

## **Neighbourhood Plans**

EDDC are now encouraging town and parish councils to work on their Neighbourhood Plans.

At the January Strategic Planning meeting, on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, funding by EDDC to support town and parish councils was discussed. It was agreed that a grant scheme would be recommended to be made available for town and parish councils. It was also recommended that town and parish councils should look to their own precept for some of their funding.

From the report:-

4.2 Neighbourhood planning is well established and valued in east Devon by both communities and Members, highlighted through the new Local Plan preparation process. There is also the need to support our town and parish council's to be in a strong position ahead of and in anticipation of LGR, with the expected increased role of town and parish councils as local government becomes less local.

4.3 Notwithstanding our legal duty, the rewards of investing in neighbourhood plans include: a. bringing communities together to agree a shared vision for their area; b. giving them a greater say in shaping and influencing development; c. the ability to protect valued local assets like green spaces, valued views, community facilities and heritage assets; d. setting design standards; e. helping ensure specific local needs are met, like affordable housing; f. facilitating access by communities to a greater proportion of funding from developer contributions to improve local infrastructure and facilities; g. help with engagement with statutory agencies and funders for community projects and priorities where they are identified in a 'made' plan.

## **Employment Land Review.**

The Employment Land Review for 2024 - 2025 was presented to the SP committee. This is supposed to give an accurate account of employment land availability. I have commented that a large number of sites across the district are missing from the report.

1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework requires Local Authorities to support sustainable economic growth by setting out a clear economic vision and strategy for their area and to ensure there is sufficient land available to support growth. To achieve this, an understanding of what development has taken place is foundational.