

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Overview Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Thursday, 14 April 2005.

Present:

Councillors:

G K Liverton (Chairman)
N J Spence (Vice Chairman)

Mrs R E Burrow
G P Chamberlain
B O Ingham
R Mudge
Mrs H E Parr
A W J Reed

Mrs L A Roden
N Rogers
P J Skinner
Dr H W Waterworth
S C Wragg

Also Present:

Councillors:

Miss V Ash
D G Button
P A Diviani
Mrs C E Drew
J H Glanvill
Mrs A E Liverton

Ms S M Merritt
A T Moulding
Mrs F Newth
Mrs P A Stott
A J Wilkinson

Apologies:

Councillors:

Miss J M Elson
R G Franklin
A S Pascoe

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 9.30 pm.

*65 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview Committee held on 24 March 2005, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

66 **The conversion of rural buildings – interim supplementary planning guidance**

The Chairman agreed to take this as an urgent item, which had been referred from the Executive Board on 6 April (minute no 210 refers), in order to be able to make a recommendation to the meeting of the Council on 20 April 2005.

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Planning and Countryside Services in respect of the above SPG produced for the emerging East Devon Local Plan in order to expand Policy D9B 'Re-use of Rural Buildings Outside Settlements'. It had been produced to provide advice on the implementation of Policy D9B and to expand on the reasoned justification. Members had a comprehensive debate on the SPG document and an email proposing amendments from the Economy Portfolio Holder.

RECOMMENDED that the Draft Supplementary Planning guidance entitled 'Conversion of Rural Buildings' be supported subject to this policy not relating to dilapidated barns unworthy of conversion and the following amendments:

Removal of all references to "redundant or partially redundant buildings"

67 **The future of Exeter and the surrounding area to 2026 (Cont)**

RECOMMENDED that Option 1 on the consultation document be supported with the addition of Axminster to read 'Balanced growth centred on Axminster, Exeter and the East Devon new community';

- RESOLVED**
- 1 that a letter be written to the South West Regional Assembly expressing the Committee's concern over the timescale given for replying to this consultation document;
 - 2 that the South West Regional Assembly be informed that East Devon believes the sub-region cannot accommodate possible higher rates of change at Exeter.

*68 **East Devon and Blackdown Hills – AONB Partnerships**

This item was deferred for consideration at a future meeting.

69 **Dog bins – consideration of frequency of collections**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Street Scene Services giving reasons for the reduction of dog bin collections. Members noted that the decision to reduce the number of collections was taken to address over-spending on the service. There had been a budgetary necessity to cut dog bin collections from three times a week to two times a week, this had in some urban areas caused service problems with reports that on occasion dog bins had overflowed.

Concern was expressed that the decision to reduce collections to 2 per week had been made without reference to the Committee. Members noted that such was the problem in the District with over flowing dog bins that the Chief Executive had as a temporary measure agreed to restore collections to 3 times a week to alleviate the problem.

RECOMMENDED that the Executive Board be requested to ensure that dog bins collections were made 3 times a week over the whole District, with funding coming from the reserves or contingency fund.

RESOLVED that the Head of Street Scene Services be requested to establish which were the most heavily used dog waste bins in the District.

Chairman Date.....