area.

2. The Management of Wildlife Improvement Areas

2.1 Legislation, policies, strategies and action plans that apply to the transition and designation of green spaces to wildlife improvement areas

2.1.2 East Devon District Council declared a Climate Emergency on 24.7.2019. The intense management of green spaces is an unnecessary contributor to climate change due to carbon releases from powered equipment, conflicting with the vision of EDDC becoming a carbon neutral Council by 2040.

2.1.3 **The Environment Act (2021)** "Through the Act, we will clean up the country's air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity...halt the decline in species by 2030. It is imperative that we step up action to boost nature recovery if we are to tackle the twin challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change."

2.1.4 **StreetScene Service Plan 2021/22**, Section 7: "Continue improving the range of areas managed sensitively for wildlife and biodiversity, including reduced grass cutting and meadow creation where appropriate. Supporting the Blue Heart Campaign and informing the public through social media about less intense grass management."

2.1.5 **StreetScene Service Plan 2022/23**, Section 7: "Improve habitat conditions for wildlife. Prioritise the joining up of natural green spaces to improve connectivity for species. Support the development of nature recovery networks to protect and restore wildlife, and provide opportunities to re-introduce species."

2.1.6 **StreetScene Service Plan 2023/24**, Section 5: "Improve our sustainable management of green spaces, building on our Green Space Plan and Natural Green Space Policies." Expected aims: "Help protect the environment, improve biodiversity, linked nature recovery areas, and meet Climate Change Action Plan aims."

2.1.7 **Council Plan. Priority Two: A greener East Devon.** "We shall be implementing rewilding, nature recovery and conservancy schemes to enhance our precious environment... and develop a Local Plan policy that protects the existing biodiversity and to improve and add to it significantly."

2.1.8 Nature Recovery Declaration for East Devon

A report to Cabinet on 6.9.23 on the importance of nature recovery due to EDDC being a supporting authority on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy under the Environment Act (2021). *What is the problem?* “We have both a Climate and Biodiversity crises and currently the United Kingdom is within the bottom 10% of countries globally and also the worst G7 nation for biodiversity loss. Nature is key to mitigating and adapting to climate change and supporting health and wellbeing. These twin crises present environmental, social and economic impacts and risks.” *Why is it important for local authorities?* “Sustainable management of public green spaces to encourage wildlife and improve forage for pollinators, including wildflower meadow and longer grass cutting regimes.” Targets: “A minimum of 30% of Council-owned land will be managed for the benefit of nature by 2030.”

2.1.9 Devon Nature Recovery Strategy

The Devon Local Nature Partnership states: “We have seen huge losses of wildlife across Devon. Our remaining habitats are largely disconnected from each other, often small and often in poor condition. We all need to take urgent action to create, enhance, expand and connect wildlife habitats across the county – in our villages, towns, countryside and seas.”

2.1.10 **Biodiversity Net Gain (2024)** “Created and enhanced habitats will be secured for a minimum of 30 years.”

2.1.11 East Devon District Council Climate Change Strategy 2020 – 2025

Our Priorities and Targets (p.15) “Improve the quality and connectivity of natural habitats, Promote Nature Recovery Corridors, Use green spaces for carbon offsetting.”

2.1.12 **East Devon District Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020 – 2040** Objective 5: “Ensure that we address biodiversity and environmental issues as part of our climate change response.”

2.2 How the approach came about, how long it has been in place for and how it has developed

2.2.1 This approach has been led by both the climate and the biodiversity crises. Regular maintenance work releases carbon and, due to EDDC not having cut and collect ride-on mowers for traditionally managed green spaces, dropping arisings onto green spaces after mowing and strimming reduces biodiversity and, hence, value for wildlife.

2.2.2 StreetScene has been creating wildlife improvement areas since 2010, starting with the management of thirteen meadow areas for wildflowers and several older cemetery areas, such as at Sidmouth cemetery, for the same purpose. This approach was more widely rolled out following objectives from the 2019/20 service plan, where an approach of managing areas across EDDC’s green spaces for wildlife crystallised and subsequently became more widespread, soon after EDDC declared a climate emergency. This approach is referred to as **wildlife improvement**. The Council recognised that different skill sets were required to assist in the proper assessment of sites to function as wildlife improvement areas, ensuring other amenity uses had been fully considered. The role of Horticultural Technical Officer was created from a vacant Parks and Gardens role to help with these assessments, and with training grounds teams with regards of how to properly manage these sites.

2.2.3 It was recognised in 2021 that better public consultation methods were required for specific areas being targeted for wildlife improvement. Parks and Gardens Officers were employed at this point with experience in consulting with stakeholders about developing wildlife improvement areas. As a result, the consultation process became more efficient and inclusive. Before this period, however, especially during Covid-19, some sites were left for wildlife improvement by (now) former members of staff without public consultations. From 2021, ward members and the portfolio holder

for Coast, Country and Environment were contacted about each wildlife improvement proposals, and their feedback determined whether Officers continued with the proposals and starting public consultations. The face-to-face consultations were carried out in 2022 by Parks and Gardens Officers beside the green spaces that were targeted for wildlife improvement, which proved successful in understanding the feelings of residents and visitors about the proposals. Since then, there have been several online and door-to-door consultations. However, there is still room for improvement. For example, the creation and promotion of more online Have Your Say online public consultations, more face-to-face consultations, and more widely available/accessible documentation are needed to ensure that public consultations are more inclusive so we can be more confident that the results are representative.

2.3 Green spaces that are managed by StreetScene

2.3.1 An online interactive UK habitat map of StreetScene-managed wildlife improvement areas across the district was created by Parks and Gardens Officers in 2023, working with Strata. Officers assessed wildlife improvement areas and differentiated them by their flora. These were then documented and presented to Strata. The result is a map of wildlife improvement areas across the district that can be seen on the following webpage: [Improving Green Spaces for Wildlife - East Devon](#) To help with understanding the differences between wildlife improvement habitat types, Parks and Gardens Officers wrote the explanatory text below the map. These sites can also be seen on the Council's eMap due to an extra layer being added by Strata in 2023. This layer assists grounds teams' management of those sites and avoids confusion with regularly mown green spaces and wildlife improvement areas. As new wildlife improvement sites are created, the maps will be updated.

2.3.2 Wildlife improvement areas have different colour coding, based on the nationally recognised UK Habitat Classification System, so that the district's wildlife improvement areas can fit into a future national picture of habitat zoning.

2.4 The systems used to manage wildlife improvement areas

2.4.1 For traditionally mown areas, a green space's mowing routine will be dictated by its maintenance requirements and/or its Service Level Agreement (SLA). EDDC operates a cut and drop method when grass cutting general parks and open space amenity areas. It would not be economically or logistically viable to collect arisings from four million m² of grass on a regular basis. Periods between maintenance visits of regularly mown green spaces, as grounds teams progress through their rounds, may be up to 6 weeks between cuts. A consequence of climate change is it being more likely for spring to be mild and very wet, punctuated by sunny spells. This perfect storm enables grass to grow very quickly whilst the ground is still too wet for machinery to access. By the time machinery, such as ride-on mowers, can access grass swards, the grass is so long that arisings dropped after being cut are thick enough to block light and kill all but the most vigorous plants beneath – i.e., grasses. This reduces grassland biodiversity, and the layers are often so thick that they are still *in situ* on the next maintenance visit, which adds to the distressed flora. When the arisings decompose into the soil, the resulting nutrition feeds grasses, which then grow at even faster rates, leading to thicker arisings left after the next cut and drop mowing. This further impacts biodiversity levels because of the nutrified grasses outcompeting the growth rates of other plants within the grasslands that can survive the conditions. This negative feedback loop incrementally reduces grasslands' biodiversity levels – at a time when we find ourselves within a biodiversity emergency.

2.4.2 The **first type of wildlife improvement area** is a **natural area dominated by grasses** that is left largely unmown between April and September. When grasses and wildflowers are mown in the autumn, arisings are collected. Larger, more open spaces are cut and collected by a contractor with a flail and bailer due to this method being much more practical than the option for StreetScene to buy and store equipment that would be used for only a short period each year.

This removal of potential nutrition begins to prevent the grasses from outcompeting the less vigorous wildflowers after several years. The continual prevention of soil nutrition by cutting and collection is seen to be changing the biodiversity of natural (unsown) wildlife improvement areas in early 2024, as grasses starved by exhausted soils allow the emergence of more wildflowers. When soils in this wildlife improvement type become impoverished to a level that suits wildflowers at the expense of grasses, the ground of this wildlife improvement area type is prepared, if within budget restraints, and sown with wildflowers.

2.4.3 The **second type of wildlife improvement area**, and by far the fewest in number, due to budget constraints, are **designated wildflower areas**, which are created by a contractor using a PTO-driven stone burier to invert the turf to expose bare soils. Wildflower seed is then sown. With smaller, less accessible areas, a turf cutter is used to remove the turf. These areas are cut and collected each autumn to prevent what would otherwise lead to soil nutrition from decomposing matter feeding grasses. They are also cut and collected in the spring when the ground is not wet enough as to be damaged by the machinery.

2.4.4 Newly procured cut and collect ride-on mowers are used by grounds operatives to remove arisings from less accessible (i.e., for tractors) wildflower areas at the end of the season. to prevent wildlife improvement areas from becoming scrub, which would happen if they were left without any mechanical intervention.

2.4.5 In larger, more open wildlife improvement areas, a contractor uses a tractor and side flail to cut, collect, bail and remove the green waste from twenty StreetScene-managed green spaces across the district each autumn, such as the meadows in The Byes (Sidmouth), Peak Hill (Sidmouth), Phear Park (Exmouth), Littletown Green (Honiton) and Jubilee Field and The Green (Budleigh Salterton).

2.4.6 Transitioning from the first type to the second type of wildlife improvement area dramatically improves the public's perceptions due to the presence of flowers and the accompanying pollinators. Grasses' vigorous growth monopolises this type of wildlife improvement area and prevents natural seed stock of other plant species in underlying soils from becoming established, so residents complain that most wildlife improvement areas consist of just grasses, which look worse as the summer progresses and the grasses dry out.

2.5 Consultation prior to creating wildlife improvement areas

2.5.1 When planning the transition from traditionally maintained green spaces to wildlife improvement areas from 2021, consultations take place to understand the viewpoints of stakeholders. Parks and Gardens Officers consult with Area Officers, Team Leaders and grounds operatives with regards to proposals. These consultations either lead to plans for a green space being shelved due to a number of limiting factors, plans being adapted so that sections of green spaces are put forward to other stakeholders and residents, or plans for the whole of the green space to be transitioned. Provisional designs are then created (for the 2nd and 3rd scenarios), which are communicated to ward members and the portfolio holder for Coast, Country and Environment. These designs show cue-to-care lines being mown around and, often, through the proposed wildlife improvement area. If there is no dissent, StreetScene management is informed of the plans, which is then fed back to the communications team so that social media coverage can inform local and wider residents to the plans for a particular green space. It is important to note that when Parks and Gardens Officers do not hear back from a particular ward member about proposals, this is taken as a lack of dissent to the proposals. However, Parks and Gardens Officers consistently hear back from the portfolio holder for Coast, Country and Environment, which initially often takes the form of questions to gain more perspective of the proposed area and the location of other nearby green spaces that can be used for amenity or recreation. The Appendices section contains evidence of various forms of consultation.

2.5.2 Parks and Gardens Officers work with EDDC's Communications Officer to coordinate social media posts about proposed green space management changes, and comments are monitored from the four social media channels (and targeted at online noticeboards for particular areas) and fed back to Parks and Gardens Officers. This helps to build a picture of how locals feel about the proposals. Parks and Gardens Officers also write press releases about wildlife improvement areas, such as the **'Let it Grow' press release in June 2023**, and the combined press release with Sidmouth Town Council in April 2024 to highlight the importance of both Councils' wildlife improvement strategies.

2.5.3 As examples of the wording of press releases to inform, educate and set expectations of residents, the opening paragraph of the Let it Grow press release is as follows: *'This year, StreetScene has increased the number of green spaces and verges; we are letting the grass grow between April and September to enable nature to flourish. Our "let it grow" approach at these sites is helping to provide habitats for insects and wildlife, reduce CO₂ emissions by dramatically reducing mowing/trimming, promoting sustainable landscapes and encouraging native wildflowers. By enabling vegetation to flower, it provides essential nectar for bees and other pollinators, aiding nature and biodiversity across the district. These carefully selected sites are balanced with more tightly mown areas that are maintained for safety, sport, recreation and amenity purposes that form our green infrastructure.'*

2.5.4 The opening section of the very recent **'Council Mowing in the Sid Valley' press release** is as follows: *'The majority of green spaces owned or managed by each Council will be cut approximately every 4-6 weeks in the growing season, and perhaps more frequently if growing conditions demand it. The aim is for people to be able to enjoy activities, such as walking and relaxing on those areas, especially in and around the town and residential areas, as they are of important amenity and recreational value. However, the areas identified for nature across the Sid Valley will be left to grow naturally between April and September each year to encourage grasses and wildflowers to flourish. These areas, known as Wildlife Improvement Areas, will have appropriate signage to inform the public of their designation. In addition, each area will have strips mown next to paved or tarmacked areas so that plants on the edge do not interfere with use of the pathways or reduce visibility. In some areas, additional paths will be cut to allow ease of passage and allow people to enjoy walking through areas designated for wildlife. Invasive species will also be managed, as necessary. This sustainable practice will help enable wildlife to develop, establish vital habitats for insect pollinators and other wildlife, promote sustainable landscapes and encourage a wide variety of native wildflowers.'*

2.5.5 There is one wildlife improvement area that is managed via an SLA with EDDC's Housing department. Between late 2021 to early 2022, Parks and Gardens Officers liaised with Housing to put forward a case for StreetScene to adopt Housing land at Higher Brook Meadow, Sidford in order to plant trees and hedges and reduce regular maintenance levels. All residents of Higher Brook Meadow were canvassed for their opinion by a local resident, supported by Parks and Gardens Officers. Residents were unanimously in favour of the transition and Housing agreed to the change of land use. The residents of Higher Brook Meadow formed themselves into the Friends of Higher Brook Meadow and liaised with Sidmouth Arboretum, which supplied the specimen trees and hedging plants. Preparation and planting sessions were organised with the residents (promoted on social media and communicated to ward members and portfolio holder for Coast, Country and Environment). When the specimen trees and hedging plants were planted, there was a **thirty per cent reduction in maintenance using powered equipment**.

2.5.6 There were two instances in 2022 where Parks and Gardens Officers created online consultations and set up and publicised face-to-face public consultations, at Lymebourne Park, Sidmouth on 12.9.22 and Old Elm Road, Honiton on 13.9.22. On each occasion, the Parks and Gardens Officer carried out a leaflet drop to seventeen residents at Lymebourne and thirty-one residents at Old Elm Road. These were accompanied by social media posts to inform people of the upcoming public consultation, and information posters on stakes in the green spaces. A

gazebo was erected beside each of the green spaces to let residents and visitors know why Officers were there. Mood boards were created to inform the public of the proposed changes, why they are needed, the changes to the land people would see within the first year, and how the land would develop in the longer-term.

2.5.7 Officers conversed with the public on both occasions – and were joined by Cllr Alex Rowe in Gittisham – and took on their advice and guidance. For example, one resident of Lymebourne, after reviewing the proposals, advised Officers to avoid having daffodils beside a footpath junction because of his experience of most people cutting the corner. Also, some residents adjacent to the Old Elm Road green space advised that the creation of a pond without safety fencing was inappropriate in a high-density housing estate predominantly occupied by families. This type of feedback was invaluable. Cllr Alex Rowe confirmed that fifteen people attended the Old Elm Road public consultation. People were encouraged to complete questionnaires as a way of retaining evidence of their thoughts and opinions. See Cllr Rowe’s communication with a former Parks and Gardens Officer about the results of the online consultation, and an example of public consultation mood boards in the appendices section.

2.5.8 In 2023, Beer Parish Council and some Beer residents highlighted to StreetScene their opinions about a Beer wildlife improvement area, such as it being “awful”. Cllr Heath in the Beer Parish meeting on 12.4.23 (section 8 of the minutes) referred to wanting the wildlife improvement area “...to be restored to its former glory”, which would need the re-establishment of an intensive maintenance regime that would have all areas of the green space mown and strimmed low. Cllr Pook responded that there is a disparity between this level of maintenance and the allocated budget. However, neither Councillor referred to environmental reasoning or the climate emergency for the creation of this wildlife improvement area.

2.5.9 A **Have Your Say online public consultation** for Beer was created by Parks and Gardens Officers and promoted by EDDC and Beer Parish Council because it was understood that opinions were divided in the community on how the cliff top green space should look, from some Councillors and residents calling for a regular mowing and strimming regime on the steep gradients that contravened EDDC risk assessments, to residents who were happy with the look and feel of the green space but had not made their opinions known. The survey results were summarised and communicated widely including Beer Parish Council and led to talks about a change of maintenance practices and timeframes at Beer Jubilee without compromising risk assessments based on operatives using hand-held and pedestrian-controlled machinery on steep slopes, and legislated and Council policies, strategies and action plans. The graphical analyses can be seen in the appendices section.

2.6 Communication with residents from 2021

2.6.1 Parks and Gardens Officers consult with residents about proposed wildlife improvement areas via online public ‘Have Your Say’ consultations, social media posts, staked information posters on green spaces (an example can be seen in the appendices section), press releases (see above examples), letter drops, and setting up gazebos on land with proposed wildlife improvements. EDDC’s Communications team use social media platforms, residents’ newsletters and other media channels to highlight proposals to residents. It is important to note that letter drops to local residents and setting up a gazebo at the green space to promote the transition to a wildlife improvement area only occurred several times and were targeted for green spaces adjacent to high-density housing. There is a lot more potential for more face-to-face consultations in the future. Unfortunately, there is a lack of evidence up to 2024 as to residents’ opinions about wildlife improvement areas.

2.6.2 One such online communication:

[4 April 2023 - Council launches online campaign to help residents support biodiversity on their doorstep - East Devon](#)

2.6.3 In May 2023, residents were informed in the weekly Residents Update, in the press and on EDDC's website that StreetScene has increased the number of its (then 'renatured') wildlife improvement areas, and the important reasons behind the expansion.

[16 May 2023 - More East Devon greenspaces designated as nature recovery areas - East Devon](#)

2.6.4 For Green Space Proposals, see [Green Space Design and Management Proposals - Lymebourne Park Proposal - East Devon](#) for information and design strategies for two green spaces with proposals in 2022 to change regularly maintained urban green spaces in Sidmouth and Honiton to create wildlife improvement areas – to mitigate climate change by vastly reducing carbon release during maintenance operations, and help to redress the ever-dwindling pollinator numbers/species. Another reason for the urban green space transformation proposals is to improve the local environments, especially the transformed green spaces' look and feel, for local residents, which can help with mental health and wellbeing.

2.6.5 In addition, Parks and Gardens Officers created an online East Devon Engagement Hub page that was left open for residents across the district to comment about wildlife improvement areas. Then, residents were referred to the page in relation to specific wildlife improvement areas, which they heard about via letter drops, social media posts, the proposed list of wildlife improvement areas on EDDC's website, or via information placards on stakes in each green space. Therefore, residents' comments were clumped together for specific green spaces, and plans were changed accordingly when there were a lot of negative comments for a proposed wildlife improvement area, such as Winter's Lane in Ottery St Mary. See the following link: [Follow the Conversation on for East Devon Engagement Hub - Commonplace](#)

2.6.6 After the projects were costed and pitched to management, ward members and the portfolio holder for Coast, Country and Environment were consulted with, and communicated back that they were in favour of the proposals. Cllr Alex Rowe attended the Honiton face-to-face consultation in September 2022. EDDC's Communications Officer was involved in promoting the proposals and the dates/locations of the face-to-face consultations.

2.6.7 When budgets allow for transitions to wildlife improvement areas, all the above parties will be communicated with regarding the timeline of transformation to wildlife improvement area, and schools will be contacted with regards to enabling schoolchildren to take part in the wildlife improvement strategies, such as creating log pile habitats.

2.6.8 From 2022, residents who are unable to attend face-to-face green space proposals can leave feedback online, such as here: [Have Your Say Today - Green Spaces Survey - East Devon Engagement Hub \(commonplace.is\)](#).

2.6.9 A local wildlife group has offered to conduct preliminary wildlife (flora and fauna) surveys before and after green spaces' transformations to wildlife improvement areas, and then once per year for several years afterwards, which will hopefully evidence how wildlife has been improved in these areas. Therefore, not only have areas such as these helped to reduce carbon release to help EDDC to meet carbon neutral targets, the creation of these oasis wildlife areas also helps to redress wide-scale pollinator number/species declines in this biodiversity crisis we find ourselves in. **Results in 2023 of biodiversity gain after the transition to a wildlife improvement area on Salterton Road, Exmouth in 2022 evidence a big increase in flora and fauna biodiversity.** See appendices section. Prior to the 0.5km green space strip being converted to a wildlife improvement area, very few wildflowers were able to survive the punishing maintenance conditions, which resulted in a lack of wildlife.

2.7 Similar work being undertaken by other authorities

2.7.1 After a national study, a recent Guardian report states that one in five county councils in the UK have embarked on 'rewilding' efforts on their land. North Somerset, for example, is rewilding "as much land as possible" to improve biodiversity by 2030.

[Rewilding 'not just for toffs' as one in five councils in Great Britain get onboard | Environment | The Guardian](#)

2.7.2 Reading Borough Council has 'rewilded' thirty-five hectares of grassland that was previously mown frequently, and has created a Biodiversity Action Plan to set out its targets and reasoning.

[Biodiversity Action Plan Consultation Draft May 2020.pdf \(reading.gov.uk\)](#)

2.7.3 Twenty-five percent of the South Downs National Park is being managed for nature improvement.

[Renature - South Downs National Park Authority](#)

2.7.4 Adur & Worthing Councils have carefully considered the balance between nature and people in its parks and gardens, and have created both wildflower areas by seeding and by allowing flora to grow.

[Renaturing in Adur and Worthing - Adur & Worthing Councils \(adur-worthing.gov.uk\)](#)

2.7.5 Plymouth City Council started wildlife improvement strategies during the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Plymouth City Council is letting the grass grow to promote wildlife - and cope with coronavirus pandemic - Plymouth Live \(plymouthherald.co.uk\)](#)

2.7.6 Exeter City Council created networks of wildflower meadow areas in parks and gardens, and by better management of more regularly mown grass areas.

[Wildflowers - Exeter City Council](#)

2.7.7 Brighton and Hove City Council introduced missing wildlife species to help wildlife be more resilient.

[Rewilding \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#)

2.7.8 The Mayor of London established the London Rewilding Taskforce so the capital can become rich in nature and home to a range of species. He looked at opportunities for rewilding in London, which reported in March 2023. He also announced the next round of the Rewild London Fund, which is a competition to inspire Londoners as to how their city can be made wilder, greener and closer to nature, as a response to the climate and ecological emergencies by creating and restoring priority habitats across London's urban green spaces.

[Rewild London Fund 2023 | London City Hall](#)

2.7.9 Despite some concerns from residents about wildlife improvement ('rewilding') initiatives in Glasgow's green spaces, the overall response of the Council's efforts from the public were positive.

[CHttpHandler.ashx \(glasgow.gov.uk\)](#)

2.7.10 Portsmouth City Council have recently 'rewilded' seventeen green spaces, created wildflower meadows in twenty-two urban sites and beside seven roads – totalling 4,000m².

[Portsmouth City Council Climate Change Strategy](#)

2.7.11 Coventry City Council, in line with Biodiversity Net Gain legislation, are creating biodiversity offsetting sites across the city's green spaces, which are large-scale, long-term habitat creation and restoration and species recovery programmes.

[Ecology – Coventry City Council](#)

2.7.12 Worcester City Council manages unimproved grasslands and urban wildflower meadow areas within walking distance from the city centre – where increasing biodiversity is more important.

[Conservation and Wildlife Sites - Worcester City Council](#)

2.7.13 Leeds City Council aims to provide green spaces that are full of nature and wildlife that will help to reduce the likelihood and impact of climate change, by planting trees and by protecting, enhancing and creating wildlife habitats.

[Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.pdf \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#)

2.7.14 Since the introduction of central government's Nature Recovery Network and Biodiversity Net Gain legislations in 2024, the number of local authorities that will actively promote online what they are doing to help nature will quickly escalate. The targets of the Nature Recovery Network legislation are to: 'Protect and effectively manage 30% of England's land... for nature by 2030. Halt species decline by 2030. Increase species abundance by at least 10%, to exceed 2022 levels by 2042. Restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042. Restore or create 140,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028, compared with 2022 levels. Reduce the risk of species extinction in England by 2042, compared with 2022 levels.' This means that, by this time next year, there will be many other local authorities promoting their invaluable efforts to create or restore species-rich environments to halt species decline, with the understanding that 'untidy' can no longer be excusable for habitat losses and continually declining species.

2.8 Other resources required

2.8.1 Funding outside of the small Parks and Gardens budget is very much needed for wildlife improvement strategies to increase the number of areas removed from high carbon footprint regular maintenance activities across the district, and the use of a contractor (based on operational capacity of the grounds teams and Parks and Gardens Officers) to invert or remove the turf in preparation of the creation of wildflower areas. Parks and Gardens Officers had the daunting task of removing 125m² of turf in early May 2024 to create a wildflower area in Budleigh Salterton, without the planned help from grounds operatives due to how busy they were keeping up with mowing grass they were unable to mow previously due to wet conditions. Due to the concurrence between the most appropriate time to create wildflower areas and the operational capacity of grounds operatives due to climate change causing unprecedented growth levels of grass in early spring, the bulk of the funding required to transition grasses-dominated wildlife improvement areas to wildflower-dominated wildlife improvement areas would be needed for contractors to carry out preparatory work on proposed wildlife improvement areas. Other costs would be for perennial and annual wildflower seed and yellow rattle seed to restrict the re-growth of rye grasses.

2.8.2 Currently, Parks and Gardens Officers can only transition a very small number of grasses-dominated wildlife improvement areas to wildflower-dominated wildlife improvement areas per year, which is not only not doing enough to reverse pollinators' decline, but also generates more complaints from residents due to the vast majority of wildlife improvement areas being dominated by grasses. For example, the obstacles some residents have proposed against grasses-dominated wildlife improvement areas, such as it being a fire hazard or a haven for dog faeces, disappear when these areas are transitioned to areas dominated by wildflowers. This happened in Budleigh Salterton in 2022, where there were so many complaints about the 'new look' of The

Green's wildlife improvement areas. However, these complaints turned into accolades when areas became dominated by wildflowers – and some of the same complainants became advocates of the wildlife improvement strategies. This led to positive public consultation and the creation of a new wildflower area on edge of Moormead housing estate, which overlooks The Green, in May 2024.

2.8.3 This is a good example of how consulting with and listening to stakeholders' views, setting their expectations and then meeting those expectations has led to community engagement of wildlife improvement areas – and the public asking StreetScene to designate regularly managed green spaces to wildflower areas.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications resulting from the report/recommendations.

Legal implications:

The recommendations as presented currently have no direct legal implication.

3 Appendices

This section contains the following:

- 3.1 An example of an information poster that, along with others across the district, were secured to stakes and attached to potential wildlife improvement areas to inform residents of proposed intentions.
- 3.2 An example analysis of a Have Your Say online public consultation of a wildlife improvement area to evaluate residents' feelings of a specific wildlife improvement area.
- 3.3 An example of a mood board and information presented to residents in face-to-face public consultations to present wildlife improvement intentions.
- 3.4 An example of a leaflet posted through residents' doors as a back-up communication about a proposed wildlife improvement area.
- 3.5 Examples of leaflets posted through residents' doors about proposed new wildflower areas, and the reasons why they are important.
- 3.6 An example of a wildlife improvement area survey of a new wildlife improvement area to evidence biodiversity increases.
- 3.7 An example of a leaflet by a third-party group on behalf of EDDC delivered to residents as a back-up to another leaflet several months' earlier.
- 3.8 An example of a Friends group's update information regarding the community consultation process and results.
- 3.9 Examples of emailed communication evidencing the consultation process.

3.1 An example of an information poster secured to stakes and attached to potential wildlife improvement areas to inform residents of proposed intentions

Potential Wildlife Improvement Area

East Devon District Council’s Parks and Gardens Officers would like to hear your thoughts about initial proposals to convert this green space to a Wildlife Improvement Area.

The proposal is for grounds team members to mow around the perimeter, mow meandering pathways through the green space, and mow an area near to the front/on the corner for local residents to use the area for recreation or picnics.

During the first year, grasses will dominate the green space due to the ‘cut and drop’ of arisings over the years feeding the soil and allowing grasses to out-compete wildflowers. However, with the introduction of ‘cut and collect’ mowing in spring and autumn, the soils will no longer be fed by the grass cuttings. This will weaken grasses and allow space for wildflowers.

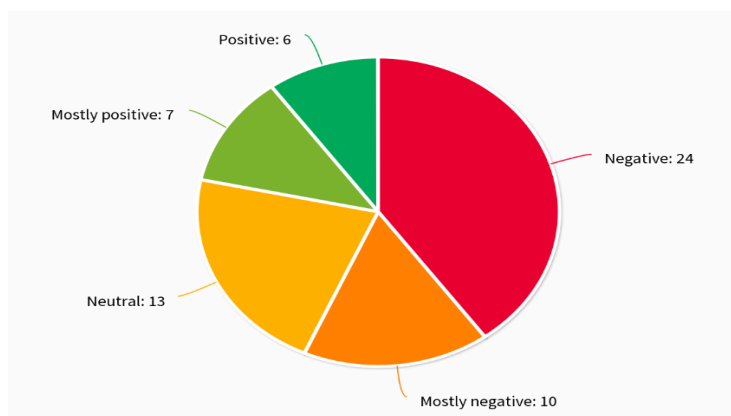
Parks and Gardens Officers then would like to sow yellow rattle seeds, which feed on grasses, to allow more space for wildflower sowing.

Plans for the green space throughout the growing season is for the 2 hatched areas in the basic design below to be allowed to develop for nature, and the areas between and around them are to be mown low once per month through the growing season. Then, in September a contractor will cut, collect, bail and remove the arisings. This means that between September and the following spring, all of the area will be low – but will then be valuable for wildlife for the remainder of the year.

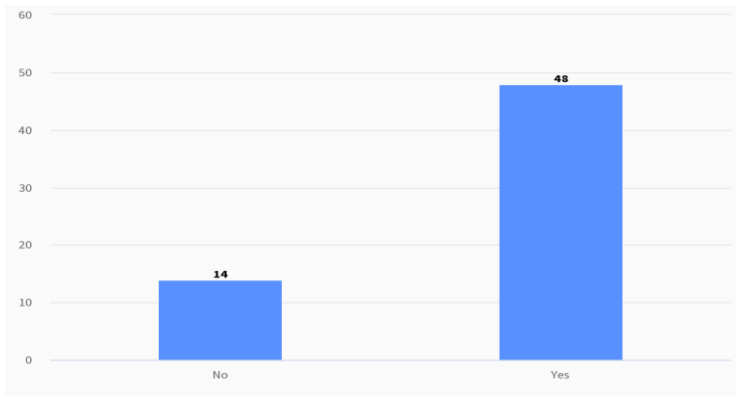
Please do let us know what you feel about this proposal by contacting EDDC’s Parks and Gardens Officers at the parksandgardens@eastdevon.gov.uk address.

3.2 An example analysis of a Have Your Say online public consultation to evaluate residents’ feelings of a specific wildlife improvement area

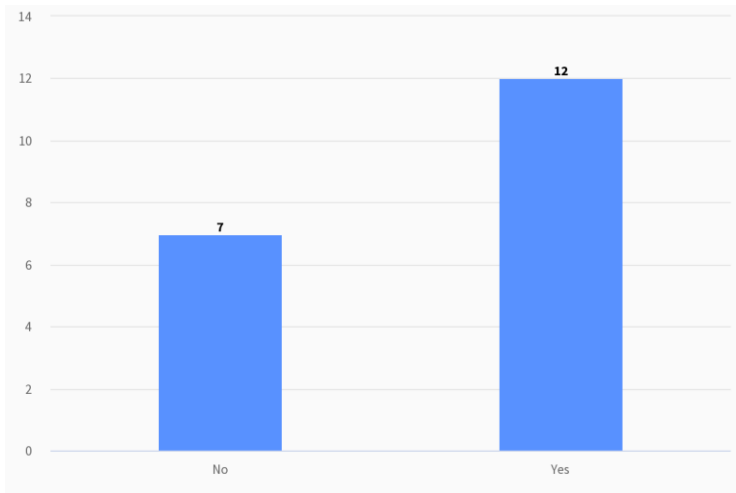
Have Your Say: Beer Jubilee Gardens 2023 – Overview



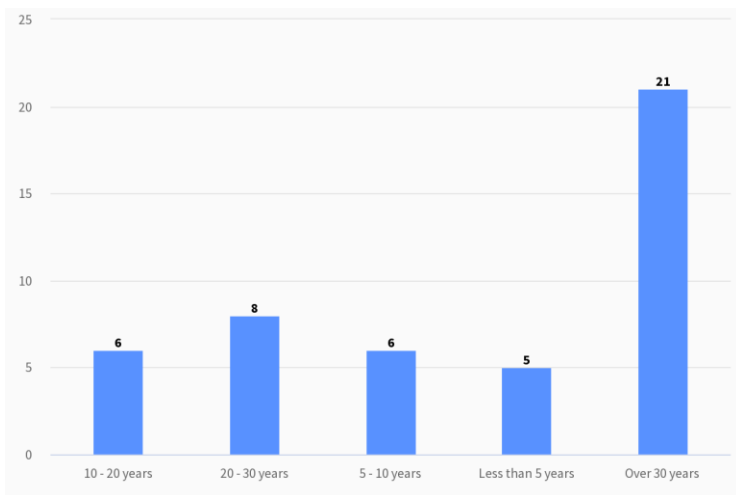
Are you a resident of Beer, East Devon?



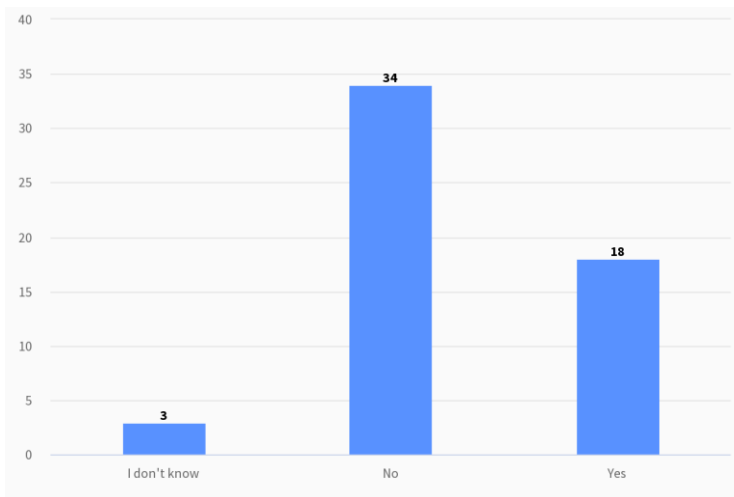
If NO, were you once a Beer resident?



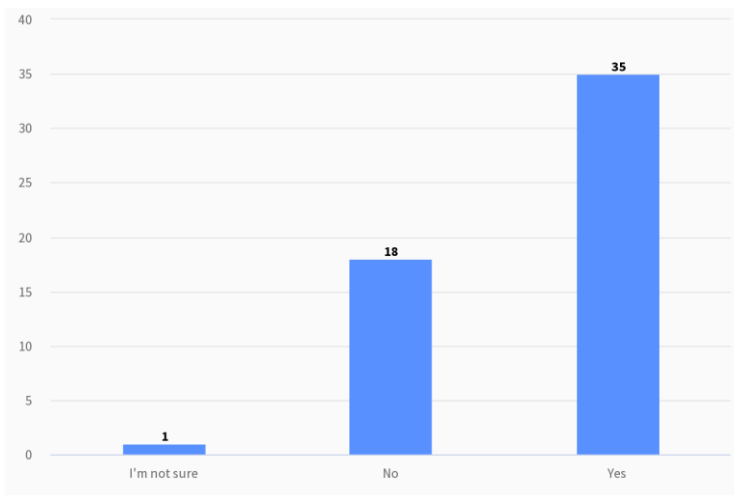
If you are a Beer resident, how long have you lived in Beer?



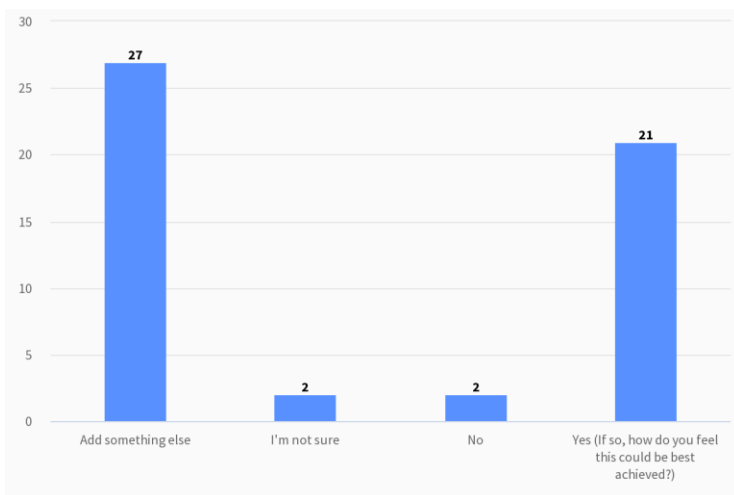
Do you feel that Beer Jubilee has a look and feel that fits in with the natural environment?



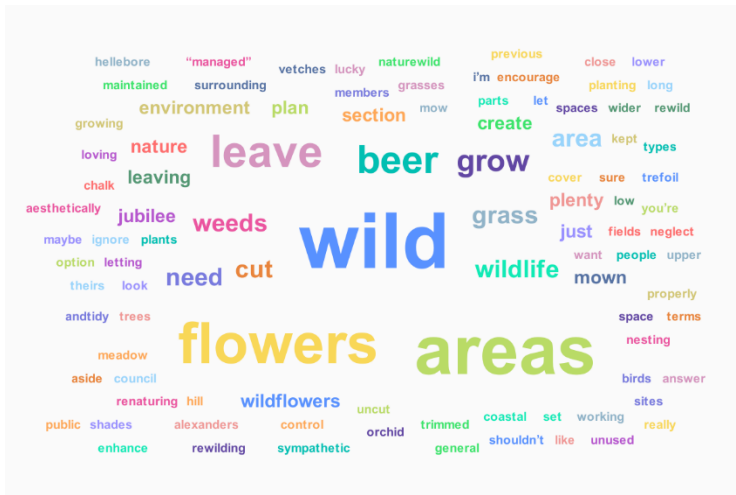
Would you like this green space to be maintained as it was in the past, with most sections mown/strimmed?



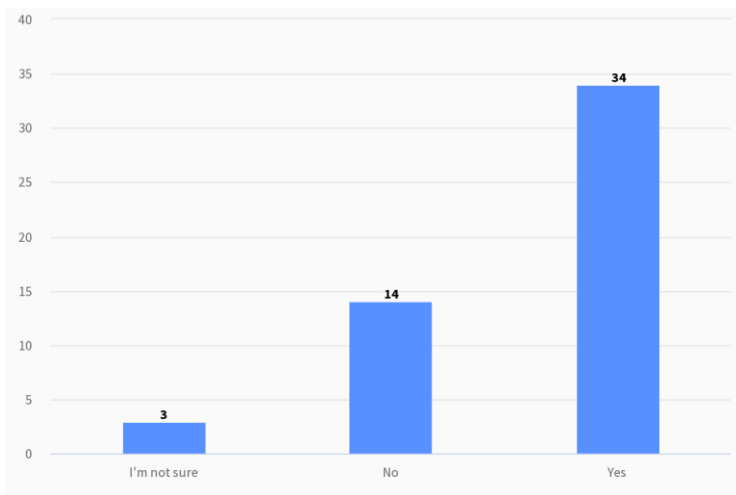
Do you feel that making space for nature is important?



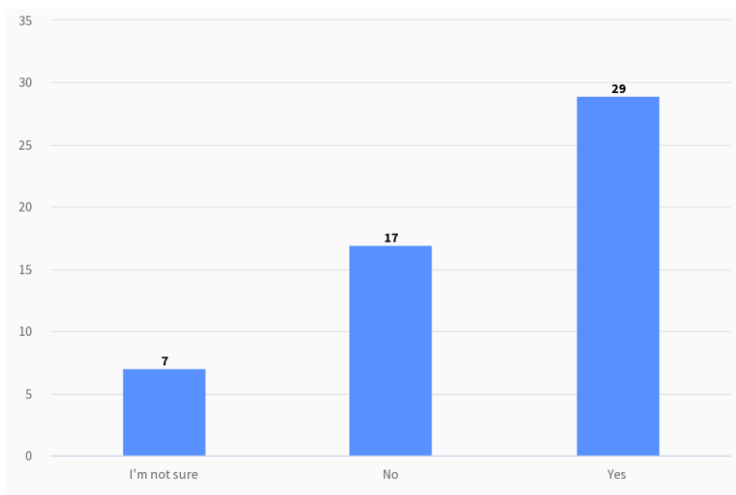
How would you suggest the space for nature/biodiversity be improved at Beer Jubilee?



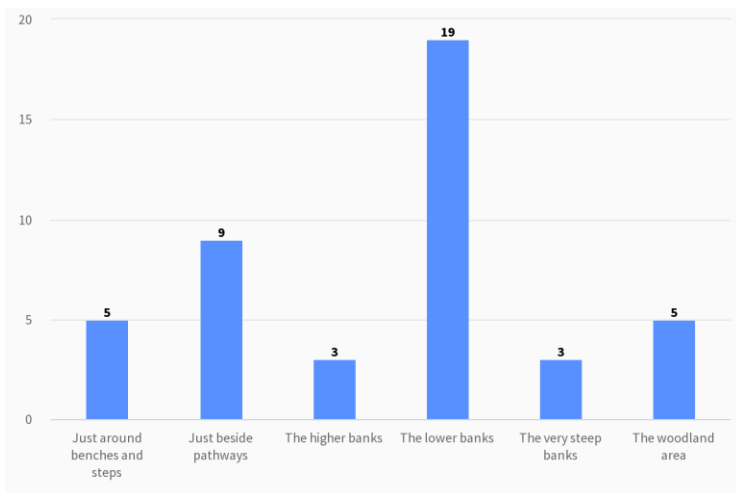
Do you feel that more mowing and strimming will improve how the area, such as the steep banks, will look?



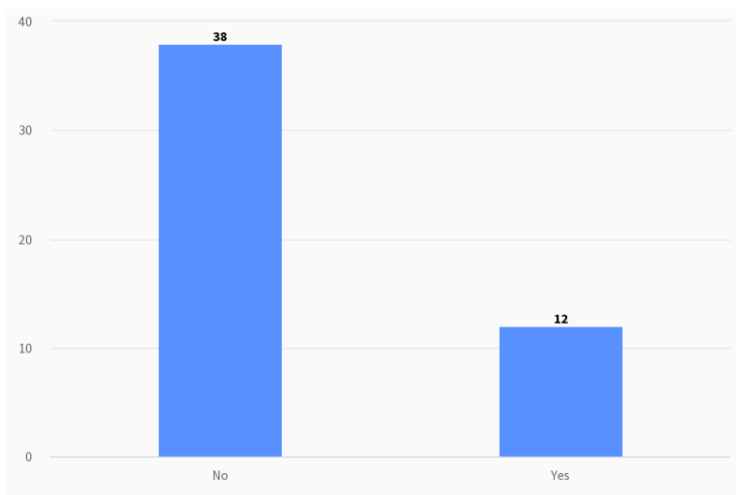
Would you like to see some sections of Beer Jubilee more rigorously maintained, whilst other sections are left to be renatured?



If so, which sections do you think should be kept low?



Would you be interested in volunteering some time on a regular basis to help to maintain Beer Jubilee?

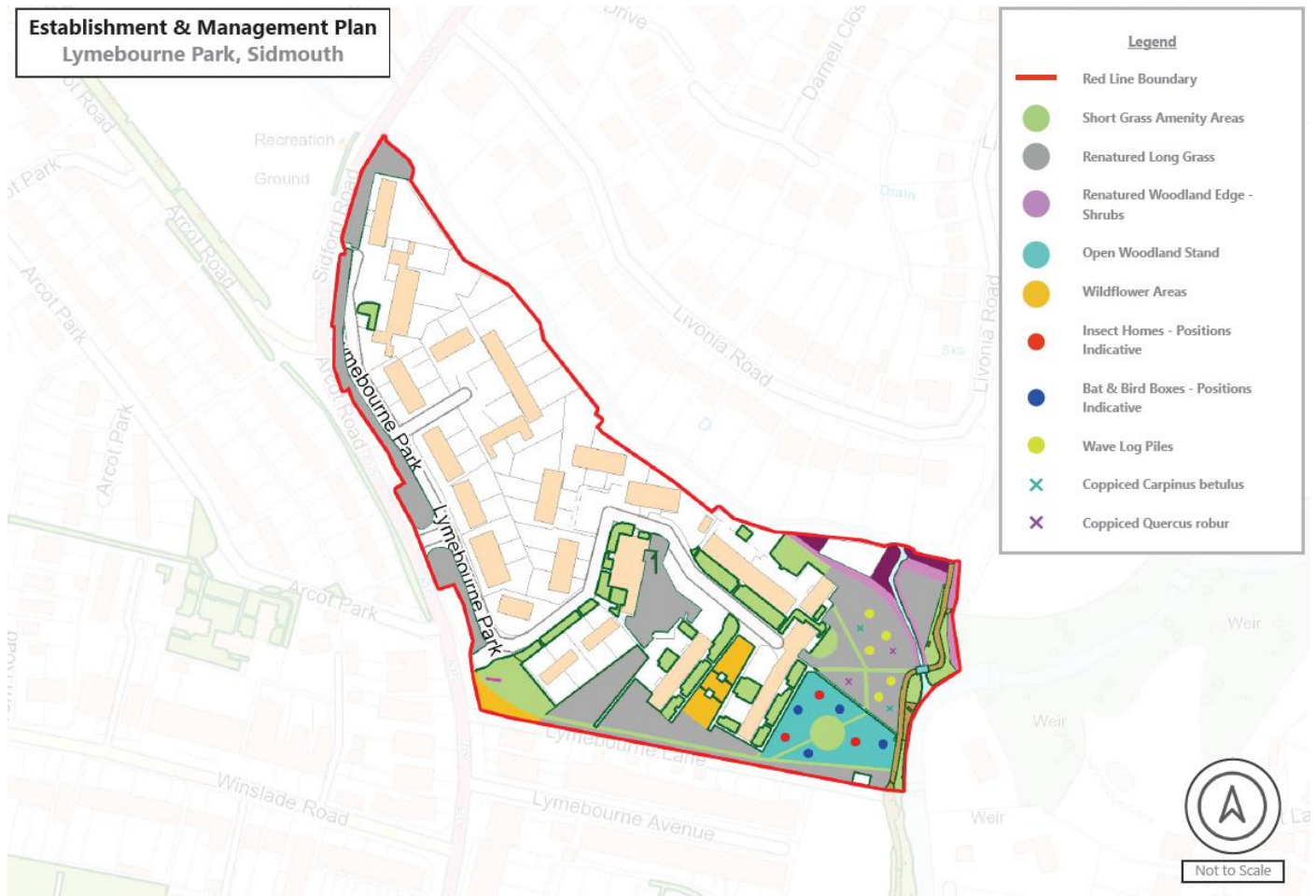


Please add any additional comments in the box below that you feel are relevant but have not been covered above.



3.3 An example of a mood board and information presented to residents in face-to-face public consultations to present wildlife improvement intentions.





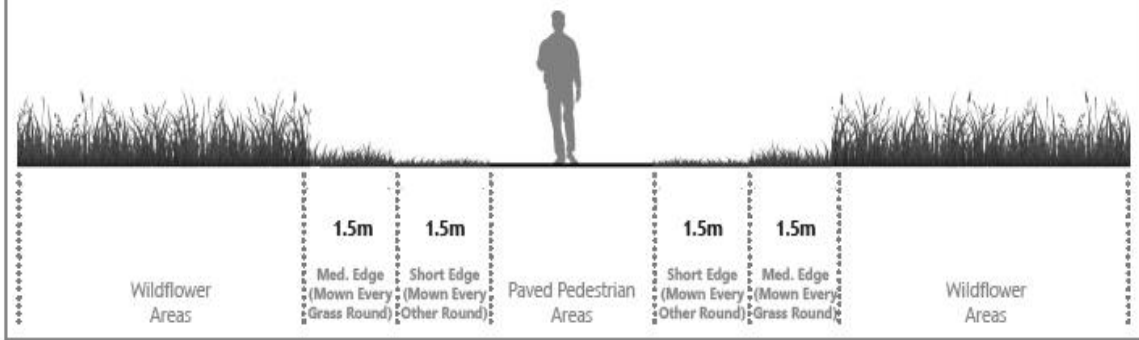
Lymebourne Park, Sidmouth - Establishment Actions

Lymebourne Park, Sidmouth - Management Actions

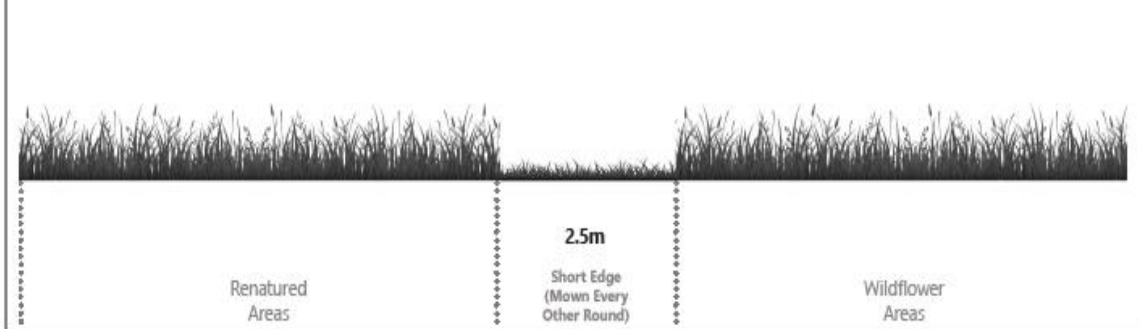
Legend	Type	Establishment Description	Notes
	Open Woodland	Native Open Woodland to be Planted by Volunteers (Assisted by Parks & Green Spaces Department). Stakes & Biodegradable Guards to be Used.	Part of 2023 Emergency Tree Fund.
	Wildflower Areas	Designated Areas to be: Scarified by StreetScene; Arisings collected and Piled by Volunteers/StreetScene; and Oversown by EDDC operatives in Autumn 2023.	Wildflower + Grass Mix From Goren Farm Seed (Honiton). 5g/m2. 1 Part Seed to 5 Parts Sand.
	Insect Homes	To be Built and Installed by Local Schools/Community Groups (Assisted by Parks & Green Spaces Department).	Piled Pallets With Variable Materials Installed and Decorated.
	Bat & Bird Boxes	Signage and Artwork to be Created by Local Schools/Community Groups. Boxes Installed by EDDC Maintenance Technician in appropriate trees only.	Cavity and Crevice Bat Boxes to be Used. All Boxes to be 4m+ From Ground, in Sunny Positions and Facing Variable Directions.
	Wave Log Piles	To be Built and Installed by Parks & Green Spaces Department. Logs Bolted Together.	Logs approx 1.5' long; 3-12" diameter. Recycled From Tree Team's Tree Surgery.
	Coppiced Carpinus betulus & Coppiced Quercus robur	Single Stem Specimens to be Planted by Local Residents (Assisted by Parks & Green Spaces Department). Stakes & Biodegradable Guards to be Used.	Planted Autumn/ Winter 2022 or 2023.

Legend	Type	Management Description	Frequency
	Short Grass Amenity Areas	Managed as Existing by StreetScene. Part of Regular Grass Rounds.	As Existing
	Renatured Long Grass - Permanent	Cut by StreetScene. Potentially Collected By Volunteers - TBC. Yellow Rattle Sown After 1st September Cut.	Cut Twice Annually: Early-March & September
	Existing Managed Woodland/ Scrub	Brush Cut/ Strimmed by StreetScene. Collected By StreetScene to Make Habitat Piles - TBC.	Cut non-trees on a 6 Year Rotation (October) to Develop Shrubby Growth: 2024; 2030...
	Renatured Woodland Edge - Herbs	Strimmed by StreetScene. Collected By Local Residents Group to Make Habitat Piles - TBC.	Cut on a 3 Year Rotation (October) to Promote Flowering Plants: 2023; 2026...
	Open Woodland Stand	Ground Vegetation Cut by EDDC. Potentially Collected By Local Residents - TBC (Until Woodland Canopy Develops).	Cut Twice Annually: Mid-March & September
	Wildflower Areas	Cut by StreetScene. Potentially Collected By Local Residents Group - TBC. Yellow Rattle Sown After 1st September Cut.	Cut Twice Annually: Mid-March & September
	Coppiced Carpinus betulus & Coppiced Quercus robur	Coppiced by EDDC Tree Team/ Qualified Tree Surgeon.	Carpinus betulus Coppiced Every 30 Years: 2052, 2082... Quercus robur Coppiced Every 40 Years: 2062; 2102...

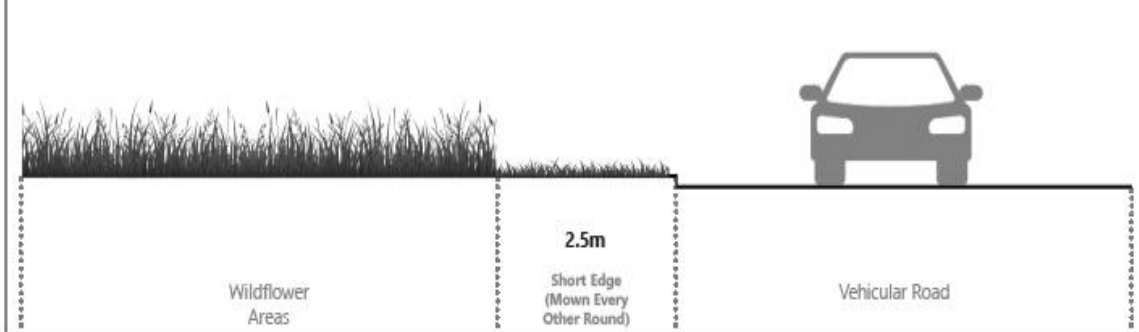
Wildflower/Renatured Area Edges Adjacent to Paved Pedestrian Areas



Other Wildflower/Renatured Area Edges



Wildflower/Renatured Area Edges Adjacent to Roads



Mown Paths Through Wildflower/Renatured Areas



Native Open Woodland Species Suggestions

Planting Winter 2022/23 - TBC



Malus sylvestris (Crab Apple)



Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)



Corylus avellana (Hazel)



Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)



Prunus avium (Wild Cherry)



Prunus padus (Bird Cherry)



Betula pendula (Silver Birch)



Euonymus europaeus (Spindle Tree)

Total Area for Planting = 400m²
Row Spacing = 2.5m
Spacing Between Trees in Rows = 2.5m

Total Trees Required = Approx. 77

3.4 An example of a leaflet posted through residents' doors as a back-up communication about a proposed wildlife improvement area. Referred to in section 5.2

Colleton Way /Green Close Green Space Improvements

East Devon District Council are delighted to inform you that there are plans to improve the Colleton Way/Green Close green space.

We will be sowing the outer segments of the space with a dramatic and colourful wildflower mix, which is also great for wildlife. The intention is to create a more welcoming central space for local residents to use and sit within. Amongst the wildflower we will be planting a variety of trees to provide shade and shelter the central space.

In order to maintain a beautiful space, residents should park on-street and refrain from parking on the green space.

We hope you are satisfied with the proposals, but if you would like to provide feedback visit the East Devon District Council website and search 'Green Space Design and Management Proposals' to express your views.

3.5 Examples of leaflets posted through residents' doors about proposed new wildflower areas, and the reasons why they are important.

Dramatic and Colourful Wildflower Proposals

Dear Resident,

We are proposing to sow and establish an area of wildflower along the pedestrian walkway, which runs from Brixington Community Church to Birchwood Road.

Once established the wildflower will look similar to the Salterton Road verge wildflower, which you may have seen last year.

The idea is to create a beautiful and colourful pedestrian route, which acts as a valuable habitat for a range of wildlife.

We are looking to sow this spring between late April and early May. Do not be alarmed if the area looks bare as this is to be expected for the first few weeks until the seedlings start to emerge.

Once past this initial period we can look forward to a sea of colour, year after to year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in contact through the East Devon District Council 'Contact us' webpage.

An example of what it may look like - Salterton Road wildflower verge

Dramatic and Colourful Wildflower Proposals

Dear Resident,

We are proposing to sow and establish an area of wildflower along the roadside verges at the corner of Rivermead Avenue and Exeter Road.

Once established the wildflower will look similar to the Salterton Road verge wildflower, which you may have seen last year.

The idea is to create a colourful and dramatic gateway to Exmouth in a very high profile area. The scheme will also provide a valuable habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

We are looking to sow this spring between late April and early May. Do not be alarmed if the area looks bare as this is to be expected for the first few weeks until the seedlings start to emerge.

Once past this initial period we can look forward to a sea of colour, year after to year.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposal, please get in contact through the East Devon District Council 'Contact us' webpage.



An example of what it may look like - Salterton Road wildflower verge

Dramatic and Colourful Wildflower Proposals

Dear Resident,

We are proposing to sow and establish an area of wildflower in the green space at the end of Old Elm Road.

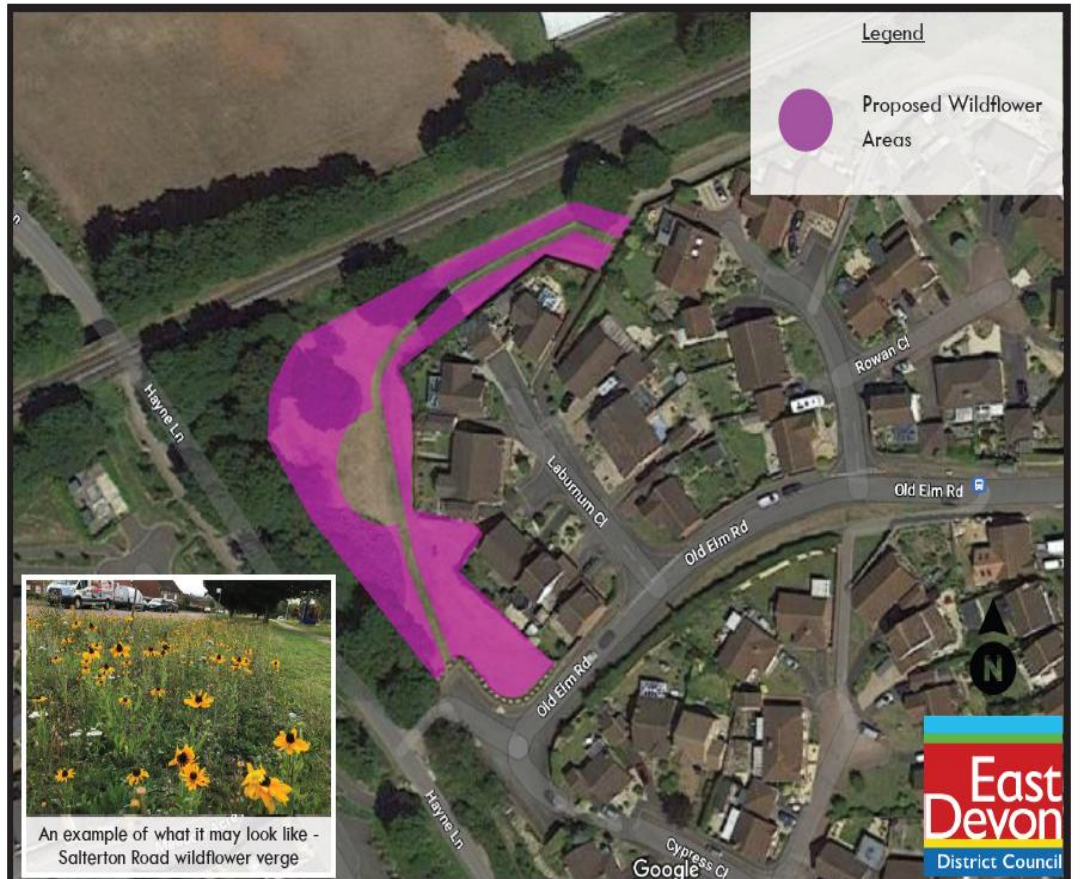
Once established the wildflower will look similar to the Salterton Road verge wildflower, which you may have seen last year.

The idea is to create an area of beautiful and colourful wildflower with a mown path and pocket for local residents to enjoy the wildflower meadow.

We are looking to sow this spring between late April and early May. Do not be alarmed if the area looks bare as this is to be expected for the first few weeks until the seedlings start to emerge.

Once past this initial period we can look forward to a sea of colour, year after to year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in contact through the East Devon District Council 'Contact us' webpage.



An example of what it may look like - Salterton Road wildflower verge

3.6 An example of a survey of a new wildlife improvement area to evidence biodiversity increases.

Exmouth Wildflower Wardens **Recording Sheet 2023**
Name of site Rewilded area, Salterton Rd **Location of site** SY023818 **Name of recorders** MD, SE and JG

Date	Species	Abundance	Location	Notes + other species	Photo?
21/07/2023	Dock sp	P			
	Yarrow	P		Butterflies and moths	
	Wild Carrot	W		Holly blue	Small Copper
	Ribwort plantain	W		Gatekeeper	Small Skipper
	Buttercup sp	P		Common blue	Small White
	Catsear	W		Large White	Silver Y Moth
	Hedge mustard	I		Speckled Wood	
	Red Clover sp*	W			
	Self heal	P			
	Chamomile	I		Bees	
	Broad-leaved Plantain	W		Red Tailed Bumblebee	
	Ox-eye Daisy	W		Common Carder Bumblebee	
	Dandelion	P		Leaf cutter bee (probably <i>M. centuncularis</i>)	
	Common Ragwort	I		Buff-tailed Bumblebee	
	Hawkweed Oxtongue	P		Mining Bee (probably <i>A. nigroaenea</i>)	
	Corn Marigold	I			
	Common Storksbill	P		Several Ants nests	
	?Smooth Catsear	I			
	Spear Thistle	P		7-spot Ladybird	

3.7 An example of a leaflet by a third-party group on behalf of EDDC delivered to residents as a back-up to another leaflet several months' earlier.

Update from Exmouth Tiny Forest

Before Christmas, we delivered a leaflet to you telling you about our plans for a "Tiny Forest" on the edge of St Georges Playing Fields.

Since then, there have been exciting developments. East Devon District Council Parks and Gardens Team have become interested in the project and are supporting us to make it happen, with both manpower and materials.

We are now hoping to plant the Tiny Forest in late February. with the most likely date being Wednesday 28th February. We are sorry it is a weekday, but this is both because of council working hours and also because some pupils from Exeter Road Primary School are going to be involved.

We would like to invite any of you that might be available on the day to come and take part (or watch). There will be a gazebo and refreshments and we hope it will be a nice community event.

The "Tiny Forest" (the size of a tennis court) will be fenced off with chestnut paling and there will be an information board about the project.

EDDC are also planning, on the same day, to plant another 180 trees around the tiny forest, using conventional spacings and method. This will provide an interesting comparison of the two methods of introducing trees into an area.

If you would like to comment or want more information, please do contact us on (mobile telephone number deleted) or using the email (email address deleted).

3.8 An example of a Friends group's update information regarding the community consultation process and results

Community Consultation: Potential Higher Brook Meadow Green Canopy Scheme

Method of Consultation and Summary Outcome

1. Initial discussion with a group of neighbours around the green following publication of the Queens Green Canopy Scheme. These initial discussions considered how to develop possible community involvement, what environmental and community benefits could be achieved and who should be approached in terms of getting landlord permission and technical/ horticultural support, etc.
2. Letter to all 57 households (2 houses currently unoccupied), prior to being accepted by Sidmouth Arboretum, outlining the possibility of improving the green space. Purpose of letter was to gather further ideas, to share the initial feedback received to date and to invite people who would like to be involved
3. Site meeting held on 24/11/2021 with Sidmouth Arboretum, Cllr Marianne Rixson and 5 residents
4. Phase one design information was circulated to the 57 houses, either by email or by way of a second letter. A copy of the plan and planting details also placed on the side of the playground fence for those who did not wish to receive it electronically. Residents were asked to respond by 3rd December 2021
5. 43 responses were received. All were supportive and no objections to a QGC scheme on the green were received. There were 14 houses that did not respond either way, 3 of which live facing the green itself. The majority of the non-responders live on the hill and perhaps felt it was not as relevant to them
6. A detailed breakdown of which 43 houses responded and the method they used is held in the event EDDC would wish to see the information

General feedback received following receipt of draft design

1. The involvement and experience of Sidmouth Arboretum was welcomed. Households felt reassured that design plans, species types, etc were done professionally and considered both the environment and the community
2. Having the involvement and support of Cllr Rixson was also seen as extremely important to assist in raising the profile of the scheme with both EDDC and Sidmouth Town Council
3. Further offers of support for planting and watering etc were received
4. The potential for later phases on the Green were also welcomed
5. Every household remains aware that the scheme coming into place is still fully dependent on EDDC Housing approval and subsequent funding issues being addressed

Design proposal feedback

1. **Playground fencing hedgerow and trees.** Full support from all responders
2. **Trees on Green Space:** Full support from all responders
3. **Hedging around the outer edges of the Green:** This raised a significant number of concerns. Particularly with those who have to access both the corners and the bend on the east side. (These elements involves 26 of the 57 properties) When cars are parked in the crescent, the road access is only single width. Whilst this would be less of a problem if it was a one way system, unfortunately vehicles and delivery drivers enter and leave the crescent at both ends. Therefore it was felt that the potential for a front facing collision is increased with a solid hedge on an elevated bank. It was suggested that rather than removing everything, that the single shrub/spindle bushes suggested in the original plan could be retained around the bank edge, but away from corners and the east side bend. It was felt that the small group of trees themselves near the two corner areas within the green would not obscure sight lines for drivers in the way that a solid hedge would do.

Parents who had raised concern of potential falls from the elevated bank felt that the presence of these trees and periodic spindle bushes/ small trees would mitigate the risk, whilst not increasing the risk to drivers

Next stage

EDDC will carry out their own consultation as part of their decision-making process
The community will be kept informed of the outcome of EDDC decision and if successful, a final plan and the subsequent planting schedule provided.

Margaret Bullock
(address deleted) **Higher Brook Meadow 6/12/2021**

3.9 Examples of emailed communication evidencing the consultation process

Below: an email from the leader of the new Friends of Higher Brook Meadow (formed on advice by Parks and Gardens Officers) to Sue Bewes (Housing Manager at the time) about the consultation process that took place about adopting the Housing land for tree planting and creating wildlife improvement areas.

From: Margaret Bullock (email address deleted)
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 11:18 AM
To: Sue Bewes (email address deleted)
Subject: Higher Brook Meadow Green

Good Morning

Following a site meeting and receipt of the draft proposed design, all 57 occupied houses in the Higher Brook Meadow postcode were sent details and asked to respond by 3/12/21. I fully understand that in the event that you are considering approving the scheme that you would want to carry out your own consultation, but I thought you may wish to see the outcome of the responses we received.

I have provided a copy to Sidmouth Arboretum and the next stage would be to draw up a final plan to feedback to the residents and for your consideration. However, Sue, in an earlier email you mentioned that you may be considering incorporating a scheme in relation to addressing parking issues. Therefore, I will hold off circulating a final plan until we have received your decision to allow any scheme on your land and/or to await any plans to may have which will require the final planting plan to be amended.

Incidentally, there were two issues that came up repeatedly that I have not included in the design summary feedback document as they don't relate directly to the draft design plan. However, you may wish to know was that whilst the playground was seen as important, its size was felt by many to be disproportionately large in relation to the green space and secondly, that it would be beneficial if something could be done about parking behaviour, as opposed to amount. I assume this to be in relation to individuals who choose to park on the green itself.

Please let me know if there is any further information you require and or if, you wish me to amend the draft plan to incorporate any of your own plans. The community remains fully aware that any progression of the scheme is dependent on your approval.

Best wishes

Margaret

Margaret Bullock
Friends of Higher Brook Meadow
(mobile telephone number deleted)

Below: The reply from a Housing Officer about the consultation process carried out by the Friends of Higher Brook Meadow, which meets Housing standards – and led to the adoption of the green space by StreetScene’s Parks and Gardens Officers and the new Friends group.

From: Alexandra Higgins (email address deleted)
Sent: 07 December 2021 16:16
To: 'Margaret Bullock' (email address deleted)
Cc: Sue Bewes (email address deleted)
Subject: EDDC Housing approval of scheme

Hi Margaret,

Thank you for sending me the full details of the community consultation including the responses of 8 of the 9 EDDC tenants.

I am very pleased to see you have done such a thorough job. Sending through at least one and up to two letters to every property, and the plans to those who provided emails. Also making the plans available on the playpark fence. I noted that in the instance where residents didn't respond in writing to either of the letters, a community member went round and spoke to the residents and you recorded the name of that community person.

Through this method every EDDC tenant who faces the green and all but one of the others (8 out of 9 in total) have responded positively to the proposals.

The consultation has been very thorough and absolutely meets our standards. Further, the engagement with Sidmouth Arboretum around the design and choosing climate appropriate and community appropriate tree species means we are very pleased and impressed with this scheme.

Thank you for your great work so far and we will do our best to play our part as the project goes on.

The project has our approval.

Many thanks, Alex

Alexandra Higgins
Community Development Worker

Below: Reply from the leader of the Friends group regarding the permission to change the land use of Housing land based on a full consultation and Parks and Gardens Officers' communication and plans

From: Margaret Bullock (email address deleted)

Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:19 PM

To: Alexandra Higgins (email address deleted); Sue Bewes (email address deleted)

Subject: RE: EDDC Housing approval of scheme

Dear Alexandra and Sue

On behalf of the residents of Higher Brook Meadow, may I thank you for allowing this scheme to go ahead on your land.

I am glad that how we engaged within our community also met your consultation and communication process too.

I particularly want to thank you all for the timely manner in which this decision making process has been completed. I am aware of the challenges of local government and the different aspects and considerations that have to be achieved before a decision can be made. However, you have responded within an exceptionally tight timescale to enable us to meet the constraints of the QGC ordering and planting limitations.

Whilst the planting itself will ultimately be subject to addressing residual funding issues, at least we can approach this aspect knowing that we have your permission.

Best wishes

Margaret

Tall Trees and 43 more HBM households who are supporting this environmental and community initiative

Below: communication between a Parks and Gardens Officer and a Ward Member about a proposed wildlife improvement area – prior to then going out to a public consultation.

On 31 Mar 2023, at 18:44, Russell Giblett (email address deleted) wrote:

Afternoon,

I hope you are well.

We are proposing to sow and establish an area of wildflower along the roadside verges at the corner of Rivermead Avenue and Exeter Road.

Once established the wildflower will may look similar to the Salterton Road verge wildflower, which you may have seen last year.

The idea is to create a colourful and dramatic gateway to Exmouth in a very high profile area.

The scheme will also provide a valuable habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

We would look to sow late April/early May.


The area would look quite bare for the first few weeks until the seed starts to germinate.

But once we get past this period, it should thrive and flower every year with full coverage.

I would be interested to hear your thoughts on the proposal.

Please see below a plan of the proposed area and a picture of the wildflower along Salterton Road.



 This image cannot currently be displayed.

Kind regards,

Russell Giblett, MLA, BSc (Hons)
Green Spaces Development Officer

From: Cllr Tony Woodward (email address deleted)
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 5:46 PM
To: Russell Giblett (email address deleted)
Cc: Cllr Megan Armstrong (email address deleted)
Tom Wood (email address deleted)
Paul Fealey (email address deleted)
Subject: Re: Wildflower Meadow Proposal

Dear Russell

An excellent idea and I look forward to seeing the proposal blossom.
It would have my full support.

Regards

Tony

Tony Woodward
Councillor - Exmouth - Halsdon Ward
M: (mobile telephone number deleted)

Below: communication between a Sidmouth Councillor and a Parks and Gardens Officer about making a public consultation more inclusive

From: Cllr Denise Bickley (email address deleted)
Sent: 15 August 2022 09:57
To: Paul Fealey (email address deleted)
Subject: Lymebourne Park

Hi Paul

I have been talking with our SVBG committee (Sid Valley Biodiversity Group) about the consultation re 'rewilding'. We are very concerned about it as the Facebook post shows a beautiful vibrant meadow and we need to manage expectations, and have a plan of what is going to happen. Is this your baby? Could the SVBG be involved as 'critical friend' and then would be very happy to organise volunteers when the planning stage is complete.

What they don't want is everything scarified and seeds put down that won't be any good for the following year (Alma Field is a prime example) and would rather be involved to put the work in now at this stage and get it right.

We are also keen to get away from the term 'rewilding' as it isn't going to be that really - maybe 'managed to encourage biodiversity' or 'sensitively managed to help nature' or some such thing.

We are also concerned about the timing of the consultation which anybody working can't get to. Clearly the residents around the area need to be on board, as do the local community.

Huge thanks and hope I don't sound critical - I very much want these green spaces to not be routinely mowed short obviously, but we have to get it right.

Denise

Denise Bickley

Cllr Denise Bickley

EDDC - Sidmouth Town Ward

East Devon Alliance

Member of the Democratic Alliance

Assistant Portfolio Holder, Climate Action and Emergencies

On 15 Aug 2022, at 12:58, Paul Fealey (email address deleted) wrote:

Hi Denise

You are right about the wording not being specific enough and the timing of the consultation not being inclusive. Russell recently went on annual leave and asked me to contact EDDC's comms team about putting something together for the 2 sites he is interested in developing. Russell and I are more keen on the term 'renaturing' than 'rewilding', which I can ask comms to change in an update to the post.

When Russell returns, he should be able to put out an updated post to make his intentions much more clear to people who will not be able to make it to the public consultation day.

Regards

Paul

Paul Fealey

Horticultural Technical Officer

From: Cllr Denise Bickley (email address deleted)

Sent: Monday, August 15, 2022 2:01 PM

To: Paul Fealey (email address deleted)

Cc: Russell Giblett (email address deleted)

Subject: Re: Lymebourne Park

That will be great and thanks for the feedback. Could we also perhaps pencil in a meeting with the SVBG representatives to have a chat through the plans?

Cllr Denise Bickley

EDDC - Sidmouth Town Ward

East Devon Alliance

Member of the Democratic Alliance

Assistant Portfolio Holder, Climate Action and Emergencies



Report to: Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting 13 June 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Review of Emergency Responses in 2023/4 by East Devon District Council

Report summary:

To outline the Emergency Planning and Response work undertaken in the year 2023/24 with particular reference to the floods in May and September 2023 and subsequent work based on lessons learned.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

1. That Scrutiny Committee note the Emergency Planning work undertaken in the year 2023/24

Reason for recommendation:

Report is an update and does not require any decision

Officer: David Whelan

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact but climate change is having a significant impact on how we plan for emergencies.

Risk: Low Risk; However failure to have adequate procedures for dealing with emergencies is a risk.

Links to background information

[Link to Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
 - A greener East Devon
 - A resilient economy
-

Report in full

Introduction

East Devon District Council (EDDC) is defined in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 as a 'Category 1' responder to emergencies. This places responsibilities on the Council in relation to the response to, management of and recovery from emergencies. Other Category 1 responders include the Police, Fire Service and County Council. EDDC is an active partner in the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local resilience Forum (DCIOS LRF) which brings together these partners together to ensure a common approach to emergency response. EDDC is also a member of the Devon Emergency Planning Partnership with the County and other districts.

For this reason, the Council employs an Emergency Planning Officer based in the Environmental Health Service, whose responsibility is to ensure that the Council is meeting its obligations as a Category 1 responder.

2023/24 saw a number of changes to how we manage the emergency planning function and also a number of significant incidents that required a response. This report provides Scrutiny Committee with a review of this work, with a particular focus on the response to the Otter Valley floods in May 2023.

Overview of 2023/24 Work

Weather related risks have dominated the last 18 months with the following requirements for response to incidents such as ;

- Flooding
- Severe rain
- Storms
- Wind
- Thunderstorms
- Snow
- Heat Health Warnings
- Cold Health Warnings

But there have also been Emergency Responses to:

- Avian Flu
- Plymouth Unexploded Ordnance
- Covid19
- Drought
- Industrial Action
- Fires such as The Knowle/Seaton Heights/Poltimore House
- Pollution considerations/awareness (Budleigh fishing boat),
- Cliff falls
- Death of Royals,
- Forest Fire Severity impacts – Dartmoor/Exmoor/Woodbury

Weather Events

England saw the highest level of rainfall over any 18-month period since Met Office data began back in 1836. According to provisional figures from the Met Office, **1,695.9mm** of rain fell from October 2022 to March 2024. It surpassed the previous record of **1,680.2mm** - which had only been set the month before, covering September 2022 to February 2024. The third-highest figure on record, **1,668.4mm**, was set in the 18 months up to January 2021.

Warnings

As Emergency responders, East Devon District Council monitors numerous warnings generated by the Met Office, Environment Agency and the Joint Flood Forecasting Centre.

The Met Office Weather Warnings UK weather warnings for rain, wind, snow, ice, fog, thunderstorm, lightning and extreme heat and can include the naming of storms. Yellow low-level impacts, Amber severe weather with disruptive impacts and Red means dangerous weather is expected with a likely risk to life.

The Met Office working with the UK Health Security Agency generate Health warnings for Hot & Cold Weather to direct how vulnerable individuals are supported

The Environment Agency generate Flood Alerts, Warnings and Severe warnings for Rivers & Sea Alert- Prepare, Warning- Act, Severe Flood warning- Respond to Emergency Service direction prepare to evacuate etc

River flooding affects the whole of East Devon whether it is along the Rivers Clyst & Culm or the Rivers Otter, Sid & Exmouth, aspects of the River Axe, Or Yarty or one of its numerous brooks and even crossing into the Dorset Rivers for the River Lim impacting on Uplyme and the tidal warnings along the coast due to the combined effects of winds, tides and river flows.

There is currently no specific warning for surface water flooding only indications from Met office severe weather warnings.

Emergency Planning/Response Work

In 2023/2024 We received approximately 400 weather messages/warnings from which we provide messaging internally to reinforce existing awareness. These can be Triggers for both internal and external messaging based on the interpretation of some Yellow Met office messages, Amber warnings and Flood Warnings.

These warnings provide notification for the following areas of EDDC;

- Senior Leadership Team; for department shared awareness and safe working;
- StreetScene; Coastal Flood gates, Street clearance, Salt Work, Events.
- Waste Collection; recycling for collection considerations of safe working
- Housing; Home safeguard, Mobile support Officers, for our adults at risk and homeless provision.
- Human Resources; for internal welfare considerations
- Environmental Health; for Health & Safety and Safety Advisory Group considerations
- Building Control; for awareness of dangerous structures
- Communications: Who now send out all warnings and EA notifications to our social media subscribers

Messages now go out to Parish Clerks and identified Community members as part of our Community Resilience Network for all Amber warnings, and EA Flood warnings but also some specific Met Office severe weather warning especially if they are issued a number of days out from a weather event.

In 2023/4 we have seen an unprecedented number of weather events which we responded to or monitored and shared information locally.

May 2023 (more detailed review below)

On Tues 9th May East Devon experienced highly localised thunderstorms and heavy rain leading to flash floods centred around the Otter Valley area of Newton Poppleford, Venn Ottery, Tipton St John, Colaton Raleigh and others, resulting in a multi-agency response to the incident with recovery being led by EDDC. Between 70-95mm of rainfall fell in a 2 hour period and 109 properties flooded internally in East Devon (out of 126 in total for Devon).

September 2023

4th-10th September Heatwave temps across the South Coast of England with temperatures exceeding 30 Deg C. Heat Health warnings issued.

17th Sep Amber Thunder storm warning resulting in some flooded properties across Devon including Dulford, Knowle Village, and Clyst St Mary, recovery was coordinated by Devon County Council.

October 2023

19th Oct Withycombe village flooding from the brook

27-30th Oct seasonal tide floodings Cornwall approx. 100 properties flooded but also impacts of tides for the South Coast Estuaries . Exmouth on the peripheries

November 2023

Wed 1st Nov 2nd Nov Storm Ciaran - Amber Warning of winds use of Community network to feed back to Flood Authority. Cancellation of Waste collections'

Storm damage to the Seawall at Exmouth through the September and October storms and further impact during Storm Ciaran resulting in extensive emergency heavy engineering mobilisation to protect Sideshore and the road.

December 2023

Mon 4th – Fri 8th Dec flood warning for the river Axe

Mon 4th Dec flooding on the River Axe Weycroft

Tue 5th from EA Visit reach out with Private Sector Housing (PSH) to Weycroft area / sandbag supply to All Saints PC

Thu 7th Dec floods River Axe Stoney Bridges area

Fri 08th Dec welfare checks from PSH

We facilitated flood info from the Community Network into DCC who are the local flood authority both with regards to Highway's and specifically as the flood local authority and the Environment Agency as the flood authority for rivers & reservoirs.

January 2024

2nd January Storm Henk Amber wind warnings which caused Damage to Ocean and Queens Drive Space closed as a result

21-24th January Storm Isha impacted Exmouth Seafront

March 2024

28th March Storm Nelson - damage to beach huts Seaton/Budleigh

Otter Valley Floods May 2023

On Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 1830hrs The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) held a multi-agency meeting to help respond to flash floods in East Devon, this was called by the fire service linked to the police who had received calls to 19 houses being flooded in the locality.

Earlier in the day The Met office had issued a Yellow warning of thunderstorms and heavy showers issued for Southern and Central areas between 1100 and 2200 with no greater detail at that time and at approx. 1500 the Environment Agency issued a flood alert for the Rivers Otter, Sid and Exmouth Area.

The culmination of two converging thunderstorms caused the flash floods that we saw in East Devon and later that evening in East Somerset. These are real examples of the impacts of Climate Change and the events are occurring more frequently and are projected to increase.

The event was so acute that the response phase lasted approx. 24 hours, when the emergency services stepped back. On 10th May Assistant Director – StreetScene represented the authority at a DCC flood incident review. The purpose of the meeting was to agree which agency should lead the recovery process. According to the DEPP (Devon Emergency Planning Partnership) emergency plan, recovery is led by the District affected, unless multiple areas are affected, when County will lead the recovery. We agreed we should lead the recovery, following the adopted plan. EDDC from this point forward led on recovery into community resilience, coordinating and monitoring the actions and deliverables from all agencies. This incident was one week after the District Elections on Thursday 4th May 2023 with an influx of New Councillors and development of new structures for operating with the Councillors.

Wednesday 10th May onwards Flood recovery work in East Devon led by EDDC

EDDC held five virtual recovery coordination meetings on the 11th May, 15th May, 22nd May, 1st June and 24th July. The meetings were chaired by Matt Blythe as the recovery lead and were made up of representatives from EDDC Comms, Benefits Team, Street Scene, EA recovery manager, DCC Flood risk manager, DCC Highways, District Cllrs, County Cllrs, Town and Parish Cllrs & Clerks, Local Police, Local Fire, National Farmers Union, Tipton St John School Exec Head and EDDC Emergency Planning.

Street scene cleared 8 tons of mud from the area, Street scene had planned to deploy skips to three locations but a delay in availability of skips meant they dynamically reacted to clear flood damaged property filling up 19 caged trailers with white goods and water damaged property providing 4 weeks of support:

Week 1 Under the directive from DCC to stay away from Newton Poppleford and Tipton St John, they started work on clearing mud/silt from Venn Ottery. Cleared mud and detritus clearance at Meadow Lane /Larkrise using tractors/trucks etc. They then followed into Newton Pop and Tipton when DCC had finished what they could do in the area to do some finer tuning cleaning.

Week 2 Started on Burrow lane clearing mud and collecting household damaged items Working on ad hoc requests from residents for removal of household waste.

Week 3 Going round affected areas checking for household items that have been left out, responding to more ad hoc requests for removal of household items

Week 4 As a result of resident drop-in sessions at Newton Poppleford and Colaton Raleigh, several residents requested individual assistance to remove damaged goods which were collected. A request for our road sweeper to re-sweep Hazel Close.

The local Parish Councils had provided sandbags, so StreetScene resupplied these

The Financial Resilience team handled 10 requests for funding support/hardship funds.

The Housing Service were on standby for support of displaced residents but there were no requests for temp housing, housing supported individuals where insurance companies weren't providing accommodation in a liaison capacity.

Private Sector Housing/Environmental Protection Team conducted visits to each flooded property in Newton Poppleford and other areas during the first week after the flooding and identified safeguarding concerns, hardship concerns or clearance needs and then signposted the individuals

to the appropriate agency or raised a concern with an agency if there was a need for this level of support.

East Devon Recovery Public Drop in events

EDDC arranged three public drop-in events for each area and these events had links to representatives from the EA, DCC Highways and Flood Team, EDDC Private Sector Housing Team, EDDC Street Scene, EDDC Housing, EDDC Financial Resilience Team.

- Tue 23rd May Newton Poppleford 120+ attendees,
- Fri 26th May Colaton Raleigh 30+ attendees,
- Wed 7th Jun, Tipton St John 20+ attendees

The recovery phase was officially brought to an end at the meeting of 24 July 2023, when it was agreed that any outstanding work was ‘business as usual’.

DCC Section 19 FWMA Act 2010 report

On Thurs 19th Oct DCC release their report into the floods as required by Section 19 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, when 5 or more properties are flooded internally. The Flood Report outlines 126 flooded properties across Devon and the flooding event as between a 1 in 100 year and a 1in 150-year flood event with 70-95mm of rain falling in a 2-hour period.

Newton Poppleford Community Resilience Event

We met with the local parish council as the main impacted area and worked with them to develop their updated Community Emergency Plan working with a number of Parish Councillors to shape the plan. On the back of this it was felt there was a need to attract local volunteers to help with the plan so an event was arranged to give a local context of the flooding, plan delivery and highlight the good work that can be delivered by a well-structured plan and a well organised set of volunteers (Lypstone PC).

Mon 23rd Oct East Devon Community Resilience Event working with the EA, Devon Communities together and Newton Poppleford Parish Council;

65+ attendees, 22 local residents, 30+ local councillors, DCC Rep, EA reps, Devon Communities Together, EDDC Climate Change and Recovery Lead, Emergency Planning Officer

Development of Community Network

As a result of the network event, we have made contact with all the individuals and parishes who attended or signed up as well as existing community contacts and have engaged with the following. Contact can be from being part of the EDDC network to development of full plans working with the Environment Agency, Devon Communities Together, local volunteers and businesses.

Axminster	Sidmouth	Honiton
All Saints	Newton Poppleford	Bishop’s Clyst
Woodbury	Clyst St Lawrence	West Hill
Northleigh	Colaton Raleigh	Stoke Canon
Beer	Exton	Broadhembury
Seaton	Exmouth	Ottery St. Mary
East Budleigh	Chardstock	Colyford
Lypstone	Broadclyst	Widworthy
Plymtree	WestHill	Yarcombe
Whimble	Colaton Raleigh	Feniton

Colyton	Uplyme	
Membury	Sidbury	

Further community events are being planned between EDDC, EA and Devon Communities Together. The Emergency Planning Officer (EPO) will be focussing on Towns and areas with an increased flood risk, as well as those individuals who make direct contact.

Since September 2023 the EPO has attended the following community/planning events;

- Sep 18th 2023 Membury, Hawkchurch etc
- Oct 23rd 2023 Newton Poppleford Community event
- Nov 20th 2023 West Hill PC
- Nov 27th 2023 Otterton PC
- Nov 29th 2023 Colyford PC
- Jan 8th & 14th 2024 Tipton St John / Ottery St Mary TC
- Jan 18th 2024 Stoke Canon PC
- Jan 31st 2024 Exton PC
- Feb 7th 2024 All Saints PC
- Feb 20th 2024 Sidmouth TC
- March 4th 2024 Axminster TC
- March 18th 2024 Northleigh Parish Member

Senior Leadership Team/Emergency Duty Officers

With the greater impacts of climate change being felt and retirement of the previous Chief Executive/Director of Housing Health and Environment, it was apparent that the Council's approach to dealing with 'out of hours' emergencies needed a review to ensure continued resilience. For this reason, it was agreed that members of the Senior Leadership Team would voluntarily take on the role of Emergency Duty Officer on a weekly rota. The role was to ensure that the Council was appropriately represented in any out of hours responses to emergencies, ensuring attendance at Pre-event Telephone Conferences, Strategic and Tactical Coordinating Groups. They will also lead any 'non-LRF' emergencies if required and are receiving training to support them in doing this. Home Safeguard ensure messages are appropriately distributed. The role was introduced in September 2023 and has been running well in conjunction with a managers' WhatsApp group. However, the role is not designed to deal with out of hours 'business as usual' requests. Separate work is taking place to review the Council's out of hours policy which will be reflected in the emergency planning approach, once agreed.

National Power Outage Exercise

In November 2023 the DCIOS LRF ran a local National Power Outage exercise which is a key risk from the Governments National Risk Register, covering emergency response and business continuity delivery. We attended this exercise and as we review our business continuity plan we are incorporating learning that has come from the exercise into the plan.

Current focus for Emergency Planning

Communications

- Internal & External Crisis Comms

Housing

Rest centre development

- Honiton

- Exmouth
- West Point

All of our community centres held as Evacuation assembly points

- Home Safeguard are the out of hours point of contact for the Local Resilience Forum and related Emergency messaging.

Street Scene

- Street clearance
- Coastal pollution
- Flood gate closure with EA
- Cliff Falls
- Waste disposal
- Engineering support

Building Control

- Dangerous structures

Environmental Health

- Diseases – Animal/People
- Asbestos
- House to House recovery

Benefits

- Financial Resilience/ Hardship funds

Conclusion

The Council has faced and overcome a number of emergency planning challenges in 2023/24, with and in support of our LRF partners. The Emergency Planning Officer has been very active in building on this experience, forging strong links with a number of town and parish Councils with a view to building Community Resilience that ensures any future emergencies are effectively dealt with at all levels. Emergency events such as those listed in this report take our operations teams away from their regular work and put pressure on service delivery elsewhere. As we are seeing increasing regularity of such events, it is worth noting that we will need to consider in the near future how we resource teams appropriately to correspond with climate related increases in demand.

Financial implications:

There are no financial implication arising from the report

Legal implications:

There are no substantive legal issues to be added to this report

ELT – for reports to be for discussing and debating moving forward rather than for noting when going to scrutiny

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2024/25

Work for scoping and/or allocation to the Work Programme 2024 - 2025

Proposed date	Topic
11 July 2024	Officer report on progress with S.106 and CIL Resources and Processes (E Freeman)
11 July 2024	Safeguarding annual review
	Future work to be allocated to the Work Programme
	Scoping report on Exmouth Sea Wall Task and Finish Forum
	Scoping report on S.106/CIL Resources & Processes Task and Finish Forum
	Scoping report on South West Water Sewage Task and Finish Forum
	Portfolio Holder reports: Awaiting the Scrutiny Action Plan and further discussion
TBC	Follow up meeting with Southwest Water (date TBC)
TBC	Referral from Cabinet of Minute 120, Serious Violence Duty: That this and other wider tasks and duties being given to EDDC from central government be referred to the Scrutiny Committee for further discussion and debate (awaiting advice from senior officers on how to proceed)
Correspondence regarding Scrutiny Committee topics	
Date received	Details

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Forward Plan of Key Decisions - For the 4-month period: 1 July 2024 to 31 October 2024

This plan contains all the Key Decisions that the Council's Cabinet expects to make during the 4-month period referred to above. The plan is rolled forward every month.

Key Decisions are defined by law as “an executive decision which is likely: –

- (a) to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the Council's area.”

In accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000, in determining the meaning of “significant” in (a) and (b) above regard shall be had to any guidance for the time being issued by the Secretary of State.

A public notice period of 28 clear working days is required when a Key Decision is to be taken by the Council's Cabinet even if the meeting is wholly or partly to be in private.

The Cabinet may only take Key Decisions in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to information) (England) Regulations 2012. A minute of each Key Decision is published within 2 days of it having been made. This is available for public inspection on the Council's website <http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk>, and at the Council Offices, Blackdown House, Border Road, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton. The law and the Council's constitution permit urgent Key Decisions to be made without 28 clear days' notice of the proposed decisions having been published provided certain procedures are followed. A decision notice will be published for these in exactly the same way.

This plan also identifies Key Decisions which are to be considered in the private part of the meeting (Part B) and the reason why. Any written representations that a particular decision should be moved to the public part of the meeting (Part A) should be sent to the Democratic Services Team (address as above) as soon as possible. **Members of the public have the opportunity to speak on the relevant decision at the meeting in accordance with the Council's public speaking rules.**

Obtaining documents

Committee reports in respect of Key Decisions include links to the relevant background documents. If a printed copy of all or part of any report or background document is required, please contact Democratic Services (address as above) or by calling 01395 517546.

Key Decision (date added to FP)	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Whether other documents will be considered before decision taken [Y/N]	Other meetings where matter is to be debated / considered	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private meeting [with reasons]
Sidmouth and East Beach BMP – Approval to enter design and construction contracts	Assistant Director StreetScene					Part A
Recycling and Waste: - MRF/Baling Plant Refurbishment/Site Compliance - vehicle refurbishment programme	Assistant Director StreetScene				TBC	
EDDC lifeguard service provision and funding (26/02/24)	Assistant Director StreetScene					Officer Decision
Colyton Land disposal	Housing Enabling Officer					Part A
Feniton Flood Alleviation Scheme, Phase 4 contract award	Assistant Director Streetscene					Part A

Key Decision (date added to FP)	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Whether other documents will be considered before decision taken [Y/N]	Other meetings where matter is to be debated / considered	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private meeting [with reasons]
Procurement of Enforcement Agents Services	Assistant Director – Revs, Bens & CSC					Officer Decision
Home Safeguard – Digital Monitoring Platform (23/05/24)	Assistant Director – Housing Statutory Services				10 July 2024	Part A
page 55 Individual property: external and internal repairs and refurbishment	Assistant Director Housing					Part B Officer Decision
Individual property: external and internal repairs and refurbishment	Assistant Director Housing					Part B Officer Decision
Site acquisition at Langaton Lane, Exeter	Assistant Director Place Assets & Commercialisation				10 July 2024	Part B

Key Decision (date added to FP)	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Whether other documents will be considered before decision taken [Y/N]	Other meetings where matter is to be debated / considered	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private meeting [with reasons]
Colyford Road and Fosse Way Viability Assessment	Assistant Director Place Assets & Commercialisation	Colyford Road and Fosse Way Viability Assessment	No	Asset Management Forum	10 July 2024	Part A *possibly some Part B including the SOBC as they are commercially sensitive confidential
Cloakham Lawns Employment Site Viability Assessment	Assistant Director Place Assets & Commercialisation	Colyford Road and Fosse Way Viability Assessment	No	Asset Management Forum	10 July 2024	Part A *possibly some Part B including the SOBC as commercially sensitive confidential
Exmouth Town and Seafront Placemaking Plan Adoption	Assistant Director Place Assets & Commercialisation	Placemaking Plan and appendices	Yes some Strategic Outline Business Cases (SOBC)	Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group	10 July 2024	Part A *possibly some Part B including the SOBC as commercially sensitive confidential
Place and Prosperity Fund acquisition	Assistant Director Place Assets & Commercialisation	None	Business case/Appraisal of proposal	Place and Prosperity Investment Board	10 July 2024	Part B under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972

Key Decision <i>(date added to FP)</i>	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Whether other documents will be considered before decision taken [Y/N]	Other meetings where matter is to be debated / considered	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private meeting [with reasons]
Site Acquisition	Project Manager Place, Assets & Commercialisation				4 Sept 2024	Part B
Formation of an Exmouth Town and Seafront Subgroup	Assistant Director Place Assets & Commercialisation	Steering Group ToR		Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group	10 July 2024	Part A
Council Depots Review	Project Manager Place, Assets & Commercialisation				10 July 2024	Part A
Hayne Lane Masterplan	Assistant Director Place Assets & Commercialisation	Hayne Lane Masterplan	No	Asset Management Forum	10 July 2024	Part A *possibly some Part B including the SOBC as commercially sensitive confidential

Key Decision (date added to FP)	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Whether other documents will be considered before decision taken [Y/N]	Other meetings where matter is to be debated / considered	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private meeting [with reasons]
Exmouth Emergency Seawall Repairs: Consultant fees forecast to go above £100k Exmouth BMP: Consultant fees forecast to go above £100k	Engineering Projects Manager					Part A
page 58 Individual property: external and internal repairs and refurbishment	Assistant Director Housing					Part B Officer Decision
Economic Development Strategy for East Devon	Assistant Director, Growth, Development & Prosperity	Final draft of the ED Strategy	No	Overview Committee 30 May 2024	10 July 2024	Part A
Towards Zero Carbon Development in the West End: Interconnector Project Final Investment Decision	Assistant Director Growth, Development & Prosperity	Full Business Case			1 May 2024	Part B
Strategic Development Review – Exeter Science Park Limited (01/03/24)	Assistant Director Growth, Development and Prosperity		N		10 July 2024	Part B (information relating to finance)

Key Decision (date added to FP)	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Whether other documents will be considered before decision taken [Y/N]	Other meetings where matter is to be debated / considered	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private meeting [with reasons]
Plot 337 Clover Way Cranbrook Plot 340 Clover Way Cranbrook Plot 341 Clover Way Cranbrook Plot 378 Clover Way Cranbrook Plot 529 Clover Way Cranbrook Plot 533 Clover Way Cranbrook Plot 100 Plumb Park Exmouth Plot 101 Plumb Park Exmouth Plot 102 Plumb Park Exmouth Plot 103 Plumb Park Exmouth Plot 104 Plumb Park Exmouth 31 Moorfield Close Exmouth 1 Cawley Avenue, Axminster	Director of Housing Health & Environment					Part B Request for Officer Executive Decision

Exmouth East Devon Tennis Centre, Roof Works. Appointment of contractor (19/03/24)	Simon Allchurch / Jorge Pineda-Langford					Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Sidmouth Manor Pavilion Theatre and Art Centre, Internal Decorations and Refurbishment (19/03/24)	Steve Parker / Jorge Pineda-Langford					Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Exmouth the Pavilion Theatre, Flytower and Auditorium Works. (19/03/24)	Steve Pratten / Jorge Pineda-Langford					Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Exmouth Withycombe Changing Rooms, Decarbonisation / Boiler replacement Works (19/03/24)	Paul Manning / Jorge Pineda-Langford					Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Exmouth the Pavilion Theatre, Roof Works (19/03/24)	Paul Manning / Jorge Pineda-Langford					Appointment of contractor. Request for Officer Executive Decision
Decarbonising TDDC swimming pools (20/03/24)	Jorge Pineda-Langford					Appointment of consultants to undertake design work. Officer Decision
Public Toilet Investment Programme (20/03/24)	Jorge Pineda-Langford					Appointment of contractor to undertake enabling and groundworks. Officer Decision

Public Toilet Investment Programme (20/03/24)	Jorge Pineda-Langford					Appointment of contractor to manufacture and deliver modular buildings. Officer Decision
Housing Ombudsman's Complaint Handling Code (21/03/24)	Monitoring Officer				5 June 2024	Part A
Green Waste Collection vehicle 5 - RCV quotation (22/03/24)	Assistant Director StreetScene					Request for Officer Executive Decision

page 61 Key Decision (date added to FP)	Portfolio (Lead Officer)	Documents to be considered before Cabinet take decision	Whether other documents will be considered before decision taken [Y/N]	Other meetings where matter is to be debated / considered	Date of Cabinet meeting	Part A = Public meeting Part B = private meeting [with reasons]
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – Year 3 Grant Schemes (02/04/24)	Economic Development Officer - Prosperity & Investment					Officer Executive Decision (14/05/24)
Procurement Support from Devon County Council – renew 5-year SLA (01/05/24)	Director of Finance					Officer Executive Decision

Members of the public who wish to make any representations or comments concerning any of the Key Decisions referred to in this Forward Plan may do so by writing to the Leader of the Council c/o Democratic Services (as above).

June 2024