

1 Live consultations

1. Sidmouth Seafront – Port Royal area – closes 5pm 31 July 2017

- My own concerns are that if the car park is built upon this will only exacerbate the already difficult parking situation in Sidmouth, especially considering we should be promoting shopping locally and tourism. Building on the current car park would exacerbate flood risk to people and properties, building on land now classified as Flood risk 3a.
- A 5 storey building on the seafront – have we learned nothing from resorts such as Torquay etc!! (30 residential plots have been designated in the local Plan for Sidmouth and it would not be helpful if these end up being expensive second homes).
- Developing so close to the Sewage works and increasing flood risk and contamination should flooding occur.
- Concerns about encroaching onto the Ham which I believe has a covenant on as it was donated to Sidmouth for use by local people.
- A campaign has been started by a number of Sidmouth cllrs called Retain, Refurbish, Re-use which argues the case for retaining and updating what we already have, so the Lifeboat, sailing club and drill hall are retained and upgraded.

You can look at the proposals in person on Monday 26 June and Tuesday 27 June from 3pm to 8pm at Kennaway House, 6 Coburg Road, Sidmouth, EX10 8NG.

Please do have a look and comment. It is frustrating if people do not comment and then don't like the end result! Make your voice heard before it is too late!

2. Introduction of car parking charges at Manor Pavilion . – closes 5 pm 28th July 2017

These two local consultations are important with Sidmouth being our nearest seaside town and there are many local residents who support the Manor Pavilion. See the end of this report for full details and attached document.

2 Presentation to Scrutiny Committee by Citizen's Advice Bureau East Devon

Our Parish council has proposed donating £300 to CAB this year.

Hilary Nelson, CEO, Strategy and Development of CAB East Devon which is part funded by EDDC and parish and town councils made a presentation to Scrutiny on Thursday 20th July 2017. They rely totally on donations to run. In recent times it has been cut back to the bone, they often have to pay commercial rents for their offices. They provide a really excellent support to residents for about £13.20 per issue, compare this to charges for professional advice from private companies. They expect a huge surge in enquiries when universal credit is rolled out in Devon in 2017 to 2018. The question of charging for their services was raised (Age UK charge for their services) but CAB are committed to advice being free for everyone. They do however willingly accept donations. They have a current focus on the problem of digital exclusion which raised the issue of the poor broadband provision in East Devon, another subject close to Scrutiny's heart. You may remember that CDS stated that they were only charged with increasing broadband provision to businesses, seemingly believing that businesses are 'buildings' rather than for example rural farms or private residences in rural settings.

We anticipate that demand for our services will remain high and will probably increase as a result of the increased pressure on public services and the full roll out of Universal Credit in Devon in 2017/18.

A recent grant from the National Lottery is enabling us to tackle the problem of digital exclusion, helping people with limited IT skills or poor internet connectivity to access support online and improve their life skills and resilience. With our partner organisations, we are looking to support people who often struggle to find help elsewhere, such as carers, those in fuel poverty and disabled people. A recent partnership with Action East Devon is enabling us to provide support and education to those with life-limiting conditions through the "Passing Matters" project.

We actively seek to involve people from a wide variety of backgrounds and experience both to come to us for help and to participate in delivering our services and so ensure that we continue to be able to provide vital support to our community in East Devon. (Hilary Nelson 2017)

3 Pilot for transfer of community assets in Beer and proposals for our local public toilets.

Beer is involved in a pilot scheme and is looking to take on assets currently financed by EDDC which currently cost EDDC around £2M per year to maintain. This includes parking, toilets, beach huts etc. A figure is calculated on which of these will be a cost to the parish council and which will bring in a income and then a calculation is made of the value and hence the cost to the parish council. The idea is that the assets will be brought to standard by EDDC and handed over with a 5 year dowry. Cllr Geoff Pook, who instigated this scheme, is going to keep me posted on how this pans out and ensure our enquiries about the local toilets are kept on the radar and fully discussed. He is also going to send me a list of the assets that EDDC are responsible for in Newton Poppleford.

4 Closure of 72 Community beds (I am sure Claire will speak about this)

"The Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee will decide whether to refer a decision to close 72 community hospital beds in Eastern Devon, on Tuesday (25 July), to the Secretary of State for Health.

Further information from the above for those interested:

The following are quotes from the EDDC website re the 2 consultations:

We and Sidmouth Town Council are asking for [your views on initial proposals for development of the Port Royal area](#) in Sidmouth before 5pm on 31 July 2017.

Have your say on ideas for the redevelopment of Port Royal in Sidmouth

A concept idea for the Port Royal area in Sidmouth has been developed by consultants as part of a scoping study to assess the feasibility of redevelopment of the area. The study has been commissioned by Sidmouth Town and East Devon District Councils, who are the major landowners of the site, and is the first step in exploring options for the area.

The study will also identify the boundaries, ownership and the needs of existing occupants. Over the last few months the consultants and officers have visited the tenants on the site including the Lifeboat and Sailing Club. They have spent time with these organisations to learn more about their activities and understand the important work they carry out which included the logistics of manoeuvring boats and trailers.

You can look at the proposals in person on Monday 26 June and Tuesday 27 June from 3pm to 8pm at Kennaway House, 6 Coburg Road, Sidmouth, EX10 8NG.

These events, which are part of the study, are open to all and the public can drop in between these times and look at a small exhibition of the proposals and talk to council officers and the consultants who will be at each event. You will have the opportunity to complete a questionnaire at the events telling us your views, thoughts and ideas.

If you can't come along to the events you can look at the proposals [here](#) and complete the questionnaire [here](#). The deadline for all responses is 5pm on Monday 31 July 2017.

Have your say on our proposal to introduce public pay and display parking in the Manor Pavilion car park in Sidmouth until 5pm on 28 July 2017.

Why are we proposing changes?

There are two main reasons:

- 1. East Devon District Council owns the Manor Pavilion Theatre and Arts Centre and its car park and pay the running costs. Like all other local authorities, we are under significant and increasing budgetary pressures so need to find other ways of helping fund the ongoing costs and improvements needed at the Manor Pavilion Theatre and Arts Centre to keep it going.*

The money from the car parking charges would go directly to the theatre to help pay for improvements such as new seating, customers being able to buy tickets online, new lighting etc which it needs to provide a high quality experience for its customers. Paying to park in theatre car parks across the country is normal, to help with the running costs of the theatre.

- 2. This 21 space car park has historically been designated as a private car park for people visiting the theatre and arts centre. However over many years more and more residents and shoppers are using this very central site as a free car park with no restrictions or enforcement. This means there are less spaces available for people that visit the theatre and*

arts centre. The theatre manager has tried to control this by locking the gate from time to time but the problem is still growing. Going forward we need to find a better way to properly manage this important asset and the way the car park is used.

The change being proposed is that:

The car park next to the Manor Pavilion Theatre would become a car park where you have to pay to park between 8am and 8pm, and you would only be allowed to stay for up to four hours. This will be at the same rate as the majority of our car parks, £1 an hour.

The vast majority of evening shows at the Manor Pavilion Theatre start between 7.30pm and 8pm which means that any theatre customer parking at the car park to see an evening show would only have to pay a maximum charge of £1.

To ease the impact of this change:

- *You would be allowed to park for free for up to ten minutes. The ten minutes grace period would allow people to quickly drop off equipment from their cars for shows and arts centre displays, or to buy tickets from the box office.
We would work closely with the manager of the theatre to manage and enforce this restriction to prevent abuse of this free ten minute period. This careful management would also make sure customers who are genuinely in a queue to buy tickets for the theatre aren't penalised.*
- *There would be a separate entrance and exit to a different area of the car park for people hiring or putting on shows in the theatre to use when unloading or loading their sets and equipment.
This area would be under the direct control of the theatre's management and would make sure that people would be able to get their stage sets and equipment in and out. There would be plenty of space for vans to turn around and park up next to the lock up area where they load and unload. The space accessed by the separate entrance and exit would be outside of the pay and display zone and would provide a small number of car parking spaces for approved users.*
- *We would be happy to offer a special deal on parking costs in the larger Manor Road car park to local groups using the theatre or arts centre. The actual deal would depend on the number of spaces they needed and the time of year. This would be managed by our parking services team and not the theatre.*
- *We accept there would be some inconvenience for people that use the arts centre. However, the 300 space Manor Road car park is a very short walk to the theatre. People needing to drop off equipment at the arts centre can use the 10 minutes free car parking to do so, and then have the option of parking in the Manor Road car park.*
- *Currently the running costs and maintenance bills for the arts centre are considerably more than the amount of income it generates. So the additional income raised by the pay and display car park would help keep it open and help make sure we can keep the hiring costs at an affordable level.*
- *There are just 21 spaces in the car park, it is nowhere near enough for an entire theatre audience of 277 so there are already alternatives that are used by audiences if people don't want to or can't park in the car park next to the theatre.*

Other options we looked at but have discounted and reasons why:

- *The Council thought about not introducing car parking charges. However, the budget we have available to help us run the theatre and arts centre is reducing, and so charging for this car park provides an opportunity to upkeep and improve this greatly valued theatre and arts centre and car park. In addition the car park has become increasingly difficult to manage over the last five years as more and more residents and shoppers use it as a free place to park, so there are less spaces available for people that visit the theatre and arts centre.*
- *We thought about allowing customers to hand in a part of their car parking ticket at the theatre box office for a refund. However, we feel that as there are only 21 spaces, and all the other theatre goers that park in other nearby car parks don't get this benefit, we felt it wouldn't be fair.*
- *We thought about only charging for parking until 6pm. However, most of the theatres shows start between 7.30pm and 8pm. If the car park is free at 6pm it will be used by some residents for free overnight parking, leaving less spaces available for theatre goers.*
- *We thought about only allowing people to stay in the car park for a maximum of three hours, which is normal in our short stay car parks. However, people going to an afternoon theatre performance may need more than three hours to go in, see the show and get back out again so we are proposing to make it four hours.*

Have your say

Please read all the information above and then fill in this [quick online questionnaire](#) before 5pm on 28 July 2017.

If you need a paper copy of the consultation posting out to you, or need a copy in any other format please call 01395 517569 or email jbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk

Alternatively you can send your comments in writing to Legal Services, East Devon District Council, Knowle, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL. All comments must be received by 5pm on 17 July 2017. (Check if this is the written comments date as it is earlier than the online comment date)

Val Ranger
Ward Councillor July 2017