

Sustainable Communities Act
‘Speak Now!’ Panel Meeting Results 2 July 2009

Proposal	Number of votes
1. To provide more affordable housing in local villages for local people. Do this by changing planning law to allow new affordable housing to be built within and around villages and more rural settlements.	4
2. To provide more affordable housing in local villages for local people by allowing Parish and District Councils to give priority to young local people for houses for sale and for rent in villages.	4
3. To provide more affordable and social (council) housing in East Devon. Do this by stopping people buying their council houses. Also allow the District Council to keep the £5.8 million it sends to Central Government from Council rents, which it can use to build sensible affordable and social housing for local people.	6
4. To provide more affordable and social (council) housing in East Devon for local people. Do this by stopping people from buying their council houses, encouraging council tenants to move out of council properties and buy their own homes privately, requiring planning permission for holiday lets, controlling the level of rent private landlords can charge and requiring affordable housing to be built with every new development.	6
5. To provide more council housing in East Devon. Do this by allowing the District Council to keep the money from the sale of council houses for up to 3 years to spend on new council housing, rather than sending it back to Central Government	2
6. To provide more affordable housing in East Devon. Do this by the District Council being allowed to keep all rent from council tenants to create affordable homes for local people, rather than sending the £5.8million back to Central Government.	4
In general, more affordable housing is needed in East Devon for local people which could be done using all of the 6 proposals above.	28
7. To increase the amount of council tax paid by people on second homes. Second homes should pay more council tax than full time homes e.g. 110%.	9
8. Limit the amount of holiday lets/ second homes allowed in villages. Only allow a maximum of 20% of homes to be second or holiday lets in communities with less than 3,000 people, unless planning permission is given by the District Council.	5
9. Make it easier for energy efficient and green energy methods to be put into listed buildings, buildings in conservation areas and other existing buildings by changing current planning legislation.	1
10. Make new homes more sustainable by making sure all new developments reach the highest practical standard of sustainability. All new homes should be awarded 4 stars out of 6 under the Code for Sustainable Homes.	8
11. Make sure all new developments of more than 3 homes have renewable energy sources installed e.g. solar panels.	4
12. Stop the threat to coastal, riverside and lakeside environments from the threat of development. Do not allow developments on land next to water unless it can meet a list of strict criteria from the local planning authority.	2
13. Make sure big town centre developments have the maximum benefits for the community and will maintain a thriving town centre for everyone. Every development should produce a report of community and sustainability benefits. Local people should be able to challenge proposals that they think	3

do not offer enough benefits or sustainability.	
14. Planning legislation should be changed to give Parish and Town Councils more power in deciding planning applications in their areas.	9
15. The responsibility and budget for new roads and footpaths should be transferred from Devon County Council to Parish and Town Councils.	1
16. Planning policy should be changed so that Section 106 money can be spent on any community priority given by the Town or Parish Council, even if it is not needed as a direct result of the development.	1
In general, give Parish and Town Councils more say in decisions on planning applications which could be done by using all of the 3 methods above.	3
17. When planning applications from developers are refused locally, stop them being able to appeal to Central Government to get this decision overturned.	2
18. When planning applications from developers are refused locally and the developers decide to appeal the decision, all costs should be paid for by the developers whether they win or not.	2
19. Allow local communities to appeal to Central Government on planning decisions they disagree with, in the same way that planning applicants can.	3
In general, reduce the power planning applicants have to ask Central Government to overturn locally made planning decisions, this could be done by using any of the 3 methods above.	5
20. Introduce legislation to limit the size and weight of delivery vehicles allowed into town centres. Central Government should not go along with the increase in HGV size, regardless of the size of the item being delivered, as promoted by the EU.	20
21. A speed limit of 30mph (maximum) should be enforced on all country lanes and unclassified roads nationwide.	6
22. Reduce speed limits through all villages. A village sign or boundary needs to indicate a certain low national speed limit as it does in France. Central Government should direct local authorities to implement more 20mph zones.	9
23. Extend the Freedom of Information Act to cover all Third Sector (charities and not for profit) organisations that handle public money and provide public services on behalf of local authorities.	14
24. Make sure no more Post Offices within East Devon are closed by creating a national Post Bank managed by the Post Office. The Post Office should not have to work in partnership with the Bank of Ireland to provide a Post Bank.	3
25. Introduce legislation to require the Post office to maintain its remaining rural Post Offices and provide long-term security to organisations providing Post Office Outreach services.	9
In general, stop the closure of any more rural Post Offices, using both of the proposals above.	8
26. Require local authorities to take responsibility for providing an integrated public transport system, much like London transport. Cycle routes, buses, trains and airports would all link up to provide a better overall public transport network.	16