

### **Strategic Planning Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> November 24**

At this meeting, specific chapters of the local plan were brought back to the committee to be redrafted with small wording tweaks and minor changes. The chapters discussed this time were:

- Chapter 3 – the spatial strategy
- Chapter 5 – future growth and development on the western side of East Devon
- Chapter 7A – responding to the climate emergency
- Chapter 7B – adaptation and resilience to climate change
- Chapter 13 – protecting and enhancing our outstanding biodiversity and geodiversity

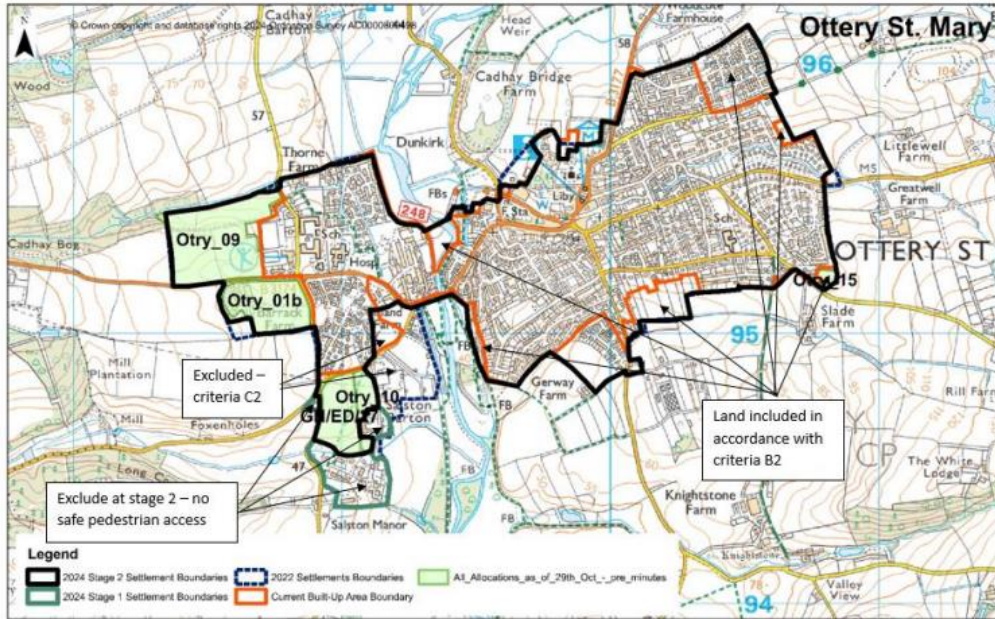
The redrafted policies were adopted by the committee, with some additional revisions discussed during the meeting, and full policy chapters can be found appended to the draft minutes on the EDDC website.

### **Strategic Planning Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 24**

I was unable to attend this meeting due to work, but I read the papers beforehand and caught up with colleagues after the fact. This meeting was due to discuss additional redrafted chapters, settlement boundaries and viability assessment findings. There were other items on the agenda, but these items have been postponed to the following week.

Of particular interest to me in relation to the settlement boundaries of Ottery and Tipton was the rationale behind making tweaks to the boundaries. The new boundaries include site allocations recently agreed for inclusion in the emerging local plan.

### **Ottery St Mary**



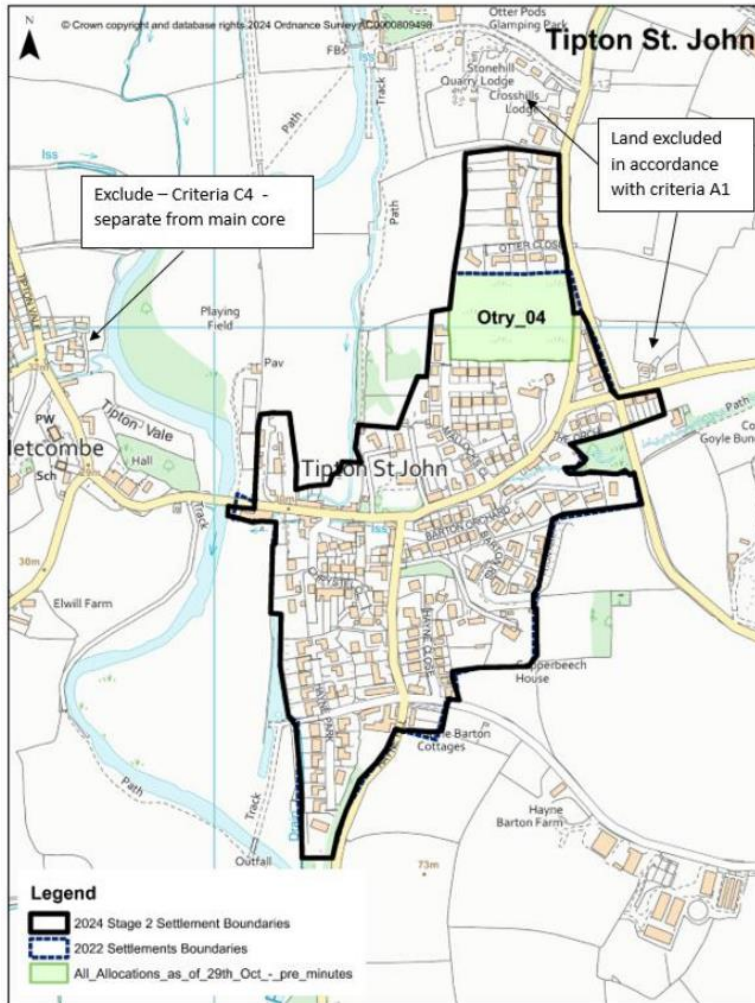
I find it interesting that land adjacent to Otry\_10 and GH/ED/27 has been excluded from the settlement boundary due to having no safe pedestrian access.

23.1 The existing settlement boundary is defined in the adopted East Devon Local Plan 2013 - 2031<sup>55</sup>. This boundary was drawn to include the housing allocation and planning permissions in the local plan and to otherwise reflect the existing built-up area, rather than to specifically facilitate additional development. The strategy of the emerging local plan differs from the adopted plan in wanting to promote some opportunities for housing within the settlement boundaries so that they guide but do not stifle the outward growth of settlements in line with the plan strategy<sup>56</sup>.

23.2 The boundary now proposed overall is larger to reflect new allocations, together with some individual houses and larger gardens.

23.2 Consultation was undertaken on the proposed settlement boundary as part of the draft local plan in 2022 but no responses were received in relation to the Ottery St. Mary settlement boundary.

## Tipton St John



30.1 Tipton St. John does not currently have a defined settlement boundary. The bulk of the village, including a Public House and shop, lies to the east the River Otter and this area is included in the settlement boundary. To the west of the River Otter is Metcombe, which includes a smaller number of houses, plus a primary school, community hall and small care home. Metcombe has not been included in the settlement boundary on the basis that it is separated from the main core of the village (criteria C4).

30.2 Consultation was undertaken on the proposed settlement boundary as part of the draft local plan in 2022, but no comments were received regarding the proposed Tipton St. John settlement boundary.

30.3 The boundary now proposed is larger than that defined in the 2022 consultation due to the inclusion of housing off Otter Close, which adjoins the proposed allocation.

All settlement boundaries proposed at this meeting were agreed.

### Strategic Planning Committee –29<sup>th</sup> November 24

## **EDDC Report – Cllr Bethany Collins – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**

At the time of writing this report, this meeting has not yet happened. Again, I am unable to attend due to work, but I will provide a verbal update at the town council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **Updates from Cabinet – 27<sup>th</sup> November 24**

#### **Elections update**

The printing company has taken full responsibility for the delivery issues had with polling cards and postal votes. They advised it had “exposed a gap in their front-end processing quality checks that needed to be addressed”. The printing company paid for the first-class delivery to ensure the polling cards were delivered as quickly as possible. Various additional checks and balances have now been agreed with the company to avoid such issues happening with future elections.

#### **Remote attendance/proxy voting consultation**

The Cabinet has agreed on a consultation response on behalf of EDDC. It has been welcomed as a positive step forward for local authorities to be able to improve engagement with members of the public and elected members alike.

EDDC are not in favor of proxy voting because of the perception of pre-determination, which undemocratic and removes the purpose of debate from the process. It is believed that enabling remote attendance, and remote voting, this would negate the need for proxy voting entirely.