

# Your Future Exmoor

## Exmoor National Park Feedback Report



# I GO TO SCHOOL IN TIMBERSCOMBE

My Name is

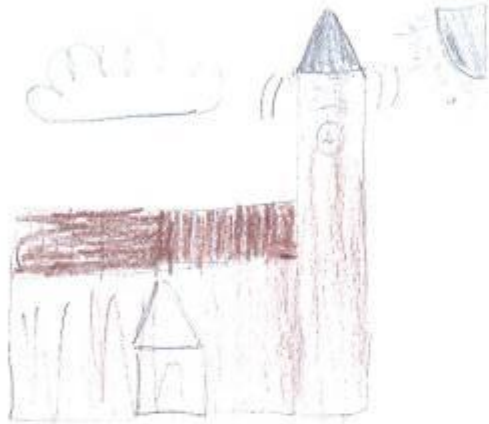
I Live in

Wootton Courtenay

## IN TIMBERSCOMBE

I Like

I Like the church



I Don't Like

rubbish from on the floor



I would like to see



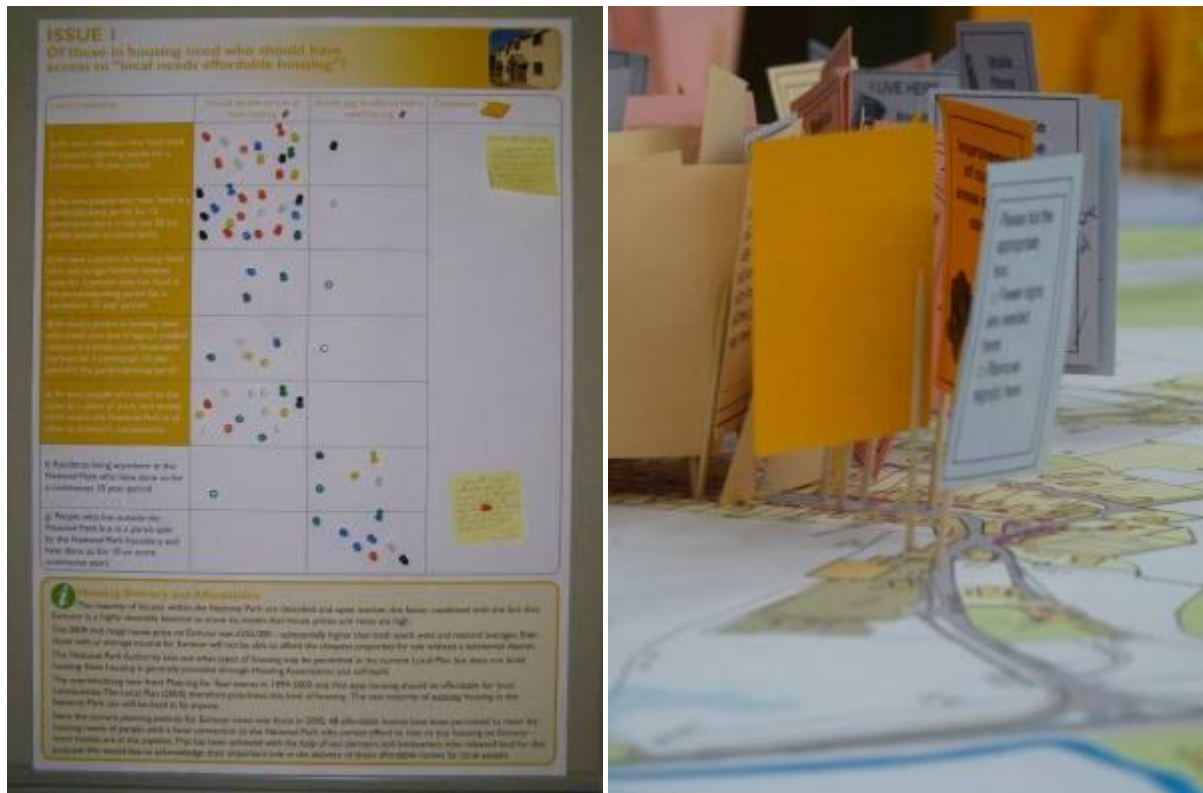
A drawing from the youth consultations at Timberscombe First School

# Your Future Exmoor – Exmoor National Park Feedback Report

## Your Future Exmoor Consultation

Nearly 1,000 people attended the 21 'Your Future Exmoor' events. Everyone that came along to an event was met by a member of the Authority staff and the format of the event was explained. People could express their views in a variety of ways and spend as much or as little time as they wished depending on which topics they were interested in.

A number of display boards divided into seven different topics were placed around the hall. Each topic included a number of issues with various options. People were invited to show which options they agreed or disagreed with by sticking pins into the boards and were also encouraged to make suggestions on issues and options or others' comments on post-it notes.



An example of how people could make their views at the Your Future Exmoor events.

There was also a series of flags which represented a number of specific themes for each topic, such as a flag to indicate that a mobile phone signal was needed in a particular location. The flags could be placed in a number of maps that were set out as part of the event – these were:

- a settlement map,
- a parish map, and
- a map of Exmoor National Park.

**The Exmoor National Park Feedback Report sets out the actual figures we have obtained from the placement of pins in the boards for all the events combined with a percentage alongside (the percentage represents the total number of respondents to that issue and is the total number who agreed with the option minus those that disagreed). The most popular option has been highlighted in a dark colour and the second most popular option has been highlighted in a pale colour.**

**There are also summaries of the comments made under each of the issues and questions listed throughout the main topic headings.**

## **WHAT NEXT?**

The 'Your Future Exmoor' events follow a series of three workshops held with representatives of stakeholder organisations 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 and the publication of feedback reports there was an event for stakeholder organisations in May 2010 to provide them with an opportunity to respond to the issues and options. The format was similar to the community events.

It is planned that a number of topic meetings and discussions will be held starting in the autumn to explore particular issues in more detail involving representatives of stakeholder organisations and members of the public.

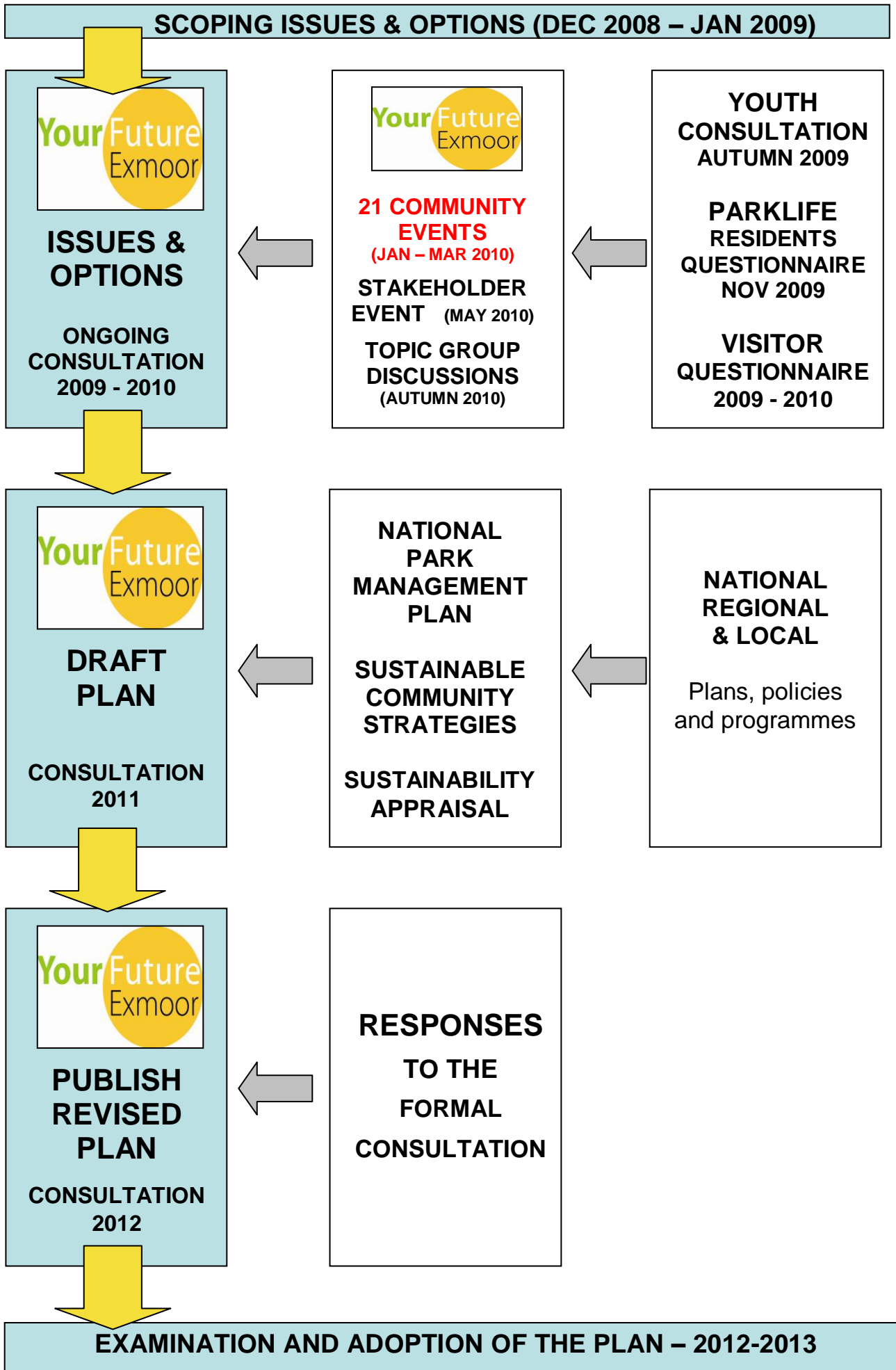
The information provided through the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation will help us to produce a draft plan and we plan to consult widely on this document next year. We will continue to invite views from local communities which will help us to progress the plan and shape the future of the National Park.

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.



# Preparing a New Plan for Exmoor



## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### What do we want to achieve?

- Ensure that the landscape and wildlife is conserved and enhanced to meet National Park purposes and recognise the value of the environment to Exmoor’s communities
- Promote the National Park as a place that continues to offer a sense of tranquillity

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Many thought there were about the right amount of main roads, car parks, road signs and infrastructure. However, a fair number of people thought there were too many.
- Too many electricity pylons/poles and overhead wires.
- Some contention over whether there were too many static caravan sites or whether there were about the right amount.
- Many people were happy to see more wind turbines and mobile phone masts.
- Current policies on conserving wildlife and allowing wildlife to adapt to climate change were supported. However, there was still a significant number who wanted to extend this support to extending and linking existing wildlife areas specifically to enable wildlife to adapt to climate change.
- Again the current policy on conserving the unspoilt character of Exmoor’s coast was supported, which only allows for development in existing settlements. Majority in favour of resisting harmful development from structures out at sea.

## ISSUE 1: How to manage the impact of “man-made” structures on the Exmoor landscape?

### Questions

Man-made structures	About right	Too many	Happy to see more
Main roads, car parks, road signs and infrastructure	122 (8.8%)	78 (5.6%)	14 (1.0%)
Electricity pylons/poles	38 (2.7%)	171 (12.3%)	1 (0.1%)
Overhead wires	17 (1.2%)	204 (14.7%)	0 (0.0%)
Mobile phone masts	69 (5.0%)	39 (2.8%)	80 (5.8%)
Static caravan sites	70 (5.0%)	65 (4.7%)	8 (0.6%)
Touring caravan sites	99 (7.1%)	34 (2.4%)	29 (2.1%)
Wind turbines	31 (2.2%)	56 (4.0%)	166 (11.9%)

### Summary of comments:

Several comments were made regarding the various man-made structures that were listed in the question.

Wind turbines: The majority of concerns related to the inefficiency, cost, and harmful environmental and visual impacts of wind turbines – with several comments stating that small scale hydro-electricity would be preferable to wind turbines. There was some support for wind

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

energy, if turbines were small scale, for community benefit, or not in sensitive areas – whereas individual comments supported increasing targets for generating electricity locally through wind/hydro and the ability to erect domestic wind turbines without planning permission.

Road signage: There were disparate views regarding road signs. Many people commented that there were too many unnecessary signs cluttering the landscape, whereas other comments related to improving signage (both within and outside the National Park) for those visiting Exmoor.

Mobile phone masts: Although it was considered necessary to improve mobile phone signal across Exmoor, many comments were in support of disguising phone masts as trees to minimise the visual impact of these structures.

Car parks: There were conflicting views regarding car parks – with support for more car parks in settlements with little or no formal parking and in other areas to meet demand and reduce congestion. Separate comments stated that it would be better to make efficient use of existing car parks, and not have additional car parks in key locations which may detract from the natural beauty of Exmoor.

**Question: To protect the landscape, current policy allows new small campsites for tents and the conversion of traditional buildings to camping barns. New static or touring caravan sites are not permitted. Do you have any comments on this approach?**

### **Summary of comments:**

There was general agreement with the current policy approach. Some comments supported small sites for touring caravans which had good access (not on narrow roads) and were well integrated into the landscape.

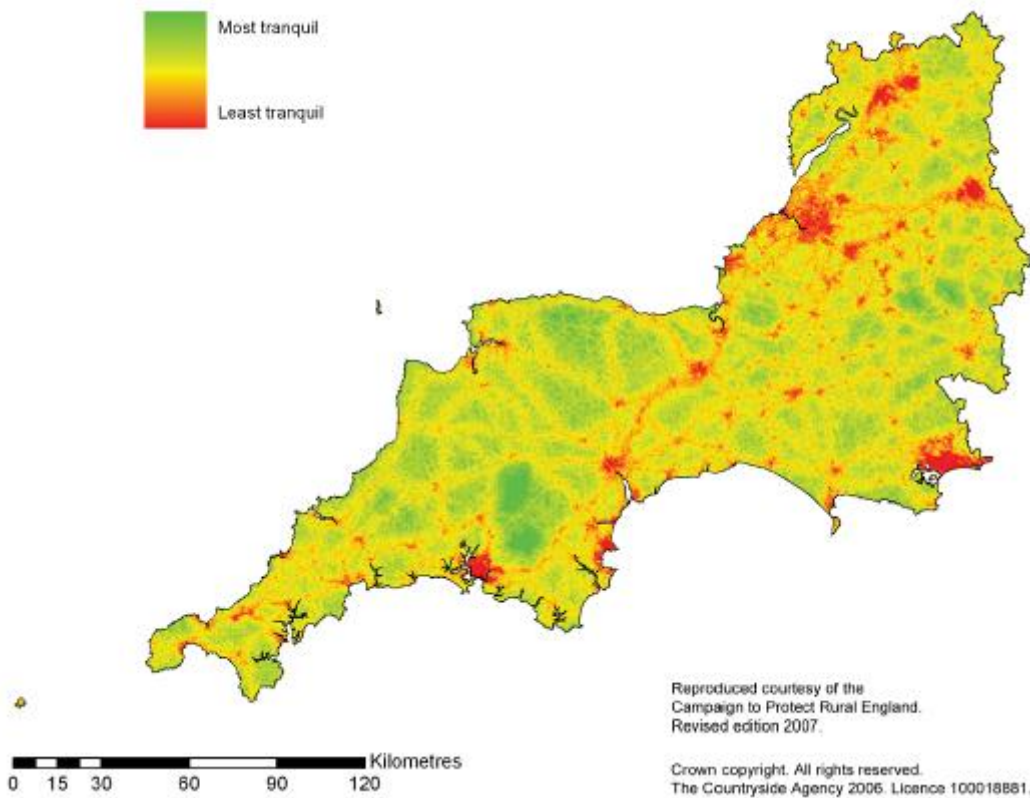
**Question: Are there any specific structures you find harmful to the appearance of Exmoor?**

Cables, Wires, Phone Masts etc.

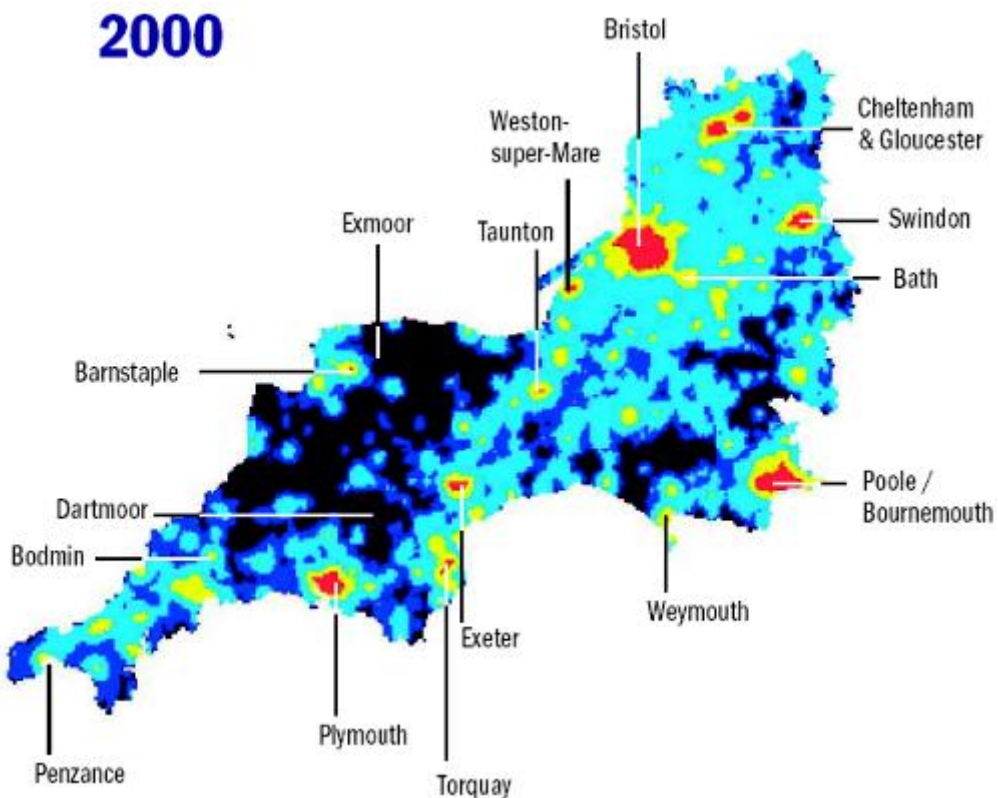
**Question: Are there areas of Exmoor which you would like to be kept free of “man-made” structures?**

On the moors - where man-made dwellings haven't been constructed.

## ISSUE 2: How to keep Exmoor wild, tranquil and remote and protect its 'dark sky'



2000





## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

**Question: Currently we control the design and amount of external lighting in new developments to minimise light pollution. Are there any other ways to control light or noise pollution on Exmoor?**

**Summary of Comments:**

**Street-lighting:** The majority of comments were made regarding reducing the time street lights are on, reducing the number of street lights, modifying street lights to reduce light-spill, with the overall aims of minimising light pollution and saving energy. There were additional concerns relating to the light-spill from settlements surrounding Exmoor such as Minehead and Williton.

**Domestic lighting:** Several people highlighted the need to address lighting on all properties – there were particular issues with security lighting and flood lighting on properties.

**Other forms of lighting:** A number of comments stated the need to turn off lights at night in shops, other business premises (the external lighting at the Barle Enterprise Centre outside the National park near Brushford was highlighted) and sports/recreation grounds – some people stated that flood-lighting of buildings/areas should be controlled. There were also a few concerns raised regarding lighting on/within agricultural buildings these related to ensuring lighting is less intrusive and advice on the use and location of Passive Infra Red (PIR) lighting on farms.

**Noise pollution:** A single comment was made regarding concern over low-flying aircraft.

**Question: Where do you think it may be possible to reduce light pollution by controlling street lighting?**

A few locations were listed where light pollution could be reduced by controlling street pollution (most suggestions were made separately using flags on maps) which included Minehead and the Timberscombe by-pass.

### **ISSUE 3: How to conserve Exmoor's important wildlife and allow it to adapt to climate change?**

**Question: Are there any wildlife/habitats that you think need more protection?**

**Summary of comments:**

Open moorland and common land – concern over loss of wildlife, needing to improve land management practices such as swaling and winter grazing by cattle, damage by off-roading vehicles, and wildlife disturbance caused by dogs and horses.

Hedges were noted as a particular wildlife asset with an individual comment relating to a phased/alternating approach to cutting hedges.

Other individual comments related to restricting public access to SSSIs, facilitating communities to be responsible for clearing litter, protecting sites from the impacts of climate change and afforestation, reducing chemicals used in agriculture controlling/managing population of red deer through culling or hunting, and reducing the number of game-bird shoots.

A number of locations across Exmoor were listed as important wildlife habitats and there was some concern over certain developments in the open countryside.

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) As now, protect, improve and increase existing wildlife sites	<b>234-1 (41.3%)</b>
b) Extend and link existing wildlife areas specifically to enable wildlife to adapt to climate change	<b>140-11 (22.9%)</b>
c) As now, avoid harm to wildlife habitats or if the importance of the development overrides the harm, ensure it is minimised and compensation is provided	<b>176-2 (30.9%)</b>

### Summary of comments:

In relation to the options above, various comments were made regarding wildlife and habitats. There was some support for the sustainable management of woodland to maintain habitats and obtain wood resources and for traditional moorland management such as swaling: to improve habitat condition, the visual aspect of the moorland, and it would also help to reduce ticks. A comment for the return of hunting to ensure conservation was also made. There were also views regarding the management of badgers and the threat of tuberculosis to cattle.

Some concern was raised regarding the balance between protection of wildlife and needs of local people/communities. Individual comments were made in relation to increasing enjoyment of wildlife areas, and the importance of being proactive to address potential problems rather than reactive when problems arise.

## ISSUE 4: How to conserve the unspoilt character of Exmoor's coast?

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
As now, on the coast, only allow for development in existing settlements (apart from some essential agricultural and forestry development in the open countryside)	<b>195-6 (54.0%)</b>
Resist harmful development on the coast needed by structures out at sea e.g. electricity cabling/substations from marine renewable energy schemes.	<b>88-61 (7.7%)</b>

### Summary of comments:

With regard to the options above a number of comments were made in support of off-shore/marine renewable energy technologies – those suggested included wave hubs, underwater systems (such as marine turbines) and off-shore wind turbines. Some comments

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stated the need to define what is meant by 'harmful', and suggested that not all development is harmful – the need to resist associated works which may be harmful to the National Park was also highlighted. Other comments were not in favour of coastal developments such as the proposed tidal barrage and Hinkley Point nuclear power station.

### **Question: What other aspects of the coast should be protected?**

#### **Summary of comments:**

Other aspects of the coast which should be protected included: footpaths, cliffs, foreshore (beaches), marine life, existing sea defences, and harbours.

### **Question: Please tell us whether we should be concerned about development off Exmoor's coast? E.g. renewable energy schemes**

#### **Summary of comments:**

Regarding development off Exmoor's coast the majority of comments supported marine/off-shore renewable energy schemes – as the wave and tidal power was considered to be a vast untapped energy resource. However there was some concern on the impact of such schemes on the coast with some comments resisting such development. Other views positively supported such schemes that were well-designed and considered that they were preferential to nuclear power.

### **Summary of General Comments on the Natural Environment**

Various comments relating to the natural environment were made at the events.

Swaling/burning moorland: There were comments with regard to improving the time-cycle and area of swaling on the moorland, and to increase grazing.

Litter: More litter bins were requested in areas particularly popular with visitors and more responsibility taken to clear litter.

Traffic: Smaller tractors on the narrow lanes were cited as a possible improvement and reducing the speed of traffic across Exmoor.

Wind turbines: Views expressed no further wind turbines on Exmoor.

Coast: One view stated that any off-shore power should ensure the coast is kept as it is. Other concerns included: keeping the harbours at Lynmouth and Porlock Weir functioning, reduce dredging, liaise and work with coastal landowners on environmental projects, and not to attempt to protect low lying land from sea level rise. One person thought the government proposals for coastal access were extreme.

Landscape features: The need to preserve and maintain ancient lanes was also commented on.

Other comments included reducing/changing energy consumption and having areas for fast growing trees to utilise for wood-fuel.

### CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

#### What do we want to achieve?

- **Conserve and retain the historic character of Exmoor's settlements, buildings and landscape by enabling the best means of protecting the cultural heritage of Exmoor while still allowing for change**

#### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ON THE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

- The current policy on working with communities to support enhancement of settlements as opportunities arise was supported.
- Some people were in support of taking this further to developing a programme of enhancements for all Exmoor's settlements compared to just those settlements with conservation areas.
- However, there was significant disagreement to the proposed option of increasing protection given to buildings in conservation areas by introducing a requirement for planning permission for minor changes.
- All the options put forward to conserve and enhance Exmoor's historic buildings had support. In particular to work with owners to enhance historic buildings by putting back traditional features and the current policy of providing advice to works on historic buildings. In addition, producing design guidance on new buildings renovations, repairs and extensions, including building techniques was supported.
- With regard to encouraging the use of sustainable building designs and methods which minimise energy loss, environmental pollution and conserve natural resources, the current policies of allowing a modern interpretation of traditional Exmoor building design using natural materials, and following building regulations and encouraging energy efficiency measures and renewables in developments, had the most support.
- Significant support for requiring developments (over a certain size) to have a percentage of energy coming from renewable sources and for requiring energy efficiency above building regulations and an energy audit for each building (smaller majority).
- Although the current policy on allowing the reopening of former quarries to enable small scale working of buildings stone for use only within the National Park received the most support, there was also much support for the opening of new small scale quarries.
- There was overwhelming support for the current approach of making sure that design materials and landscaping of new building fits in with the traditional character.

## ISSUE 1: Settlements

How to conserve the character of Exmoor's settlements which can be eroded by e.g.:

- New development
- Modernisation/small changes
- Demolition/partial demolition of buildings or structures
- Road signs and infrastructure

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
<p>a) Increase protection given to buildings in conservation areas by introducing a requirement for planning permission for some minor changes</p> <p>ⓘ Conservation Area</p>	53-140 (-19.8%)
<p>b) As now, work together with communities to support enhancement of settlements as opportunities arise <u>OR</u></p>	133-3 (29.5%)
<p>c) Develop a programme of enhancements for <u>all</u> settlements <u>OR</u></p>	65-20 (10.2%)
<p>d) Develop a programme of enhancements for just conservation areas</p> <p>ⓘ Conservation Area</p>	11-15 (-0.9%)

### Summary of comments:

In relation to the options presented above a number of comments were made at the events.

Several comments related to avoiding or reducing restrictions for buildings in conservation areas rather than adding to them (Article 4 direction – option a) and the need for some flexibility. Some agreed that the present planning controls were adequate.

In Winsford the reuse of redundant buildings was considered important to ensure they are retained and conserved.

Other comments specifically related to reducing road signage/infrastructure and avoiding unnecessary urbanisation through over enhancement. Working with and in consultation with communities to solve problems was also suggested. There were also some supporting comments for creating a local list of heritage assets.

### Question: Please tell us which other areas should have Conservation Areas?

### Summary of comments:

There were very few comments regarding further conservation areas. The suggestions included: Timberscombe, Monksilver, Exford, Simonsbath and Withypool (the last three settlements



## CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

included in one comment). It was also suggested that street lighting should be reduced and the design of remaining street lights improved in Dulverton conservation area.

**Question:** What enhancements would you like to see in your settlement?

**Summary of comments:**

There were a number of suggestions for improving existing public amenity and recreation areas within settlements such as Wheddon Cross, Brendon, Exford, and Challacombe. Other comments included a community shop in Exton and co-ordinating work on utility services when trenches are dug on roads.

### ISSUE 2: Historic Buildings

How to conserve and enhance Exmoor’s historic buildings to guard against unsympathetic;

- Renovation/repair
- Extension
- Change of use
- Demolition/partial demolition

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) Produce design guidance on new building renovations, repairs and extensions, including traditional building techniques	<b>130-6 (21.0%)</b>
b) Work with owners to enhance historic buildings by putting back traditional features	<b>188-3 (31.4%)</b>
c) As now provide advice on works to historic buildings	<b>128-2 (21.4%)</b>
d) Set up a ‘local list’ of important, unlisted buildings to ensure they are given more protection	<b>98-35 (10.7%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

There were few comments made regarding the options outlined above. Two comments stated there should be no uPVC replacement windows; this was supported by a suggestion that there should be a grant to help replace existing uPVC windows with wood frames. With regard to thatch a comment stated that as long as it looked the same it should be used, this was supported by a view that straw or reed thatch should be allowed.

There was some support for a local list of important buildings, although one comment stated that there were enough listed buildings. With regard to producing design guidance, one view was that this should have a flexible approach. One person did not approve of the design of the Exmoor Medical Practice.

## CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

**Question:** Please identify locally important or historic buildings/structures that you think need more protection.

One comment identified a number of properties in Monksilver as needing more protection.

### ISSUE 3: Sustainable Building Design

How to encourage the use of sustainable building designs and methods which minimise e.g.:

- energy loss
- environmental pollution and
- conserve natural resources

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
<b>Materials</b>	
a) Only allow traditional /local materials and <u>do not</u> allow for other materials <u>OR</u>	<b>45-58 (-1.5%)</b>
b) Allow 'sustainable' building materials even if they are not traditional in appearance <u>OR</u>	<b>53-14 (4.64%)</b>
c) As now, allow for a modern interpretation of traditional Exmoor building designs using natural materials	<b>201-6 (23.2%)</b>
<b>Design</b>	
d) As now follow Building Regulations and encourage energy efficiency measures and renewables in developments Ⓢ Building Regulations	<b>155-2 (18.2%)</b>
e) Require developments to meet certain energy efficiency standards above current building regulations	<b>65-23 (5.0%)</b>
f) Require developments (over a certain size) to have a percentage of energy coming from renewable sources e.g. solar panels	<b>109-22 (10.4%)</b>
g) Require an energy audit for each proposed building Ⓢ Examples of Energy Audit Criteria	<b>50-36 (1.7%)</b>

## CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

### **Summary of comments:**

There were concerns raised regarding the options relating to building materials. Many of the comments supported a flexible/open approach that was consistent, which would allow for a mix of local, traditional and sustainable materials. Although a comment also stated that sustainable materials should be appropriate for the Exmoor climate. In relation to specific materials, two comments supported 'wood-effect' compound window frames, whilst the use of Brazilian/Chinese slate was not considered a local material. Timber dwellings were also put forward as an alternative material.

Comments generally supported the use of energy efficiency measures such as floor insulation and double glazing in new developments and the benefits this would have for reducing energy use and saving money – one comment stated that these measures should be encouraged rather than required. There was some support for renewable energy systems such as solar heating for water and space heating, although the cost/benefit of photovoltaic panels was questioned. One view stated that such efficiency and energy generation measures should be used in local affordable homes.

### **ISSUE 4: Archaeology**

**How to protect archaeological sites, monuments, buildings, historic landscapes and settlements which are often at risk of damage or destruction.**

**Question: Are there any other archaeological features you would like to see protected?**

Specific comments were made regarding the well at Luckwell Bridge, and the graveyard of Upton old church.

### **ISSUE 5: Local Building Stone**

**How to enable enough local building stone for the National Park while guarding against harm from quarrying on Exmoor?**

<b>OPTIONS:</b>	<b>Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)</b>
<b>a) As now, allow the <u>reopening of former</u> quarries to enable small scale working of building stone for use only within the National Park</b>	<b>241-6 (53.9%)</b>
<b>b) Allow the opening of <u>new</u> small scale stone quarries to provide building stone for use only within the National Park</b>	<b>117-15 (23.4%)</b>
<b>c) <u>Do not allow any</u> quarrying for building stone and rely on stone from quarries outside of the National Park</b>	<b>13-44 (7.1%)</b>

### Summary of comments:

There was general support for a supply of local building stone within Exmoor and the re-opening of existing small-scale quarries which would help to provide local employment and reduce 'stone' miles.

### **ISSUE 6: Local Distinctiveness** **Ensuring new buildings fit in with traditional Exmoor designs**

**(iii) Currently we try to make sure that design materials and landscaping of new building fits in with the local traditional character. Do you agree with this approach? Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)**

**247-17 (87.1%)**

### Summary of comments:

With regard to local distinctiveness, comments generally supported local, traditional, natural building materials which can also be considered as sustainable. However there were several views that supported some flexibility with appropriate use of modern materials and/or more innovative building designs.

Many comments suggested the continued use of traditional roofing materials such as slate, clay tiles and thatch. Some views stated that there should be no concrete tiles unless the rest of the building is roofed with them (i.e. for extensions). Reflecting traditional design (e.g. Riverside Row, Porlock) was also considered to be important – including returning buildings which had been modernised (e.g. shop fronts and buildings that had replaced thatch) to their original character. One comment stated that building designs should integrate with the landscape. In relation to building design there were comments both for and against the contemporary design of the Dulverton Medical Centre.

Several people stated that alternative technologies should be allowed (solar/photovoltaic panels) and materials could be traditional but sustainable, with some new/modern materials given credence. The use of wood as a building material (an example of log cabins was put forward) was also supported. Traditional lime render / lime-wash which allow buildings to breathe, was also recommended by one person.

There were differences of opinion regarding the use of uPVC as a material for windows. The key debate was over practicality, sustainability and appearance – with views both for and against. There were also some comments which supported wooden or metal window frames – although some concern was raised over the maintenance of wooden windows.

With regard to the use of sustainable and/or local materials, the need for local supplies of materials such as stone, shingles and slate, which often come from abroad, was raised. The affordability of such materials was also raised by some as an issue.

### Summary of General Comments on Cultural Environment:

There were only two general comments from the Brendon event which supported a mix of materials, and alternative building designs such as timber dwellings (15 such dwellings were identified in the area around Brendon).

## CLIMATE CHANGE & NATURAL RESOURCES

### What do we want to achieve?


- **Ensure climate change is a consideration in everything we do**
- **Minimise carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions to help Exmoor be carbon-neutral by 2025**
- **Maximise Exmoor's potential for appropriate renewable energy generation**

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- All of the options for achieving a carbon neutral National Park received significant support.
- Considerable support for encouraging the use of sustainable construction methods for existing buildings and maximising the potential for 'carbon sinks' to reduce greenhouse gases and flood risk.
- Significant support for reducing the need to travel by retaining services in communities, providing for local needs housing, and encouraging home working.
- Support to reduce the need to travel through the current approach of locating new development in settlements or through conversions in settlements and on farmsteads.
- Significant support for both the options which look to reduce the dependency of Exmoor's communities and visitors on fossil fuels for most of their electricity and heat generation. The most popular option was to ensure renewable technologies and the additional infrastructure required, do not harm the National Park.
- Also a majority agreed with requiring an audit/evaluation for new development which shows how it can minimise energy use; provide options for renewable energy technologies, and the potential for reducing greenhouse gases while conserving Exmoor's character.
- In terms of which renewable energy technologies are the most appropriate for Exmoor, most people overall voted in favour of hydro particularly at a micro and community scale. However, there was equal support for solar/photovoltaic's at a micro scale but much less so at a community or farm scale. Ground source heat pumps and biomass at a micro scale also received a lot of support. Wind turbines at a micro scale obtained much support but there was still support for wind turbines at a farm or community scale.
- There was strong disagreement to considering large commercial scale wind turbines.
- There was support for all the options to adapt to changing weather patterns including more extreme weather caused by climate change. In particular ensuring development is located outside existing or future flood risk areas and encouraging the use of sustainable drainage systems and porous surfacing in new development.
- In terms of planning for the effects of climate change and sea level rise on the coast, it was considered important not to allow any development in areas at risk of coastal change and to improve understanding of the likely effects of climate change on Exmoor's coast by joint research and planning for areas at risk. There was also support for temporary uses in areas at risk of coastal change.
- There was significant support for all the options to reduce the volume of waste disposal through landfill. The most popular option was to provide for public facilities to meet the need to reuse, recycle and compost materials. Re-using buildings to reduce the need for new materials and re-using building materials was also a very popular option and ensuring new buildings are designed to include a recycling storage facility.



**ISSUE 1: How to achieve the National Park Management Plan target for the National Park to be ‘Carbon Neutral’ by 2025\*?**

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) Encourage the use of sustainable construction methods for new buildings e.g. taking into account energy efficiency in siting, layout, design and materials	169-5 (20.0%)
b) Encourage the use of sustainable construction methods (as above) for existing buildings - re-using buildings uses less energy than new building	183-3 (21.9%)
c) Minimise energy use from vehicles by reducing the need to travel by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As now, providing housing for local communities</li> <li>• As now, encouraging home working</li> <li>• As now, retaining services in communities</li> <li>• Encouraging local resources, materials and products e.g. timber/fuel and food</li> </ul>	154-10 (17.5%)
d) As now, ensure development is close to existing services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct development to settlements</li> <li>• Direct conversions of existing buildings to settlements, farmsteads or hamlets</li> </ul>	96-3 (11.3%)
e) Maximise the potential for ‘carbon sinks’ (tree planting and moorland/mire restoration) to reduce greenhouse gases and flood risk  Carbon Sink	183-15 (20.5%)

**Summary of comments:**

There were several comments and suggestions relating to the options set out to help achieve a Carbon Neutral National Park.

Support for sustainable construction methods for new build development – community sustainable builds. One person was concerned that the additional cost may discourage development – a further suggestion stated that sustainable practices including materials should be subsidised to provide incentives.

Comments stated that converted buildings will not be as energy efficient as new buildings, but they could be reused for alternative uses. There was also some support for uPVC double glazed windows to help save energy.

Sustainable transport initiatives were suggested such as car sharing, improving public transport and encouraging cycling schemes. Other suggestions included reducing the need to travel through encouraging new employment/business and providing housing for local communities in the National Park. One comment related to the encouragement of better mobile phone and broadband access to enable home working. A further comment supported the reduction of petrol prices for local people who cannot access public transport to work - another commented on the high level of travelling by second home owners.

## SETTLEMENTS

Other suggestions included utilising local energy sources such as hydro, wind and solar power, and ground source heat pumps. Other views included managing existing woodlands for sources of wood fuel with more tree planting also supported.

One person questioned the existence and cause of climate change.

### ISSUE 2: How to reduce the dependency of Exmoor's communities and visitors on fossil fuels for most of their electricity and heat generation?

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
<b>a) Require an audit/ evaluation for new development which shows:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how it can minimise energy use</li> <li>• options for renewable technologies</li> <li>• the potential for reducing greenhouse gas while conserving Exmoor's character</li> </ul>	<b>100-15 (30.0%)</b>
<b>b) Ensure renewable technologies and the additional infrastructure required such as power lines to turbines (including at sea) do not harm the National Park</b>	<b>155-13 (50.2%)</b>

#### Summary of comments:

A few comments were put forward in relation to the options outlined above. These included acting now to mitigate the effects of climate change, with renewable energy technologies supported. It was generally felt that climate change posed a greater threat to Exmoor than the appearance of renewable energy systems. Hydropower was supported by one person, but another was concerned about the impact of such schemes on neighbouring properties.

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(i) Please indicate which renewable energy technology you think is appropriate on Exmoor, and at what scale.

Scale Renewable Technologies ⓘ	Micro-scale e.g. individual properties	Farm-scale e.g. groups of buildings	Community-scale e.g. settlements
Hydro (water power)	<b>160 (11.7%)</b>	<b>74 (5.4%)</b>	<b>128 (9.4%)</b>
Wind Turbines	<b>102 (7.5%)</b>	<b>59 (4.3%)</b>	<b>59 (4.3%)</b>
Solar/Photovoltaics	<b>160 (11.7%)</b>	<b>33 (2.4%)</b>	<b>33 (2.4%)</b>
Biomass including wood fuel	<b>90 (6.6%)</b>	<b>29 (2.1%)</b>	<b>27 (2.0%)</b>
Anaerobic digesters	<b>30 (2.2%)</b>	<b>36 (2.6%)</b>	<b>29 (2.1%)</b>
Ground source heat pumps	<b>131 (9.6%)</b>	<b>27 (2.0%)</b>	<b>23 (1.7%)</b>
Air source heat pumps	<b>47 (3.4%)</b>	<b>17 (1.2%)</b>	<b>12 (0.9%)</b>
Combined heat and power	<b>31 (2.3%)</b>	<b>11 (0.8%)</b>	<b>16 (1.2%)</b>

### Summary of comments:

In relation to the various types and scales of renewable energy technologies listed above there were several additional comments made regarding what type of technology would be appropriate on Exmoor.

All aspects of renewable energy should be explored including local sources of hydro, wind and solar power – re-opening of the Dulverton hydro-electric station was suggested by some. Other systems such as anaerobic digestion, combined heat and power systems, and tidal/marine energy systems were also supported – in addition, one person was in favour of nuclear power.

Wind turbines were an emotive issue with several stating there should be no wind turbines or commercial wind farms. Some comments were more accepting of wind turbines where they would be small-scale and there was a local/community benefit.

	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
Do you think we should consider any large commercial scale wind turbines in Exmoor National Park e.g. as large as 50 metres high, to help reduce carbon emissions?	<b>70-207 (-49.5%)</b>

### Summary of comments:

In relation to whether we should consider any large commercial wind turbines on Exmoor the overall view was that this type of structure would have a detrimental landscape impact and therefore would not be suitable within a National Park. Other comments stated the inefficiency of such technology – other views included support for hydro and tidal power. There was some

## SETTLEMENTS

support for small scale turbines including a suggestion that they could provide additional revenue for farms.

### ISSUE 3: How to adapt to changing weather patterns including more extreme weather caused by climate change such as:

- increased storminess
- drier, hotter summers
- milder, wetter winters

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
<b>a) Locating, adapting and designing new development to cope with the effects of more extreme weather</b>	<b>100-6 (15.4%)</b>
<b>b) Ensuring development is located outside existing or future flood risk areas (coast and rivers)</b> ② Water Management	<b>180-5 (28.7%)</b>
<b>c) Encouraging the use of “grey water” recycling</b> Water Management	<b>146-12 (22.0%)</b>
<b>d) Encouraging the use of sustainable drainage systems and porous surfacing in new development</b> Water Management	<b>158-2 (25.6%)</b>

#### Summary of comments:

There were some comments made in relation to the options regarding adapting to changing weather patterns. Grey water recycling was generally considered to be unnecessary in a high rainfall environment such as Exmoor – two comments were in support of such measures. A number of individual comments supported community hydro, wind and tidal power technologies (although these are mitigation measures rather than adaptation).

In relation to flooding, comments included: protecting areas from flooding (e.g. Porlock Weir), keeping drainage in good order, and ensuring flood risk maps are accurate. A further comment suggested the ability to storm proof buildings such as adding porches.

The potential impacts of climate change in relation to changing weather patterns and sea level rise were questioned by some. Reference was also made to the Challacombe Weather History project.

**ISSUE 4: How to plan for the effects of climate change and sea level rise on the coast?**

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) Improve understanding of the likely effects of climate change on Exmoor’s coast by joint research and planning for areas at risk	107-9 (26.3%)
b) Do not allow any development in areas at risk of coastal change	158-15 (38.3%)
c) Allow temporary business uses (recreation/tourism) in areas currently in use but at risk of future flooding/coastal change (to enable use of the land and support the local economy)	72-12 (16.1%)

**Summary of comments:**

Only a few comments were made in relation to this issue. With regard to improving the understanding of the likely effects of climate change on the coast, suggestions included working with Bristol and Exeter universities, or whether it should form part of a nationally based effort. One comment stated that changes have to be accepted and energy from the tide/waves should be harnessed. One comment also questioned the reliability of projected sea-level rise over the next 100 years.

Concerning future development on the coast, one comment suggested protecting the coast from Minehead to Watchet (outside the National Park), another comment suggested that each site should be evaluated and design should help to combat the risk.



**ISSUE 5: How to reduce the volume of waste disposed of through landfill?**

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) Provide for public facilities to meet the need to reuse, recycle and compost materials	<b>212-1 (32.2%)</b>
b) Ensure the design of new development includes storage facilities for recycling and composting	<b>134-3 (20.0%)</b>
c) Encourage the flexible design of buildings so they can be adapted to different uses over their lifetime rather than replaced	<b>96-4 (14.0%)</b>
d) Re-use existing buildings to reduce the need for new materials, reuse building materials e.g. slate, stone, timber, and re-use construction waste such as hardcore for foundations	<b>205-0 (31.3%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

The options set out under this issue generated a number of comments. Several people commented on the need to encourage initiatives to widen the variety of recyclable materials collected (particularly plastic), and the provision of community recycling points/facilities. Schemes for re-using materials, such as furniture, or a local exchange depot were also supported. Another suggestion was to reduce the amount of packaging.

Further comments related to the use of waste incinerators and anaerobic digesters – generating power from waste.

Comments also supported the re-use of empty homes and redundant buildings.

**ISSUE 6: How to reduce the risk of pollution to maintain Exmoor’s high air and water quality, dark skies and tranquillity and protect soils and wildlife?**

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) Work with others to avoid and address pollution sources <u>within</u> the National Park such as vehicle emissions, agricultural and other runoff, light and noise pollution	<b>203-12 (55.5%)</b>
b) Work with others to avoid and address pollution sources <u>outside</u> the National Park such as vehicle emissions agricultural and other runoff, light and noise pollution	<b>121-8 (32.8%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

In relation to this issue a small number of comments were made. There was general support to reduce the number of street lights in and around the National Park – they were seen as a waste of energy and creating unnecessary light pollution.

In terms of vehicle emissions, one comment suggested a blanket speed restriction across Exmoor whereas another stated the need to encourage tourism – however the majority of visitors to Exmoor use private modes of transport.

Other comments included working with government to aim to reduce noise pollution from manufacturing businesses and encouraging small wind turbines. Action was also required on the odour and noise from Bridgetown sewage works.

**General Comments on Climate Change & Natural Resources:**

In relation to mitigating against, and adapting to the impacts of climate change there were a number of general comments. Climate change was considered to be an important issue and people commented about the benefits of organic farming and farmers as caretakers of the land. It was also stated that sustainable construction products need to be fully understood, practical and cost effective, and to accept the need to use green technologies on Exmoor. A few suggestions to reduce car use included better public transport and a rail link between Minehead and Taunton. The risk of flash flooding was also raised as well as the standard of coastal waters around Lynmouth.

In terms of pollution the main concerns listed were the impact of street lighting, other forms of domestic/business lighting and the importance of dark skies. It was also stated that developments of 10 dwellings or more would require street lighting. One comment questioned whether lead shot polluted water courses whilst another person was concerned about the impact of large events on tranquillity.

One comment questioned the existence of climate change.

### SETTLEMENTS

#### What do we want to achieve?

- **Ensuring that Exmoor's communities can thrive in the long term whilst conserving and enhancing their character**
- **Ensuring access to housing, employment, education, health, shopping and leisure services and facilities in settlements within and outside the National Park to ensure they meet people's needs**

#### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ON SETTLEMENTS

- Significant support for treating all identified settlements equally to allow for development, as opposed to the current policy which identifies a settlement order of the 3 larger settlements and 18 villages for development – this slightly contradicted with a later question where people stated that new development should only be allowed in settlements with a wide range of services and transport links.
- Some disparity over those who used the internet for grocery shopping. A significant amount of people said they never use the internet whilst the highest proportion of respondents said they sometimes use the internet.
- In terms of how to avoid the loss of and maximise the accessibility of Exmoor's community services and facilities, the most popular option was the current policy which provides that where shops and facilities are at risk of closing, support is to be given to mixed or flexible use of buildings or existing services to continue the service. It was also considered important to make sure new facilities such as village halls are designed so other services can be provided.
- With regard to the provision of recreational spaces, there was some disparity over whether there were enough children's play areas, and this was also reflected in the children's comments through the schools consultation, where children were often keen to have more recreational areas. There is also demand for more allotments.
- Where there is a large development it was felt that the developer should be required to make a contribution towards public green space.

**ISSUE 1: How to decide the most suitable locations for new development to ensure the self-sufficiency of Exmoor’s communities**

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
<p>a)As now, identify a settlement order of 3 larger settlements and 18 villages, to show where development such as affordable housing will be allowed, with some more flexibility in the 3 larger settlements</p> <p>⌚ Settlements</p>	<p><b>46-12 (15.2%)</b></p>
<p><b>b) Treat all identified settlements equally to allow for development appropriate to the size, character and need of each settlement and its parish</b></p>	<p><b>157-8 (66.8%)</b></p>

**Summary of comments:**

There were a range of comments on the issues presented above – some questioning the way the options were presented. Some of those who commented wanted a wider range of settlements identified such as hamlets. Another comment stated that Exmoor needed to evolve so people could earn a living. There was another view that there were too many properties which were holiday lets and second homes.

**Question: Are there any other options you think should be considered?**

**Summary of comments:**

There were a number of additional options suggested to address this issue. The views were mainly individual ideas and included: good/sympathetic initiatives; greater flexibility for low-impact local residential developments outside settlements; allowing small scale development on farms including log cabins for local people; or where affordable housing is allowed in the open countryside it should be through the conversion of existing buildings.

Other suggestions included open market housing, using empty properties first and de-listing deteriorating listed buildings so they can be converted to accommodation. In Challacombe a community building was needed.

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### ISSUE 2: How to access nearby towns for employment and services that are not available locally?

Communities listed the locations where they accessed key services and facilities in and around Exmoor (see individual feedback reports for further detail).

<b>Do you use the internet for grocery shopping or to purchase other items?</b>	
<b>OPTIONS</b>	<b>Overall Result</b>
a) Never	<b>127 (37.6%)</b>
b) Sometimes (once a month or less)	<b>132 (39.1%)</b>
c) Regularly (twice a month or more)	<b>79 (23.4%)</b>

### ISSUE 3: How to avoid the loss of and maximise the accessibility of Exmoor's community services and facilities?

<b>OPTIONS:</b>	<b>Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)</b>
a) As now, protect community services and facilities against change of use unless a replacement service is provided nearby or the service is proven to be unworkable <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">② Protecting Community Services</span>	<b>71-2 (10.9%)</b>
b) As now, where shops and facilities such as post-offices are at risk of closing, support mixed or flexible use of buildings or existing businesses to continue the service	<b>224-0 (35.4%)</b>
c) Make sure new facilities such as village halls are designed so other services can also be provided (e.g. out-reach medical or post office services)	<b>171-0 (27.1%)</b>
d) As now, allow new development in all settlements OR	<b>56-20 (5.7%)</b>
e) Only allow new development in those settlements with public transport links and/or a wide range of services and facilities	<b>74-14 (9.5%)</b>

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### Summary of comments:

In relation to community services and facilities, suggestions included maintaining a balanced population so that all types of facilities were used – this could be achieved through measures to support a thriving economy and ensuring sensitive business and residential development according to the need of the settlement. Essential services listed included schools, recycling facilities, and multipurpose community buildings.

### Question: What community services/facilities need to be protected in your parish?

### Summary of comments:

Community services which need to be protected were generally identified on the maps. Two comments included the Notley Arms and village hall at Monksilver, and the village hall and youth club at Roadwater.

### Question: What other services/facilities are needed in your parish?

### Summary of comments:

Services and facilities needed in local communities included:

- Roadwater: an intergeneration internet café and more equipment in the play park.
- Cutcombe: a motor vehicle repair garage (supported by seven people).
- Dulverton: town centre business premises, indoor swimming pool, and fare cars rather than empty buses.
- Parracombe: a new park.
- Brompton Regis: funding needed for the upgrading of the village hall and no further reduction in the number of schools.
- Monksilver: a village shop, public transport.
- Nettlecombe: public transport/bus stops.
- Exford: a new village hall, internet café, youth club, BMX/skateboarding facilities.
- Luxborough: employment premises.

## ISSUE 4: How to provide the right amount and types of green space within local communities?

OPTIONS	Overall Result (More are needed <u>minus</u> There are enough near my home ) <b>Note: This question is context specific</b>
Children's Play Areas	<b>47-69 (-6.2%)</b>
Park or recreation Area	<b>24-50 (-7.4%)</b>
Outdoor Sports Pitches	<b>32-36 (-1.1%)</b>
Allotments	<b>88-7 (22.9%)</b>

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### **Summary of comments:**

Comments concerning the amount and type of open space in local communities mainly related to the provision of allotments and improvement of play areas for children. One comment specifically mentioned areas for 14-18 year olds.

<b>Where there is a large development (e.g. a number of houses) should the developer be required to make a contribution towards public green space?</b>
<b>Overall Result (Yes minus No)</b>
<b>195-9 (91.2%)</b>

### **Summary of comments:**

In relation to developer contributions, one comment stated that this would be dependent on the type of development proposed.

### **Summary of General Comments on Settlements:**

Open spaces: there were several comments relating to the improvement or relocation of existing play areas in some communities – green spaces and good walking/cycling routes were desirable. One view stated that there needed to be a more proactive approach to development and another suggested that how financial contributions from developers were spent should be decided by the local community.



### HOUSING

#### What do we want to achieve?

- **Ensure an adequate supply of housing to maintain balanced living and working communities**

#### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ON HOUSING

- Of those in housing need, it was considered that residents, who have lived in a parish /adjoining parish for a continuous period of 10 years or 10 continuous years in the last 20, should have access to affordable housing. People who live close to a place of work and whose work within the National Park is of value to communities, were also given much support in being able to access affordable housing.
- It was generally considered that people should have lived 10 years or more locally to access affordable housing. However, there was some support given to those who have lived locally for 5-9 years.
- It was considered that affordable housing for local people only should be provided to meet housing needs as opposed to the provision of open market housing or affordable housing for anyone.
- In meeting the needs of an ageing population, a large proportion of respondents gave their support to the proposed option to allow the change of use of buildings (annexes) close to the main house for elderly or disabled people. Providing affordable housing for carers to live near elderly or disabled relatives with a local connection was also given support, as was allowing new health facilities and nursing homes. Some support for subdividing existing dwellings was also received.
- In managing the size and design of new self build housing so that it is adaptable to changing needs and is small enough to be affordable, respondents gave their support to the proposed option to ensure all new homes are designed so they can be adapted to suit people's changing needs over their lifetimes. There was much less support for the current policy of ensuring affordable homes are no larger than 90 square metres and where there was support, there was also disagreement to this policy. However, there was support for requiring permission for extensions to keep homes affordable, and subdividing existing dwellings to create smaller homes.
- Support was given to both current policy options to allow for more sustainable and self sufficient lifestyles through low impact land based communities outside of settlements.

**ISSUE 1: Of those in housing need, who should have access to “local needs affordable housing”?**

Local Connection:	Overall Result (Should be able to live in new housing minus Should <u>not</u> be able to live in new housing)
a) As now, residents who have lived in a parish / adjoining parish for a continuous 10 year period	<b>155-4 (19.6%)</b>
b) As now, people who have lived in a parish / adjoining parish for 10 continuous years in the last 20 (to enable people to move back)	<b>152-6 (18.9%)</b>
c) As now, a person in housing need who due to age/medical reasons cares for a person who has lived in the parish/adjoining parish for a continuous 10 year period	<b>85-1 (10.9%)</b>
d)As now, a person in housing need who needs care due to age or medical reasons and whose carer/dependent has lived for a continuous 10 year period in the parish / adjoining parish	<b>81-2 (10.2%)</b>
e) As now, people who need to live close to a place of work and whose work within the National Park is of value to Exmoor’s communities	<b>138-5 (17.2%)</b>
f) Residents living anywhere in the National Park who have done so for a continuous 10 year period	<b>44-27 (2.2%)</b>
g) People who live outside the National Park but in a parish split by the National Park boundary and have done so for 10 or more continuous years	<b>42-30 (1.6%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

In relation to the options presented for ‘local connection’ criteria a number of comments and suggestions were made. A number of comments suggested that affordable housing should be available for people working in the National Park – although some concern was raised about existing social housing being available to people from further away. One suggestion made was for second home owners to contribute more council tax to benefit the local population. Other views supported a lower threshold than 10 years to establish a local connection, and people with family links to Exmoor should also be able to qualify for affordable housing. Access to finance/mortgages was also felt to be a barrier to younger people.

Individual opinions on the design of housing included concern about the size of the homes and associated garden area, and that there should be no mini-housing estates in villages.

## HOUSING

Some comments disagreed with affordable housing for local need and others stated the need for equal opportunities. One comment claimed that the local need affordable housing approach had made Exmoor housing more expensive.

<b>(i) How long do you think people should need to have lived locally to occupy new affordable housing?</b>	
	<b>Overall Result Agree</b>
<b>5 – 9 years</b>	<b>88 (33.8%)</b>
<b>As now, 10 or more years</b>	<b>159 (61.2%)</b>
<b>At least 15 years</b>	<b>13 (5.0%)</b>

### Summary of comments:

Comments made with regard to the length of time people should have lived locally to occupy new affordable housing were generally supportive of people that are employed locally as an additional criteria (rather than length of time) – one view was that new skills should be brought to the area. Some comments suggested that the time limit should be lower or not required. A further suggestion was to build more affordable housing, whilst another idea was to utilise empty homes first.

<b>(ii) What local area do <u>you</u> think people should have lived in to occupy new affordable housing in your parish?</b>	
	<b>Overall Result Agree</b>
<b>Your parish only</b>	<b>27 (10.4%)</b>
<b>As now, your parish and/or its adjoining parishes</b>	<b>166 (64.1%)</b>
<b>The area of North Devon or West Somerset within the National Park</b>	<b>24 (9.3%)</b>
<b>Anywhere within the National Park</b>	<b>42 (16.2%)</b>

### Summary of comments:

In terms of the local area people should have lived in to occupy local need affordable housing, people who worked locally were generally considered to be an alternative option, or those who have skills to start new home-based businesses. One suggestion was to also include parishes such as Brushford.

**Question:** Please give us your views on the types of workers who should qualify for affordable housing on Exmoor.

### Summary of comments:

Several suggestions included anyone who has employment locally and on evidenced low-income. Specific types of employment suggested were: rural skills/services, local teachers, student graduates, farm workers, craftsmen/women, health workers, community workers and

## HOUSING

general service industry employees. Other comments included bringing empty homes back in to use and registering on the Somerset/Devon Homefinder housing register.

### **ISSUE 2: How to ensure that the housing needs of local communities including an ageing population are met within Exmoor National Park?**

<b>OPTIONS:</b>	<b>Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)</b>
<b>a) Open market (non affordable) housing <u>for anyone</u></b>	<b>68-38 (6.4%)</b>
<b>b) <u>Affordable</u> housing <u>for anyone</u></b>	<b>16-58 (-9.0%)</b>
<b>c) <u>Affordable</u> housing <u>for local people only</u></b>	<b>277-9 (57.5%)</b>

#### **Summary of comments:**

In relation to what type of housing should be allowed on Exmoor, the majority of comments were supportive of providing affordable housing for local people and those working locally – it was generally thought that more local affordable housing was needed. There was some concern expressed regarding existing social housing (with no local tie) which could be allocated to anyone – several comments were supportive of allocating this type of housing to local people only. There were some concerns raised about the size affordable homes being too small.

Although one comment stated that there was enough open market housing available on Exmoor, some were concerned about the opportunity for people to downsize to smaller, more adequate housing as they become older, another stated that there should be opportunities for open market housing within settlements. Other statements related to open market housing were, that such dwellings should be lived in full time and not become second homes, and that new people were needed in the area.

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<b>What provisions should be made to meet the housing needs of an ageing population?</b>	
<b>OPTIONS:</b>	<b>Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)</b>
<b>a) As now, allow new health facilities and nursing homes</b>	<b>94-2 (15.0%)</b>
<b>b) As now, provide for affordable housing for carers to live near elderly or disabled relatives with a local connection to enable them stay in their own homes</b>	<b>101-4 (15.8%)</b>
<b>c) As now, provide for affordable housing for elderly or disabled relatives to live near their carers with a local connection</b>	<b>73-2 (11.6%)</b>
<b>d) Allow the change of use of buildings (annexes) close to the main house for elderly or disabled people</b>	<b>186-4 (29.7%)</b>
<b>e) As now, allow the sub-division of houses in settlements to open market housing but in the open countryside make sure the additional home can only be lived in by a local person in need of affordable housing OR</b>	<b>53-15 (6.2%)</b>
<b>f) Allow for the sub-division of houses anywhere in the National Park but do not require the additional home to be affordable for local people. This could allow a carer to live in the additional home created</b>	<b>69-9 (9.8%)</b>

### Summary of comments:

There were a number of different comments relating to the options outlined above – but overall it seemed that there should be a flexible approach to such provisions. There was some support to enable the subdivision of existing dwellings to create smaller, more manageable units (or an additional unit for a carer); although one comment disagreed with ensuring that the additional unit had a local need tie. Conversions of existing buildings to annexes were also supported; however, there were some concerns about the long-term occupancy of such developments (such as the risk of becoming holiday lets).

Other separate comments included the re-use of empty dwellings, local healthcare provision, succession dwellings on farms, and allowing those who have the means/land to build their own retirement homes.

### Question: Do you have any comments on the current approach to the location of new homes?

### Summary of comments:

In relation to the location of new housing there were some location specific comments relating to existing housing and areas for new housing. With regard to housing on farms there were a number of separate comments which promoted log cabins, dwellings for retired farmers, and conversions of redundant farm/isolated buildings for local needs – although one person felt that farms should not become mini-hamlets.

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Other individual views supported the organic growth of settlements (including open market housing), a mix of open market and affordable housing in settlements, low impact sustainable builds, and new housing in those settlements with a range of services. A number of comments were in support of new development within settlements and in walking distance of key facilities. In relation to affordable dwellings one comment stated that they should be designed for rural living and include storage buildings etc.

### ISSUE 3: How to manage the size and design of new self build housing so that it is adaptable to changing needs and is small enough to be affordable?

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) As now, encourage the creation of smaller (i.e. more affordable) homes from larger ones through subdivision and, outside settlements, require that any additional homes are affordable and for local communities <u>OR</u>	<b>72-9 (15.1%)</b>
b) Encourage the creation of smaller (i.e. more affordable) homes from larger ones through subdivision and not require that these smaller, newly created homes are affordable	<b>32-16 (3.8%)</b>
c) As now, ensure the size of new build homes is no larger than 90 square metres to ensure they remain more affordable in the long term (info symbol) Keeping Self-Build Homes Affordable	<b>53-45 (1.9%)</b>
d) As now, require planning permission for extensions / additional buildings in the garden of local affordable homes to ensure they remain more affordable	<b>74-8 (15.8%)</b>
e) Ensure all new homes are designed so they can be adapted to suit people's changing needs over their lifetimes	<b>105-4 (24.2%)</b>

#### Summary of comments:

There were very few comments relating to the options set out above. One comment stated that some people in affordable housing need had large families and 90m<sup>2</sup> would be too small. One comment supported sub-divisions which would create smaller more affordable units. In relation to creating lifetime homes, one person thought they should have a local tie, and another thought that an extension to a property would be more viable than moving house.

## HOUSING

**Question:** Can you suggest any other approaches which may ensure new housing is designed and built to be more affordable and meet the needs of local households in housing need?

### **Summary of comments:**

Community self-builds and low-impact eco-builds were new housing approaches which were well supported – including log cabins. Some comments were concerned by the maximum size of self-build affordable dwellings (90m<sup>2</sup>) and suggested a range of house sizes, additional outbuildings and larger living space.

Other comments related to the use of materials, one supporting local, natural materials whilst a contradictory comment stated that building materials should not be only expensive local/natural materials.

### **ISSUE 4: How to allow for more sustainable and self sufficient lifestyles through low-impact land based communities outside settlements?**

<b>OPTIONS:</b>	<b>Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)</b>
<b>a) As now, allow new-build local affordable housing within or next to settlements –people who would like to live self-sufficiently may qualify</b>	<b>100-9 (34.3%)</b>
<b>b) As now, allow conversions of existing buildings on farmsteads or within hamlets to affordable housing for local people - people who would like to live self-sufficiently may qualify</b>	<b>147-9 (52.1%)</b>

### **Summary of comments:**

With regard to the issue of low-impact land based communities there were a few supporting comments and some suggestions stated that locations outside settlements should also be considered for this type of community where there would be a low visual impact. Other views supported the location next to existing settlements, whilst other concerns were raised regarding who would live there, and whether such communities could be truly self-sufficient.

### **Summary of General Comments on Housing:**

There were several general comments relating to second homes and holiday homes within the National Park. The main comments on this topic had regard to: raising council tax rates, banning second homes, needing to prevent homes being sold as second homes, paying capital gains tax on second homes, and ensuring they are occupied for 6 months or longer as holiday/second homes are wasted for much of the year. Other concerns were that these types of properties



## HOUSING

were not supporting local communities and several communities were already suffering as a result of the high proportion of such homes.

In relation to the provision of affordable homes, a number of suggestions were made – these included: a first time buyers mortgage scheme, shared-ownership options, building smaller affordable units for young single people, bringing empty homes back into occupation, and enabling Housing Associations to buy suitable housing on the open market. Other concerns were raised relating to the current approach of affordable housing delivery included the level of bureaucracy, making the planning process more affordable (for affordable homes), and future funding for affordable homes by considering cross-subsidy from open market housing. A further comment stated that more alternative options for housing were needed. One person also remarked that extensions on smaller properties increases the value and makes it impossible for a first time buyer to purchase.

A number of suggestions were made in relation to delivering housing in the National Park – such as: allowing dwellings on farms for family members, building sustainably rather than cheaply, building more houses to lower prices, providing mixed tenure housing for viable communities, allowing open market residential housing for older people in the larger settlements, converting redundant employment buildings to residential units, using convertible stock before building new properties, and making land available for new self-builds/eco-builds. One person stated that there should be no new housing in locations with no services (i.e. shops, school, bus service etc), whilst a further comment stated the importance of developing the local economy to provide jobs.

**ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT****What do we want to achieve?**

- **Encourage economic activities and employment opportunities to support Exmoor's communities which also benefit from, conserve and help to promote the National Park's special qualities.**

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ON ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT**

- Overwhelming support for all the options to increase the working age population and improve employment opportunities. However, most support was given to helping people to stay on or return to Exmoor by encouraging a greater variety of businesses, including more skilled/highly paid work and those which will help Exmoor be more self sufficient.
- Significant support was given to encouraging land and buildings for businesses which do not harm Exmoor's landscape and wildlife.
- It was considered that new farm and farm diversification buildings should only be allowed where their need can be proven which contrasts to the current policy of allowing new farm and farm diversification buildings without proving a need (this option received little support).
- Policies requiring design standards for farm buildings received support. However, there was no significant support given in favour of any one option.
- Current policies were generally supported for citing new/extended business premises to reduce the need to travel and not harm the landscape. In particular, support was given to the current policy which allows for the change of use of existing buildings to business use in any location (apart from isolated buildings).
- Most of the options were supported to support home workers and the self-employed on Exmoor. The most support was given to the current policies of allowing home working in houses or converted outbuildings in any location and allowing some small extensions to new homes and new outbuildings within the garden or close to the property for home working in any location. Virtually no support was given to the proposed option to only allow extensions to homes and new outbuildings for the purposes of home working within or next to settlements.
- Support was given to all the options to increase tourism's contribution to the local economy and employment without harming landscape and wildlife. However, there was some disagreement to the current policy of permitting game shooting where it will not harm tranquillity, public safety or access rights.
- Support was given to all the options to locate new self catering accommodation. Allowing holiday lets on farms and through the reuse of existing buildings as part of farm diversification schemes received the most support.
- Although most support was given to the current policy to allow holiday lets to become affordable housing for local communities but require planning permission to switch back to holiday lets, there was still significant support given to allowing holiday lets to become affordable housing for local communities, but to be able to change back to holiday lets in the future – without requiring planning permission.
- Most people supported the option to allow new hotels and guest houses anywhere in the National Park through the conversion of existing buildings.
- The most appropriate use for unviable hotels/guest houses was considered to be a mix of uses depending on viability and location.
- In accommodating staff needed by hotels, it was considered that staff should be accommodated within existing premises.

**ISSUE 1: How to increase the working age population and improve employment opportunities?**

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) As now, prioritise small and more affordable homes to suit the needs of people of working age who would otherwise be unable to stay on or return to Exmoor	<b>193-5 (19.2%)</b>
b) As now, protect existing businesses such as offices, workshops, industrial uses, storage facilities, hotels, shops, pubs and restaurants	<b>195-6 (19.3%)</b>
c) As now, allow farm diversification businesses that support existing farms to help people stay in work	<b>206-1 (21.0%)</b>
d) Help people stay on or return to Exmoor by encouraging a greater variety of businesses, including more skilled / highly paid work and those which will help Exmoor be more self-sufficient i.e. providing local services and products	<b>230-2 (23.3%)</b>
e) Work with others to ensure there are adequate facilities close to the National Park to serve Exmoor's businesses where they cannot be located within Exmoor	<b>135-4 (13.4%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

With regard to the options outlined above, a number of comments were made regarding the need for employment opportunities and affordable homes. People supported a greater variety of work which would help keep settlements and their services viable. Some concerns were raised regarding the size of affordable homes (90m<sup>2</sup> too small) and the need for housing for new employers/entrepreneurs.

**Question: What types of farm diversification (if any) do you think are appropriate on Exmoor?**

**Summary of comments:**

In relation to the question above, a number of people suggested variety of farm diversification and employment opportunities – the recommendations put forward, included: rural compatibility, green energy, tourism/eco-tourism, local food production, market gardening, craft uses, light industry, small office uses, farm-related initiatives/diversification, and holiday cottages. There were also suggestions of utilising/converting existing buildings on farms to accommodate

## ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

business opportunities or to allow the conversion of buildings to local affordable homes for farm workers or live/work units.

Types of farm diversification which were not condoned were growing elephant grass (Miscanthus) or car racing tracks.


### ISSUE 2: How to maintain a positive relationship between the local economy and Exmoor's landscape and wildlife?

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
<b>a) As now, encourage land and buildings for businesses which do not harm Exmoor including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional land based activities</li> <li>• Processing agricultural / forestry products e.g. timber/ food</li> <li>• Sustainable tourism and appropriate recreational activities</li> </ul>	<b>164-2 (18.6%)</b>
<b>b) As now, allow new workshops and stores through conversions or new-build facilities in settlements e.g. for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processing agricultural / forestry products</li> <li>• Traditional building construction and materials</li> <li>• Local produce</li> </ul>	<b>131-1 (15.0%)</b>
<b>c) As now, allow new farm and farm diversification buildings <u>without</u> proving a need for the buildings <u>OR</u></b>	<b>29-26 (0.3%)</b>
<b>d) Only allow new farm and farm diversification buildings where their need can be proven</b>	<b>113-17 (11.0%)</b>
<b>e) Only allow new farm diversification that reuses traditional farm buildings <u>OR</u></b>	<b>16-20 (-0.5%)</b>
<b>f) As now, allow new farm diversification that reuses existing traditional farm buildings wherever possible but does allow for the reuse of modern buildings</b>	<b>103-7 (11.0%)</b>
<b>DESIGN</b>	
<b>g) Require the same standard of building design for new farm and forestry buildings as currently required for other types of development e.g. using natural and traditional materials <u>OR</u></b>	<b>77-5 (8.3%)</b>
<b>h) As now, allow more modern materials for farm and forestry buildings and 'off the peg' designs e.g. for farm sheds</b>	<b>73-10 (7.2%)</b>
<b>i) Revise guidance to help ensure the design of new farm and forestry development fits in with the local landscape</b>	<b>74-4 (8.0%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

In relation to maintaining a positive relationship between the local economy and Exmoor’s landscape and wildlife – there were a number of comments relating to controlling the size/design/location of new agricultural buildings in the National Park. Other individual suggestions included encouraging green initiatives, undergrounding overhead power lines, supporting designs which utilise timber as a building material, and positively encouraging the economy which will have the means to encourage landscape and wildlife conservation.

**ISSUE 3: Where is the most appropriate location for new/extended business premises to reduce the need to travel and not harm the local landscape?**

	OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
<b>New-Build Premises (non-agricultural)</b>	As now, only allow new-build business premises within or next to <u>any settlements</u> OR	<b>76-10 (13.0%)</b>
	Only allow new-build business premises within or next to settlements with a wide range of facilities	<b>57-11 (9.0%)</b>
<b>Conversion to Business Use</b>	As now, allow for the change of use of existing buildings to business use in any location (apart from isolated buildings)	<b>105-11 (18.5%)</b>
<b>Extension of Premises</b>	As now, allow the extension of existing buildings in any location OR	<b>78-2 (14.9%)</b>
	Allow the extension of existing business premises only within or next to settlements	<b>35-2 (6.5%)</b>
<b>Allocating Land for Business Use</b> 	As now, <u>do not</u> allocate land/buildings but maintain a more flexible approach to the location of future business uses OR	<b>76-5 (13.9%)</b>
	Allocate land/buildings for future business uses	<b>38-3 (6.9%)</b>

## ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

### Summary of comments:

There were only three comments made under this issue relating to whether new build premises were suitable in settlements with inadequate facilities, why isolated buildings can not be converted, and the suitability of converted buildings for different types of business. Two comments also stated that business sites in Dunster should not be restricted to the High Street/Church Street core retail area and should be allowed in Dunster as a whole.

### ISSUE 4: How to support home workers and the self-employed on Exmoor?

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) As now, allow home working in houses or converted related outbuildings <u>in any location</u>	<b>166-2 (35.3%)</b>
b) Only allow extensions to homes and new outbuildings for the purposes of home working within or next to settlements <u>OR</u>	<b>10-11 (-0.2%)</b>
c) As now, allow some small <u>extensions</u> to homes <u>and new</u> outbuildings within the garden or close to the property for the purposes of home working <u>in any location</u>	<b>166-3 (35.1%)</b>
d) Encourage facilities for home workers to meet and share resources e.g. office / meeting space and I.T. equipment	<b>103-3 (21.6%)</b>

### Summary of comments:

A number of comments were made in relation to supporting home-workers and the self-employed particularly the importance of accessibility to high speed broadband, mobile phone reception and transport links (including public transport). Other suggestions included more active promotion of grants/schemes available, securing planning permission, business rate relief, and promoting the fact that a variety of successful non-tourism/agricultural businesses can be run from Exmoor.

**ISSUE 5: How to increase tourism’s contribution to the local economy and employment without harming Exmoor’s landscape and wildlife?**

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) Support tourism providers in providing year-round facilities (such as restaurants, cafes etc)	<b>170-8 (21.7%)</b>
b) Encourage recreation and education facilities to promote the quiet enjoyment of Exmoor by a variety of people	<b>182-12 (22.8%)</b>
c) Encourage facilities that enable local producers to supply Exmoor’s tourism businesses and visitors	<b>202-2 (26.8%)</b>
d) As now, permit game shooting (i.e. in the low season) where it will not harm tranquillity, public safety or access rights	<b>128-43 (11.4%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

Further comments made on this issue included a number on game shooting – particularly relating to the impact on the landscape, tranquillity and the environment –one person also remarked that the game-shooting industry did bring employment and money into the area.

A number of comments also related to promoting what Exmoor has to offer to enhance tourism in the National Park – ideas included: holding more events, focussing on the Exmoor band and better marketing, providing parking facilities, ensuring tourism facilities are open and available, promoting Exmoor’s dark skies, encouraging craft producers, and controlling the amount of holiday accommodation.

In relation to rights of way, one comment suggested that their use should be more tightly controlled (i.e. no cycling on footpaths) whilst another asked about disabled access.



**ISSUE 6: Where should new self-catering visitor accommodation be located?**

<b>OPTIONS:</b>	<b>Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)</b>
a) As now, allow for holiday lets on farms through the reuse of existing buildings only as part of farm diversification schemes	<b>149-16 (35.3%)</b>
b) As now, allow for holiday lets in Dulverton, Lynton & Lynmouth and Porlock through the reuse of existing buildings	<b>78-15 (16.7%)</b>
c) Allow existing hotels/guesthouses/B&Bs to convert part of their businesses to holiday lets	<b>111-8 (27.3%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

In relation to where new self-catering accommodation should be located there were a small number of comments which mostly were questioning why holiday lets could be provided through farm diversification when a more flexible approach would be more suitable to allow other types of redundant building to be converted. Other comments related to the large number of holiday lets along Tors Road in Lynmouth, and properties being bought for second homes. One person stated that more camp sites should be encouraged.

**Where the owner wishes to, what are the best alternative use(s) for under-occupied self-catering visitor accommodation?**

<b>OPTIONS:</b>	<b>Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)</b>
a) Allow holiday lets to become affordable housing for local communities, and be able to change back to holiday lets in the future <b>OR</b>	<b>102-12 (32.4%)</b>
b) As now, allow holiday lets to become affordable housing for local communities but require planning permission to switch back to holiday lets	<b>130-18 (40.3%)</b>
c) Wherever possible find an appropriate alternative business use	<b>10-6 (1.4%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

For under-occupied self-catering accommodation suggestions included: allowing flexibility of use depending on economic conditions, encouraging business ideas/opportunities, and not interfering in the free-market economy. One person asked whether it was morally acceptable to have holiday-let properties empty most of the year.

**ISSUE 7: Where should new hotels and guest houses be located?**

Please tell us where you think new hotels and guest houses through the conversion of existing buildings would best be located?

Lynton/Lynmouth, Porlock & Dulverton	Villages	Anywhere in the National Park
<b>49 (33.1%)</b>	<b>24 (16.2%)</b>	<b>75 (50.7%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

A few comments were made in which the majority were stating that there was sufficient serviced accommodation available on Exmoor already, with some hotels already changed to residential use.

**ISSUE 8: What are appropriate uses for unviable hotels / guest-houses?**

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
Holiday lets	<b>30-14 (3.7%)</b>
Other employment uses	<b>38-2 (8.3%)</b>
Community uses	<b>29-2 (6.2%)</b>
Affordable housing	<b>98-8 (20.8%)</b>
A mix of affordable housing and open market housing	<b>69-4 (15.0%)</b>
A mix of the above depending on viability and location	<b>137-2 (31.2%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

Suggestions and comments made in relation to this issue included: changing use to open market housing, ensuring hotels/guest houses are converted solely for local affordable housing, having no restrictions to change of use, and reverting to a house (if hotel/guest house was a house originally). Specific comments were made in support of a recent application for a hotel to change use to residential.

**ISSUE 9: How to accommodate staff needed by hotels?**

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) As now, do not make any specific provisions.	29-4 (11.5%)
b) Allow hotels to accommodate staff within their existing premises	120-2 (54.1%)
c) Allow hotels to be extended for the purposes of staff accommodation	47-16 (14.2%)

**Summary of comments:**

There were some comments made in support of staff accommodation for hotels with suggestions including purpose built flats, extensions to the premises, providing more affordable housing and staff accommodation within the hotel (although it was considered not an ideal situation). One comment stated that if local people were employed, such accommodation would not be required.

**Summary of General Comments on Economy & Employment:**

A few comments were made in general with regard to supporting local businesses – especially those in agriculture and providing community services such as pubs, shops and petrol stations. A further comment supported the promotion of sustainable businesses relating to climate change and green technology.

## TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

### What do we want to achieve?

- Encourage travel by sustainable transport, whilst recognising the need to travel by private transport in a rural area such as Exmoor
- Improve the number and frequency of public transport services and the opportunity for walking, cycling and horse-riding

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ON TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support was given to all the options to improve public transport and opportunities for safe walking, cycling and horse-riding as an alternative to car travel. Encouraging county councils and transport providers to try to retain, improve and promote greater use of existing public and community transport and working with others to link rights of way (including across the National Park boundary), received the most support. Support also to ensure new developments and other opportunities provide for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.
- In reducing traffic congestion, working with highways authorities and others to address traffic congestion, speed and parking within settlements while not increasing unnecessary signage, received the most support. Also agreement with minimising road infrastructure and signage whilst ensuring any such infrastructure is properly designed and sited.
- There was support for all the options to ensure essential utilities and infrastructure is provided in a way which does not harm Exmoor's landscape. In particular there was significant support for ensuring all new electricity wires are underground. There was also significant support given to allowing new masts to be located and designed so Exmoor's landscape is not harmed e.g. requiring new telecommunication masts to be designed to mimic features such as trees or using existing structures.
- There was overwhelming support given to the current policy of seeking complete broadband and enhanced mobile phone coverage of the National Park and improving quality and speed links.

### ISSUE 1: How to improve public transport and opportunities for safe walking, cycling and horse-riding as an alternative to car travel?

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) Encourage county councils and transport providers to try to retain, improve and promote greater use of existing public and community transport e.g. • bus services • community transport / car sharing schemes • the West Somerset Railway	212-3 (41.4%)
b) Work with others to link rights of way e.g. footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes with public transport including across the National Park boundary	173-2 (33.9%)
c) As now, ensure new developments and other opportunities provide for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders e.g. cycle parking or new footpaths / cycle ways	111-4 (21.2%)

**Summary of comments:**

A number of comments were made in relation to the options outlined above. A popular theme was public rights of way – particularly with regard to improving the maintenance of public rights of way on Exmoor, improving linkages between path networks, and the use of paths. Other comments included suggestions for a cycleway from Brushford to Dulverton and safer cycling through Dunster.

Upgrading the West Somerset Railway to provide commuter train services to Taunton was also a frequent suggestion, in addition to encouraging the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway project. Comments also supported the improvement of public transport provision on Exmoor, especially for those who cannot drive.

Wider ranging comments were made in relation to Highways winter road maintenance such as the salting programme, and also included requiring more white lining and cat’s eyes to improve safety.

One comment stated that events which prioritise public transport initiatives should be encouraged, such as Snowdrop Valley and Exmoor Explorer.

**ISSUE 2: How to reduce traffic congestion, high traffic speeds and manage demand for parking space in peak periods?**

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) Work with highways authorities and others to address traffic congestion, speed and parking within settlements while not increasing unnecessary signage	141-2 (40.1%)
b) As now, set parking standards which reflect national guidance on maximum car parking standards and require cycle parking in new development	32-12 (5.8%)
c) Reflect local circumstances in setting the level of car and cycle parking in new developments	73-2 (20.5%)
d) As now, do not provide for peak public car parking need, but seek other solutions such as seasonal park and ride (e.g. on edge of the National Park) and temporary overflow parking	62-23 (11.2%)

**Summary of comments:**

In relation to the issue of parking, traffic congestion and traffic speed a number of comments were made. Suggestions regarding car parking in the National Park included: providing daily/weekly/monthly car parking ticket for all car parks across Exmoor, addressing the lack of public car parking in Dulverton, private off-street car parking also needed in some villages (Timberscombe and Hawkcombe were specifically mentioned) to reduce congestion, utilising business car parks at weekends, and keeping parking free.

Lynton & Barnstaple Railway was also suggested to help to increase tourism and provide some public transport such as a park and ride facility at Blackmoor Gate. Another comment stated that park and ride schemes should be encouraged e.g. from Minehead.

## TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

In relation to traffic speed, suggestions included: a 20mph limit in all settlements, traffic calming measures, and a blanket speed limit across Exmoor. One person was concerned about the number of speed signs in some villages (20, 30, and 40) whilst another commented that on Exmoor the need to use the private car should be recognised.

### ISSUE 3: How to ensure essential utilities and infrastructure (roads, electricity supply, phone masts, sewage works etc) is provided in a way that does not harm Exmoor's landscape?

OPTIONS:	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) As now, ensure new electricity line supplies to conversions to be underground	<b>151-6 (16.7%)</b>
b) Ensure all new electricity lines are underground	<b>250-6 (28.1%)</b>
c)As now, allow new masts (e.g. phone masts) to be located and designed so Exmoor's landscape is not harmed e.g. require masts to be designed to mimic features such as trees or use existing structures	<b>193-3 (21.9%)</b>
d)As now, ensure adequate water and sewage infrastructure is provided including the extension of sewage treatment plants	<b>96-2 (10.8%)</b>
e)Work with highways authorities to minimise road infrastructure and signage and ensure it is appropriately designed and sited	<b>161-1 (18.4%)</b>

#### Summary of comments:

There was general support for undergrounding existing power lines in settlements and conservation areas – however one person noted that this would make it difficult to repair such lines.

People also commented that there were too many unnecessary road signs, but traditional signposts and infrastructure such as telephone kiosks should be retained. There was also some concern raised over the consultation process between Somerset Highways and other bodies including landowners and the ENPA.

In relation to mobile phone masts views included: forcing mobile phone providers to share masts, providing more phone masts to increase coverage, ensuring environmentally friendly masts (in terms of visual impact), and to fully consider the necessity for more masts. One person thought the masts designed to resemble trees were terrible.

**ISSUE 4: How to ensure that all communities in the National Park have access to broadband technology and enhanced mobile phone coverage?**

OPTIONS	Overall Result (Agree minus Disagree)
a) As now, seek complete coverage of the National Park and improve the quality and speed of links	<b>184-8 (91.7%)</b>

**Summary of comments:**

There were a small number of comments under this issue concerning: the need for broadband as essential to developing new businesses, siting phone masts on church towers and other tall structures, the limited number of mobile phone providers, and to include access to digital television under this issue.

**Summary of General Comments on Transport & Infrastructure:**

There was general support for the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway (particularly at the Lynton event) with some considerations relating to the route through farm land. In Lynmouth it was considered that the foreshore should be opened more frequently to enable people to park and stay longer in the area – accommodating periods when peak parking is required.

In relation to public transport comments were supportive of retaining existing services, improving access to other areas of Exmoor where possible, and extending the more frequent bus services to earlier and later in the day. One comment also promoted a community car schemes in Roadwater which several people agreed with.

General transport comments included: working with satellite navigation companies so that inappropriate vehicles such as lorries do not get stuck in narrow lanes, only allowing lorries associated with logging activities during fine weather, and preventing caravans on A39 between Porlock and Lynmouth (Porlock Hill & Countisbury Hill).

In relation to mobile phone masts, there was some concern over the lack of signal and providers across Exmoor – this was also raised as a safety issue.



