**Addendum - Additional Comments**

A number of comments were sent to the Authority which were not in response to the online survey. Those with permission to be made public are set out in the schedule below.

**Additional Comments added after 14/6/2022**

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| Name/Organisation | Comment | ENPA Officer Response |
| Jeremy Payne | Primarily, I think it’s entirely unacceptable to invite comment at the online forum at a mere 48 hours’ notice. This is what happened in November. I wished to participate but had just taken on an urgent freelance job that precluded my attendance.  There are a number of issues I would have liked to have raised; one is UPVC window frames. I do not believe the Park’s policy has kept pace with advances in modern materials. Like many of us, I loathed the old-style PVC white window and door frames; they looked cheap, nasty and out of character with historic buildings. However, the new generation of UPVC frames are not only indistinguishable from high quality wood, they have more than twice the durability. It is anachronistic to treat these new materials exactly the same as their low-quality predecessors and the Park’s planning policy should now recognise this. Surely the time of the Historic Buildings Officer is worth more than having to check up on these entirely inappropriate regulations?  I also feel that the difficult balance between conservation and development has tipped too far in the direction of conservation. Of course, we all want to lead sustainable lives and respect the environment and society at large. My family have been on Exmoor since the late 1940’s, since when they/we have sensitively transformed uninhabitable farm buildings into a very special moorland home and business. But too many valuable projects are being derailed by excessively zealous application of the letter of Planning Policy. This is a situation that cannot be allowed to continue if this relatively little-known and underdeveloped area is to fulfil its wonderful potential. | The National Park Authority sent out a “placeholder” invitation in October 2021 to “save the date” of the workshop held in December and an email in the week before the event. It is understood and appreciated that people are busy that are prepared to give their time to take part in events like the workshop. As not everyone who may have wished to, would have been able to take part in the virtual workshop, an opportunity was also provided to respond via an online survey which was available for over 6 weeks until 28th February 2022.  National Park statutory purposes include the conservation & enhancement of natural beauty and cultural heritage. These provide the framework for design policies to reflect local distinctiveness including through traditional materials. The Local Plan provides flexibility in particular circumstances for the use of non-traditional materials. Appeal decisions have supported and applied flexibility as appropriate through Local Plan policies.  In terms of the balance of conservation and development, the work of National Park Authorities is legally provided through National Park statutory purposes:   * Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage (of the National Parks); and * Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of the National Parks) by the public.   In pursuing the statutory purposes, National Park Authorities have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities.  These were the starting point for the Exmoor National Park Local Plan. Policies should achieve both purposes and in so doing, support Exmoor’s local communities and economy. Additionally, the ‘Sandford principle’ is that where there is irreconcilable conflict between the National Park purposes, the first purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage should prevail.[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| Philip Griffin | I have read the information supplied by you, on the Exmoor Young Voices home seekers recommendations, and concerns of young people on Exmoor. I hope their concerns will be looked at, and considered, and included when the 5 year review of National Park plan is carried out, which I understand is happening now.  These people are the future of Exmoor, and consideration must be made for them, so they, and Exmoor can prosper, for the benefit of everyone. | The Local Plan 5-Year Review is intended to look at evidence and other factors to enable the Authority to decide whether a review of the Local Plan is needed.  The existing Exmoor Local Plan provides a bespoke approach to planning for new housing for Exmoor. It prioritises affordable housing for local people. It also provides for other specific housing needed by local communities. The Local Plan priority for local need affordable housing reflects the fact that high house prices on Exmoor mean existing market housing is unlikely to be affordable for local people, including workers, and families in housing need.  Updated evidence indicates there continues to be a need for affordable housing for local people – who in practice are often younger people and families. The Local Plan is clear that new housing that is affordable for local communities is key to enabling families to stay living and working on Exmoor or to return or move to Exmoor for work and that this helps maintain balanced communities and support local services such as schools.  A framework which prioritises local affordable housing and other housing needed by the community - enables proposals for the kinds of housing needed locally to come forward. This includes affordable self/custom build housing which Exmoor Young Voices is supporting. Such housing has a local need occupancy tie in perpetuity. |

1. 28 HM Government (1949) The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 - Section 11a (2) (as amended by Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995). It also states that “in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park, any relevant authority shall have regard to the National Park purposes specified in subsection (1) of section five of this Act and, if it appears that there is a conflict between those purposes, shall attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area comprised in the National Park” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)