

Monthly Exe Valley Report, June 2025 – EDDC Cllr Fabian King

East Devon National Landscape Management Plan 2025-30 Consultation

The “National Landscape” refers to the previously termed AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). The public consultation questionnaire attracted 105 respondent comments which are now included in the planning process. The ambition is to make great strides for improving the natural habitat and environment to support our all-important wildlife and nature at large.

Today our nature is in crisis. The average UK species has declined by 19% since 1970. An estimated 16% of UK species are threatened with extinction, with some groups (birds, amphibians, fungi, lichen and reptiles) experiencing more severe declines. Only 14% of existing UK habitat is deemed to be in good ecological condition. Most importantly, our pollinating insects, vital for agriculture, have declined in abundance by 24% since 1980.

These downward trends cannot continue and the EDLN Management Plan aims to create landscape-scale change that benefits everyone. The area considered for this consultation stretches along our coast from Exmouth to Lyme Regis and comes inland towards Ottery St Mary, Honiton and Axminster. The total annual value of ecosystem services to the economy in England was estimated to be £35.7billion in 2020. 57% of that was derived from cultural services such as recreation, tourism and health benefits.

East Devon Rural Broadband Consultation Questionnaire

This has now closed with 80 respondent comments from across East Devon, but I was utterly astonished that I could only identify 1 contribution from our Exe Valley Ward – I was bitterly disappointed because I know of so many anecdotes of people having services which fail or are slow and intermittent. Besides this 1 contribution, I also provided an Exe Valley overview, however it is the details that each Parish Council can provide that would be so useful, especially when EDDC is seeking to justify funds to make a difference.

To achieve any improvement in the broadband services we want to enjoy across Exe Valley, I must be equipped with your input otherwise there is no case to answer and the awful state of broadband provision will continue as just that.

I have contacted two Devon County Cllrs and they have agreed to meet me and tackle the broadband issues to see what can be done for Exe Valley Ward (plus other East Devon areas), so if I could have more interest in the matter contributed by our Parish Councils, we shall have a better chance to get to grips with it.

Broadband is vital and has no alternative in rural areas. Services across the UK such as for health, school homework, insurance, banking, tax returns, shopping, home business, hunting for jobs, training – these activities today are more exclusively done only online which is not possible where Broadband is not properly provided. The hapless rural communities are therefore excluded from proper participation in society and are held back from properly running their daily affairs.

I would be very grateful if each of our Exe Valley Ward Parish Councils could be particular about where there is inadequate coverage and how this affects households, businesses and the quality of everyday life, prospects for businesses, education, health and employment and the supporting services for our quality of life. I am sure you could also add more criteria – please do so and add some yardstick of importance and what needs to be done.

Fly Tipping

Fly-tipping continues to be a significant problem in East Devon, not only scarring the landscape and threatening wildlife but also diverting public funds that could be used for vital local services. A recent event organised by East Devon helped to draw attention to

- Highlight the financial burden placed on private landowners and taxpayers, who ultimately bear the cost of clean-up operations.
- Educate residents on how to dispose of waste responsibly and learn how to report fly-tipping via: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/report-fly-tipping>.
- Find out how to use licensed waste carriers and local recycling facilities to dispose of rubbish safely and legally via: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

This event is not just about raising awareness – it's about encouraging action. Every resident can help by disposing of waste responsibly and reporting fly-tipping when they see it.

Waste Services

There is soon to be a report considering the future of waste services and I shall keep you updated on what issues are under consideration.