

October 2021 District Council Report- Cllr Helen Parr

Colyton Parish Neighbourhood Plan At their meeting 6 Oct 21 **The Cabinet** endorsed the Examiners Recommendations and agreed a referendum version of the Plan should be published incorporating the Examiners amendments. A decision notice to that effect will be published and a Referendum on the plan will be held .

The NP Steering Group was congratulated for their hard work.

Seaton Jurassic Update- Devon Wildlife Trust left the building 17 September. The Cabinet received a report on the future of the building- whether it should it be redesigned, sold or used as another type of visitor attraction. Stakeholders will be consulted. Repairs to the building are needed and a report is being prepared on the extent of this work.

Housing Task Force- An Officer Group is to be set up, with a budget of £250,000 per annum for two years, to focus on delivery of more Social and Affordable Housing.

See <https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=136&MIId=1701&Ver=4>

Staff Morale

Being a good employer, as demonstrated by the Council's Platinum Level Investors in People Award, is an important selling point for recruitment of staff.

The Scrutiny Committee 7 Oct 21 received an Action Plan- **Proposed Actions to Improve Staff Morale.** Actions were grouped into Themes-

Staffing Levels, Human Resources/ HR and IT matters- Actions to be overseen by the new Personnel Ctee, Chief Executive Officer/ Corporate HR Manager

Training for Members, and Demands & Behaviour of Members was the largest section in the Action Plan, concerned with Code of Conduct training for members; applying the Code of Conduct; respecting Officers; not micro managing reports; Leading Members to stop creating a blame/fear culture and a culture where bullying is exhibited, encouraged and rewarded-

Actions to be overseen by the Cabinet, Chair of Council, Cllr Loudoun [Cabinet Member for Council & Corporate Coordination], the Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer.

The new Council Plan, to be signed off by Council end October, was almost the only Action which has a timeline, and has been achieved.

See

<https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s13875/071021%20Copy%20of%20Action%20Plan%20v2.pdf>

Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee 5 Oct 21 received a report on the **Role and Function of Settlements**, evidence for the new Local Plan. Colyton is a Tier 3 Settlement in the hierarchy of settlements, locally important for Employment and a Local Centre- based on the number of facilities and services in the town.

They also discussed a report on Built Up Area Boundaries [BUABs], **Principles of Settlement Boundaries**, and requested a further report setting out options for a criteria based policy on development adjacent to settlements, so that small developments on the edges of villages could be considered.

See <https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=154&MIId=1669&Ver=4>

A Seminar on these topics will be held- Town and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Planning Groups to be invited.