

Green Wedges

Some of you may be aware that I recently expressed concern about the proposal to reduce the number of Green Wedges between Knowle Village and Budleigh Salterton. Green Wedges are an extra layer of protection to green spaces and once gone, leave them vulnerable to development. Below is the plan showing the current number of Green Wedges and then a plan detailing the proposed.

I have received letters from local residents who are very angry with these proposals.

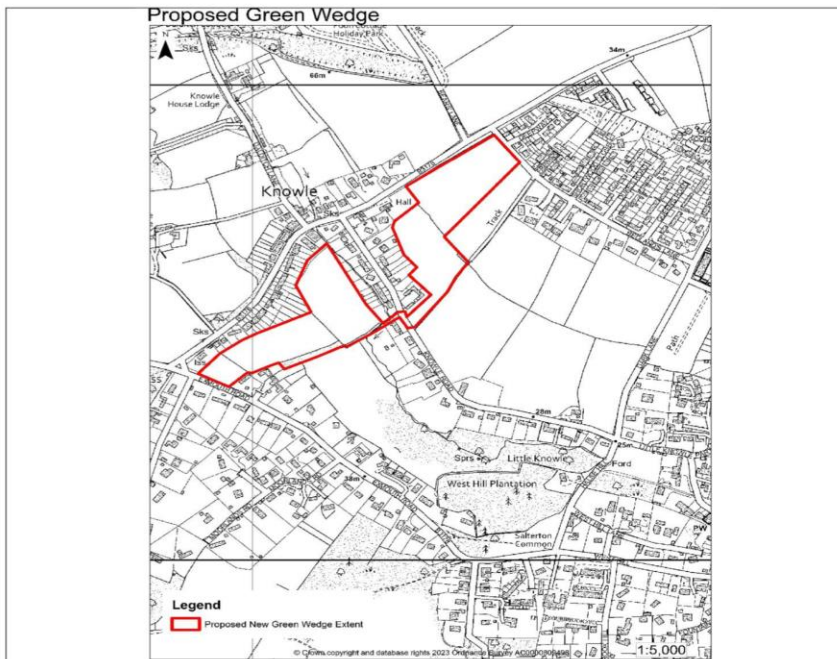
I went along to the Strategic Planning meeting on Tuesday 13th February, and read out a statement summarising my concerns, as did the majority of other EDDC Councillors who were also concerned about the proposed changes in their Wards. I am very pleased to let you know that the recommendation that was presented to the Strategic Planning Committee this morning about the reduction in Green Wedges in Budleigh and across East Devon, was unanimously NOT accepted.

The overall feeling was that we should not be eroding our Green spaces but protecting them.

These are the actual recommendations that were agreed at the meeting.

- That Strategic Planning Committee cannot agree that the draft Green Wedges as presented are drawn in accordance with the intent of the Committee or with the spirit of the proposed policy.
- That the Assistant Director for Planning Strategy and Development Management, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Strategic Planning Committee, urgently review the methodology, proposed policy wording, and proposed boundaries in light of the issues raised by Committee, with particular regard to accounting for non-visual, intrinsic settlement separation and with input from Ward Members, and bring a revised proposal with relevant evidence to a workshop with all Committee Members invited, with conclusions and recommendations brought back to Committee as soon as possible for consideration prior to Regulation 18 consultation.
- That the Assistant Director for Planning Strategy and Development Management work with the Portfolio Holders for Strategic Planning and Coast, Country, and Environment, as well as relevant Assistant Directors, to scope the potential approach to a new Countryside & Green Infrastructure Strategy and Supplementary Planning Document, and bring a proposal back to Strategic Planning Committee at the appropriate time.

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Does an alternative boundary or boundaries exist?

Budleigh Knowle 1 and 2 are considered to be the only places where there is an open space between what could be considered to comprise Knowle village and Budleigh Salterton, although there is very little to physically distinguish the settlements. Whilst other land within the search area has an open character, no other sites are considered to make a significant contribution to prevent the coalescence of Knowle and Budleigh Salterton. Rather, they comprise open areas within the overall settlement of Budleigh Salterton so arguments about the coalescence of settlements and community identity (the fundamental purposes of the proposed green wedge policy) are not relevant. A strip of land to the east of sub-area 1 is specifically excluded from the green wedge to facilitate access to potential development sites (to be considered as part of the proposed allocations in the draft plan).

Development Impact

What built

There is no built development within the proposed green wedges

That a report be brought to Committee as soon as possible setting out the options for exploring a Green Belt designation in the West End of the district.

This is quite wordy, but it basically means that everything is now going to be looked at again, workshopped, then it will go back to committee for debate once more. District Councillors will be involved, and importantly, this that means that your views will also be heard.

- The Planning Committee do not agree with the proposal.
- That the methodology, proposed policy and boundaries on the maps are reviewed with input from Ward members, this will start tomorrow at a Workshop meeting, once this is done it will go back to Strategic Planning for debate

Lyme Kiln Toilets

I had an update from Tim Child. EDDC will shortly be tendering for the works but are currently still awaiting determination of the planning application. On-site works are most likely to start during April, and ideally post Easter and will likely be finished July/August. We are waiting for a cabinet decision agreeing funding for temporary toilets.

LORP/Otter Estuary

I attended an event at Lime Kiln car park on Friday 16th Feb, to celebrate the Otter Estuary becoming part of the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve.

There were speeches from The Minister for Nature, Rebecca Pow, Clinto Devon's John Varley and a rousing history lesson about the area from Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England, very interesting!

The Otter Estuary becomes the latest in the "King's Series" celebrating the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and leaving a lasting public legacy for people and nature. National Nature Reserves are the crown jewels of England's natural heritage. The King's Series of National Nature Reserves will see five major National Nature Reserves named every year for the next five years - 25 in total. NNRs share a commitment to seeing England's nature restored, enriched and reconnected to people.

SWW Motion of No Confidence

A proposal to send a Motion of Notice was debated and agreed at the full Council meeting on Wednesday 21 Feb. You can find this on the EDDC website, it's a comprehensive list of all the SWW failings and five proposals to be sent to SWW, plus a further three to be sent to our local MP and three action points for Strategic Planning.

MP points -

- Re visit weak legislation allowing water companies until 2038, to reduce phosphate pollution from sewerage overflows in rivers to only 80%.
- Resist a request from SWW to raise water bills.
- Restore EA funding and funding to other environmental regulators so that they can monitor and investigate pollution levels.

Strategic Planning points -

That SP look at what planning policy measures are required to respond to sewerage capacity issues, including a temporary suspension on development.

That Water Cycle Study and its measures be publicised to the public and brought to the attention of SWW as the body responsible.

To annually review progress on any recommendations stemming from the Water Cycle Study.

SWW Bore Hole

Ice tankers were present in Otterton last week to push ice through the pipe serving the bore hole at the top of Maunders Hill, this was in an effort to clean it.

Budleigh Youth Club Trust Meeting

I attended my first meeting of the Budleigh Youth Club Trust on 20 February. We discussed a number of items which I'll let Councillor Riddell explain, I've said I can help with PR and have set up a Facebook page and will be looking at their web site. We have also purchase some bean bags for the kids.

Seachange

We have planted trees and climbers at the Sensory Garden, and marked out where the water feature is going to go. If is interested in helping, please let me know.