Dulverton Middle School

Your Future Exmoor

Feedback Report

Events held on: 09.07.2009 & 19.11.2009
This report sets out the views that were expressed at the ‘Your Future Exmoor’ event for your college and is also available to view on our website.  
www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/your_future_exmoor.htm

If you have any views on this report please let us know by filling in the comments sheet at the end of the report and sending it to:
Policy and Community Team  
Exmoor National Park Authority  
Exmoor House  
Dulverton  
Somerset  TA22 9HL  
Or email your comments to: ldf@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk  
BY FRIDAY 23rd JULY  

At the end of this report there is also a form where, if you wish, you can provide your contact details to be notified of future consultations as the plan progresses, including Topic Group discussions.
Introduction

Two ‘Your Future Exmoor’ events were held in 2009 on the 9th of July and 19th of November at Dulverton middle school in Dulverton. The events were organised by the Exmoor National Park Authority as part of the preparation of the Exmoor National Park Local Development Framework which is replacing the Local Plan. The event provided the opportunity for middle school students to have a say in the planning of their community and the National Park as a whole. We would like to acknowledge the valuable input from students and we appreciate the representations that were made by those who attended the events.

This report summarises what was said at the event. We would like you (whether you attended the event or not) to let us know your views on the issues, options and comments contained in this feedback report.

Attendance
The events were attended by 24 students on the 9th of July and 15 students on the 19th of November, a total of 39 students. Students were year 8 aged between 12 and 13.

Your Future Exmoor Consultation

On July 9th 2009 the workshop consisted of a slide show presentation based on 7 different topic areas Landscape and Wildlife, Climate Change, Services, Transport and Infrastructure, Economy and Employment, Recreation and Tourism, Housing and Historic and Built Environment. The presentation was created to stimulate questions and answers for a classroom discussion.

On November 19th 2009 a further workshop was undertaken at Dulverton middle school. A presentation was first given to introduce the workshop to the students. The students were then split into groups to decide between them what they thought were the most important topics. Depending on which topics they prioritised they were given an issue (at random) with their topic to discuss.
What You Said

Overall Response

Topics listed in order of importance. (As determined by the students)

1. Housing
2. Economy and Employment
3. Natural Environment
4. Climate Change and Natural Resources
5. Transport and Infrastructure
6. Settlements
7. Cultural Environment

KEY FINDINGS

The key findings from the two events held at Dulverton Middle School.

Housing

General Comments

► Housing. We should build housing in towns, near existing houses, consider access.
► Dulverton block of affordable housing is ugly.
► Affordable homes are important.
► Pretty Cottages are good but are they a fire hazard? Thatch?
► Large older houses only attract rich people from London. They can’t afford them.
► 10/24 (42%) stated that eco homes are attractive but questioned whether they would be expensive.
► Housing could be allocated by the National Park to avoid 2nd homes being bought.

Issue: A high proportion of second/holiday homes and empty homes within the National Park and the potential impact upon the viability of some communities.

- No more homes. Just what we’ve got.
- Solar panels should be cheap.
- Houses should be cheap. Yep.
- Houses should be environmentally friendly.
- Make less holiday homes. Not everyone uses the homes and they cost a lot to make!
- Houses should be moved if they can’t live in their place because of climate change.
- Houses need to be affordable.
- Build environmentally friendly buildings.

Issue: The greatest requirement will be for more manageable, but aspirational two bed units enabling people of retirement age to ‘downsize’ from family housing.

- More houses, more money, more jobs, less environment.
- Old peoples home- average.
- I do not want the houses of old people to take over the countryside.
- Not too many houses so it doesn’t take over the natural environment.
Economy and Employment

General Comments

► More money, opportunities elsewhere.
► 3/24 would like to return to work here 13%.
► Majority don’t want to return because it’s more expensive, there are less amenities and less interesting opportunities here.
► Jobs here are not up to date.
► Broadband has improved us.
► Post offices would have done better without the internet.
► The jobs we’re missing in the area are restaurants, airports, hospitals, paintballing and other outdoor activities. The things we’re missing: World’s largest slide, Watersports, Motorcross/quad bikes, High ropes (Go Ape), Fishing, Flying.
► Could be too many tourists.

Issue: Businesses meeting the challenge of climate change implications (adaptation and mitigation).

- Funnel the rain back into the river.
- Umbrella shop.
- Bigger flood plain hills.
- More flood channels.
- Put drainage beside river.
- More people buying umbrellas and coats.
- Weather puts people off coming shopping.
- Dunster Castle can’t ship people up on buses so they don’t see the village.
- Bad weather. People don’t want to come out in the bad weather!
- Dunster Castle shouldn’t put a café up it will put other businesses out of business.

Issue: Extending the tourist season outside the April-October period is important for providing permanent jobs and requires improved accommodation facilities and keeping attractions open all year; both hunting and game shooting are important tourism activities during the winter months.

- We need more hotels and shops but not too much.
- More shooting- more money.
- Good- I like shooting.
- More public transport for tourists= more income= more tourists every year.
- Have a limit of accommodation so we don’t overbad the natural environment.
- We do not want to turn into a city!
- More accommodation means less nature.
- More shooting, more money, rich community.

Natural Environment

General Comments

► Keep the landscape.
► Makes it a National Park, keeps tourists.
► Makes us unique.
**Issue: Conserving the character of Exmoor's coast including from the impacts of development such as the landfall from structures out at sea.**

- We should still have the houses but further away from the coast.
- The natural environment is getting ruined.
- Landfall should be protected more with netting.
- Rubbish should be taken out of the sea more.
- More people living by the coast might mean that more litter will be dropped in the sea.
- More coastal protection.
- People should be relocated if they live near a risk to landfall.
- Only have one or two single houses on the coast.
- We should have less houses next to the coast.
- More houses will bring better economy.
- They should put up stronger wire netting on the edge of the sea so storms won’t ruin the landscape.

**Issue: The cumulative impact of intrusive elements such as major roads, derelict land and neglected buildings, electricity pylons, overhead wires, telecommunication masts, and caravan or large camp sites, on the landscape character of Exmoor.**

- We should use the materials on old derelict houses to build new houses!
- More camping- more tourism.
- Knock down any non-essential pylons and telecommunications masts and reuse materials to build outdoor entertainment centres at other high tourism buildings.
- Deal with neglected buildings and derelict land and replace with any high tourism centres such as camp sites or entertainment/outdoor centres!

**Issue: Increasing road signage and other highway infrastructure has a negative and cumulative impact upon landscape and settlement character.**

- Less road signs.
- Road signs should be more simple.
- Make a giant machine that will create static electricity.
- We need to work out a method of funding the amount of road signs we need and no more.

**Climate Change**

**General Comments**

- More renewable energy.
- Wind farms can look nice 21/24 agree – (88%).
- What wind farms look like is not as important as the potential damage to the environment without them.
- Photovoltaic cells are expensive.
- Strap protestors to turbines.
- Paint turbines to make them more acceptable.
- Paint turbines bright colours as a piece of art.
- Talk to those against renewable and explain what could be done through a comedy play? Better to persuade them instead of forcing them.

**Issue: Flood risk planning should anticipate sea level rise of 5mm/yr in South West England. The level of the highest tides, average height of winter waves, and number of winter storms has also increased. These factors are likely to increase the incidence of**
coastal flooding and the rate of coastal erosion (The National Trust are working on the assumption of 1m rise in sea-level by 2100).

- Flood barriers to be put up.
- More wind farms.
- Water destroys our countryside. Suck up the sea. Salty.
- Put flood barriers up.
- Save our planet.
- Wind farms are more environmental and don’t look bad.
- The sea rising puts people in danger.
- Too much electricity makes the sea levels rise too much.
- Put up stronger wire netting so there’s less chance of a big flood.
- Lots of fuel causes poisons the air, which causes climate change.
- More flood barriers should be put up to stop coastal towns flooding.
- Build big walls.
- Flooding may kill people if no action.
- Bigger flood barriers.
- Work on predicting floods/breaches of bridges and present defences also enhance present defences and update them.
- Predict floods.
- More precautions/defences for coastal regions and try to get early warning for future floods.

Issue: The sustainable management of this waste represents an ongoing and significant challenge. Exmoor has no landfill site for waste, therefore all landfill waste is transported to sites outside the National Park- it is important to reduce the burden of waste disposed by this method.

- More bins.
- Old Trainer Plant (Recycling).
- More storms- harness the electricity.
- (Pictures of machines that use waste for electricity).

Transport and Infrastructure

General Comments

► Pylons are ugly. Would be better underground.
► Those (pylons) disguised as trees are better.
► 17/24 think that mobile phones are more important than how they look 71%.
► About ½ class use and rely on public transport ~50%.
► If there is no public transport more fuel will be used (link to Climate change topic).

Issue: The effect of traffic congestion and over-demand for parking space in peak periods in some towns and villages is a particular issue, with high traffic speeds also being a concern.

- More speed cameras and traffic lights to keep the traffic flowing.
- More traffic lights.
- Bigger roads in-case something crashes to overtake.
- Lights more traffic lights!
- Less traffic lights more roundabouts.
- More buses.
- Speed cameras.
• Have multi-storey car parks because they take up the same amount of space as single car parks.
• Don’t put double decker buses down Dunster marsh.

**Issue: Balancing the requirement for utilities infrastructure (roads, electricity supply, telecommunications masts, sewerage infrastructure etc) with conserving and enhancing Exmoor’s special qualities.**

• Keep infrastructure at the minimal amount needed to preserve natural beauty.
• Solar buses.
• Try and keep essential sewerage systems and roads etc and cut off any non-essentials. Use any salvageable materials.
• More public transport.
• They should only build small roads going across Exmoor landscape. Not too many people.

**Settlements**

**General Comments**

► Post offices are important.
► Post offices could be placed in shops.
► Post offices are important for small communities and the elderly.
► Good services encourage new businesses.

**Issue: The accessibility of community services and facilities, particularly for those without access to a car due to the incremental loss of services such as Post Offices, shops and petrol stations.**

• More shops to sell a wider range of things. Mixed shops.
• Shops need to be close to villages so disabled people don’t have to go far.
• Add a local farm to make/grow produce to sell!!
• Villages need their local suppliers.
• A bus full of people is more eco-friendly than a bus full of cars (i.e. if everyone on a bus drove separate cars instead)
• Extension on small shops.
• Small villages and towns need a cheap petrol station.
• Public transport is needed!
• Public transport is needed more in rural areas.
• More small shops needed so people have to not travel as far.
• Cars use more fuel because more people use more cars.
• Dulverton needs somewhere to sell clothes (Primark).
• Dunster needs food shops!
• Keep public shops for the elderly because if someone can’t drive and they haven’t got any food and there aren’t any shops what are they going to eat?
• If people use buses more then that’s using less fuel. More environmentally friendly.

**Issue: The influence of and accessibility to, nearby coastal and market towns in the provision of employment and services.**

• More houses.
• Hotels.
• More public transport to more market towns!
• School trips.
Issue: For many people on Exmoor the car is the most practicable means of transport; journeys to work, social and shopping trips by public/sustainable transport modes are difficult or impossible to accomplish. At the same time there is an issue to address the provision of public/community transport for those without access to a car to reduce rural isolation and enable accessibility to jobs and services and for others to provide an alternative to car trips to reduce carbon emissions.

- Road signs.
- Cars are bad because they blow out carbon monoxide and so more public transport.
- More transport or more doom!
- More public transport.
- A bus that goes round Exmoor and picks up tourists and the bus takes them round different places so there’s not very much cars!

Cultural Environment

General Comments

► Old attractive buildings should be protected.
► Should be rebuilt/repaird using original materials but replace with materials similar from elsewhere. No quarries in the Park.
► Demolish buildings if they are not used.

Issue: Protected and important species often nest and roost in buildings including historic farm buildings and are vulnerable to changes

- If you take the buildings down it will ruin the landscape! Leave it how it is!
- Save my home (picture of bird) (x 4)
- Save the wildlife’s home.
- Keep the buildings up.
- Leave the animals alone! They’re protected animals and in the process of moving them they could get hurt!
- Old buildings are important with ancient history.
- Animals should be given a safe place to live.
- Protect old buildings for the animals.
- Old buildings should be kept ‘cause peeps (people) like history.
- The animals homes need to stay their buildings are important.
- The buildings and animals are our heritage.
- The houses shouldn’t be knocked down because the animals need to be protected.
- Keep old buildings for wildlife.
- Keep them up unless they put people and animals in danger.
Preparing a New Plan for Exmoor

SCOPING ISSUES & OPTIONS (DEC 2008 – JAN 2009)

ISSUES & OPTIONS
ONGOING CONSULTATION 2009 - 2010

DRAFT PLAN
CONSULTATION 2011

PUBLISH REVISED PLAN
CONSULTATION 2012

YOUTH CONSULTATION AUTUMN 2009
PARKLIFE RESIDENTS QUESTIONNAIRE NOV 2009
VISITOR QUESTIONNAIRE 2009 - 2010

21 COMMUNITY EVENTS (JAN – MAR 2010)
STAKEHOLDER EVENT (MAY 2010)
TOPIC GROUP DISCUSSIONS (AUTUMN 2010)

NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES
SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

NATIONAL REGIONAL & LOCAL
Plans, policies and programmes

RESPONSES TO THE FORMAL CONSULTATION

EXAMINATION AND ADOPTION OF THE PLAN - 2013
WHATS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE

A series of three workshops with representatives of stakeholder organisations were held during December 2008 and January 2009 at Lynton, Dunster and Dulverton. These events aimed to scope the range of issues facing the National Park in terms of land use and development and find options to address them. The outcomes helped to develop the issues, options and questions which were displayed at the Your Future Exmoor events.

Following the community events an event for stakeholder organisations was held in May 2010 which provided them with an opportunity to respond to the issues and options. The format was similar to the community events.

WHAT NEXT?

A number of topic group discussions will be held during the autumn to explore some particular issues in further detail. We will be inviting representatives of stakeholder organisations and interested members of the public to attend these discussions.

All the information provided through the community and stakeholder events, youth consultations, and questionnaires will help us to produce a draft plan and we will be consulting widely on this document next year. We will continue to invite views from local communities which will help us to progress the plan and shape the future of the National Park.

The plan will set out the broad, over-arching policies for development and land use within the National Park – combined with some more detailed development management policies. The consultation responses will then inform a revised plan which will be formally consulted on before publication.

The plan will then be examined by an independent Inspector, and if it is found to be sound, it can then be formally adopted by the Authority.
PLEASE USE THIS SPACE IF YOU WISH TO MAKE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS ON THE FEEDBACK REPORT:
Please complete this form if you are interested in attending a topic-based group discussion on *Your Future Exmoor*.

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<td>Organisation (if relevant)</td>
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Please tick the topics you are interested in discussing:

- Natural Environment
- Cultural Environment
- Settlements
- Housing
- Economy & Employment
- Transport & Infrastructure
- Climate Change & Natural Resources

Are there any specific issues you are interested in discussing?

- Please tick if you would like to be contacted for future ‘Your Future Exmoor’ planning consultations

Please return completed forms to ldf@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk or Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9HL BY FRIDAY 23rd JULY