

Report from EDDC Cllr Vicky Johns – 29th November 2024

7th November - Scrutiny meeting;

We received a report from officers on Climate change, which included EDDC climate change action plan with progress assessment
Carbon descent plan

A verbal update on progress with the Scrutiny action plan and member training.

The work programme for Scrutiny was reviewed and it was noted not enough items for Scrutiny were being submitted to the work programme. However due to the training due to members of the Scrutiny committees due on 28th November this is likely to change.

It was also noted that a scoping report is still required for consideration of the Exmouth sea wall item and further information is required as to whether South West Water Sewage TaFF is still appropriate, given the Devon wide involvement in this matter.

10th November - Remembrance Day Service;

I joined members of the Veterans, serving Armed forces personnel, fire service, cubs, brownies and other groups in marching up to the Church for the Remembrance day service. The service was well attended with every seat taken. I was honoured to be able to lay a wreath on behalf of EDDC council in memory of those who had gone before.

11th November - Remembrance Day;

I attended a small Remembrance event alongside some Veterans and other members of the public in memory of those who were no longer with us.

15th November - Coleridge Bridge meeting;

I attended a meeting with our MP Richard Foord, Cllr Jess Bailey, DCC, EA and Cllr Richard Grainger to discuss the ongoing issues with the Coleridge Bridge. As we are aware the bridge was damaged last year by a falling tree and has been put of bounds since, the water has also changed course causing more damage and the meeting was held to see what can be done moving forward.

The EA and DCC both stated they couldn't work in the water during fish spawning season as the current legislation for a permit does not allow for a box to be ticked stating the bridge is necessary for safety of movement etc. MP Foord has advised he will see what he can do to sort this particular part of the issue out. Currently it does look like the bridge will be out of action until the Summer of 2025 even though DCC and the EA agree the work needs to be done. Thank you to Cllr Bailey for keeping the pressure up.

19th November - EDDC planning;

I attended this meeting to raise my concerns with regards to application 24/1278/FUL Land adjacent to Upper Spilsby, Exeter Road, Ottery St Mary, due to the officer recommendation going against the town council opinion.

After lots of discussion the application was refused due to it being deemed an isolated dwelling in the middle of the countryside without ready access to services and where occupiers would be reliant on the use of the private car contrary to strategies 1 and 7, plus other policies.

It was also refused due to concerns raised by Exeter Airport, it was mentioned that concerns of this nature should be dealt with before it comes to planning and not set as a condition of planning.

20th November - Armed Forces Covenant meeting at Bicton College;

I attended a meeting with Dougie Wright and EDDC officer Jo Fellows to discuss how EDDC can assist Bicton College moving forward as they have a large Armed forces connection. This is one of a series of ongoing meetings which I'm delighted to be a part of

28th November; - Scrutiny training, online;

As mentioned above I was invited to agenda an online Scrutiny training to see how Scrutiny at EDDC is doing and what, if any changes could be done to make things work better. The training itself was very good and showed where things are going well and also raised where things could be improved. I look forward to further training in due course.

I attended the following meeting in my town councillor capacity as Chair of planning;

18th November - EDDC Planning meeting for town council chairs/clerks held at Blackdown House;

This training was held as so many town/Parish councillors have received no training with regards to planning applications. During the meeting it was fairly apparent that some members know more about planning than others, partly due to training and partly due to the amount of applications particular areas receive. It was asked that EDDC run training more frequently so clerks and councillors alike can benefit.

Stay safe,

Vicky