

Appendix A.

Event invitation letter.

Dear

East Devon New Community – Invitation to attend Design Workshop.

You may be aware that an outline planning application has been submitted to East Devon District Council for the development of a new community and that the Council is preparing Supplementary Planning Guidance for the new community. In order to arrive at an informed view of the best options for the new community East Devon District Council and the new community applicants have asked The Joint Centre for Urban Design at Oxford Brookes University to run a 2-day collaborative workshop event. At the workshop a group of 30–35 selected representatives from the public agencies, utilities and from the local area will be invited to work with the Planning Authority and the applicants to assist the consultation process on the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance and the new community planning application. This will be a collaborative rather than a consultative process where councillors, council officers, the landowners, developers, local people and other organisations with a stake and interest in how the East Devon New Community might be formed are invited to work together.

We would therefore like to invite you to attend a 2-day workshop to be held on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th July. During the workshop we will be asking for the views of all participants on what makes a good quality settlement and agreeing how it might be delivered by analysing existing places that we will visit by coach on Friday 23rd July. We will take the positive aspects of this analysis and apply it to the formulation of strategic design principles for the New Community area on Saturday 24th July when we will also visit the New Community area by coach.

The components of the New Community, along with the existing and possible physical connections with the surrounding area and its natural landscape features, provide a set of parameters within which these strategic design principles will be produced. However the Council and applicants believe that

within these parameters there remains a great opportunity to incorporate local knowledge, views and expertise in order to enhance the quality of the eventual development.

The workshop provides an opportunity for participants to actively contribute towards the aspirations for and the quality of the East Devon New Community development. For practical reasons we need to limit attendance by each agency, organisation or group so that we can provide as much support as possible during the workshop exercises. We are writing to a number of people and we will allocate places on a 'first reply' basis. **Please complete the tear off slip below to indicate whether you are able to take part and return it to us in the pre-paid envelope provided by July 7th.** If you represent an organisation then please give details of the individual that you would like to send. It is essential that the same individual can attend on both days of the workshop, as what we do on Day 2 is a natural progression of the work undertaken on Day 1.

On receipt of acceptances we will issue further details of the venue and workshop programme.

The two-day workshop is arranged for Friday 23rd July and Saturday 24th July 2004 at the East Devon Business Centre, Honiton, and will run from 9.00am to 4.45pm each day. Refreshments, lunch and support materials will be provided on both days.

We hope that you will be able to attend and look forward to meeting you. In the interim, if there are any issues requiring clarification please do not hesitate to contact either Tom or myself on 01865 – 483450.

Yours faithfully

Jon Cooper & Tom Medcalf
Joint Centre for Urban Design.
Oxford Brookes University.

East Devon New Community Design workshops – 23rd & 24th July 2004

To all participants

Thank you for returning your invitation to the East Devon New Community Design Workshops. This is just a brief note to introduce ourselves, outline the aims of the workshops and provide a detail programme for the 23rd & 24th July 2004.

The workshop will be run by myself, Dr Jon cooper, and my Colleague Tom Medcalf. I am the Director of the Joint Centre for Urban Design at Oxford Brookes University. Prior to my work with the University I was Principal Landscape Architect and Urban Designer with Birmingham City Council. Tom is also a lecturer at the Joint Centre for Urban Design; he is a practising Urban Designer and Architect and has great experience of collaborative working and running workshops.

As you will know the East Devon Local Plan, in accordance with the Devon Structure Plan, (and subject to final confirmation at the Local Plan Inquiry), makes provision for a New Community on land allocated east of Exeter. A planning application has been submitted, and there is intent that this will be determined in 2005, with development starting on site in 2006.

The overall aim of the workshop is to assist the consultation process on the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance and the planning application regarding the development of the East Devon New Community.

Our objective is to help identify common agreements on a selected number of key issues concerning the development of the New Community site. Our method is to bring together in a workshop representatives of all the main interested parties - local people, developers, councillors, land owners and

council officers - and get them to work together to identify an agreed way(s) forward.

We will start by “levelling the playing field”, ensuring in the first day that we all have a common understanding of what makes a good place in which to live and a common agreement as to how it can be achieved. To do this we shall look at both some general design issues with examples from other places, and then go out and look at a local piece of Honiton. We think the key to dealing effectively with design is to recognise that it is concerned with more than just what buildings look like, it is far more about how to generate a “feel good factor” in a place and we should look at real pieces of town in order to understand how buildings and spaces work together to create viable and interesting places.

The workshops are set up to operate in a team-based format. All participants will be asked to work as part of small teams with other people with different skills and expertise. In this way we hope to break down some of the barriers that often exist between various interest groups and develop some common agreements.

Having set the scene on day 1 we will look specifically at the New Community site throughout day 2. In dealing with the New Community we are all going to have to work within of a number of parameters, we cannot treat the site simply as a blank sheet, and we will issue a parameters plan showing some of the natural and technical features that we will have to work around and within.

Throughout each day we will be comparing the work of each team, recording points of agreement, listing issues that arise and making note of actions that might need to be taken. On completion of the workshops the results will be summarised and passed on to East Devon District Council and the applicants to inform the application and subsequent production of supplementary planning guidance for the New Community.

The venue for the workshops is the East Devon Business Centre in Honiton – please find attached directions. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please let us know if you have any particular dietary requirements.

The format for the workshops will be based on us operating as a design resource providing information, help and direction and about you “having a go” working with other interested people to produce something useful for the East Devon New Community.

We look forward to meeting you on the 23rd & 24th of July.

Jon & Tom.

Oxford Brookes University.

Dept of Planning & Joint Centre for Urban Design.