

## **EDDC Councillor report for Seaton Town Council meeting on 3 October 2022**

**Report produced by Jack Rowland on 29 September 2022**

### **Subjects directly related to Seaton**

#### **Racal brownfield site**

Following on from the information I gave in my report for the September meeting the new owners are planning to have a show apartment ready by next spring.

#### **Seaton Heights – Planning Ref No. 21/1782/MFUL**

The EDDC planning portal does not show any further updates since my last report. As a reminder the pre-application enquiry. proposed 42 holiday homes, an associated office / reception area and a shop with associated carparking. The holiday homes would be 2 storey made up of 19 4 beds, 14 3 beds and 9 2 beds. An EDDC Landscape Officer responded to the pre-application on 5 January this year, but to date the portal does not reflect any response to the points raised.

#### **Hook & Parrott site**

I understand that a sale, subject to contract, has now been agreed so we are waiting to hear more news assuming the sale completes.

#### **Seaton Coach Park**

I am waiting to hear from the EDDC Carpark Services Manager regarding his discussions with the school bus companies and local companies in advance of the 21 day consultation period required before any changes are introduced.

#### **Axe Valley Levelling Up Bid**

We are expecting to hear the result of the bid sometime in November. The subject is also on the EDDC Cabinet agenda for 5 October in connection whether the bid is successful or not as the recommendation is to utilise an existing £50k budget to appoint a project manager to deliver the schemes if the bid succeeds or the options to be considered on alternative funding.

#### **Moridunum site**

As previously reported the Levelling Up bid includes the Moridunum site and in the meantime I along with Cllrs Ledger, Arnott and Hayward met the EDDC Service Lead for Place, Assets and Commercialisation on 28 September as the Cabinet members were already having a meeting with the Senior Management Team of EDDC on that day. Apart from an update on the latest situation the Cllrs provided an update on their views having visited the site on 27 September.

## **Jurassic Centre**

This subject is also on the agenda for the EDDC Cabinet meeting on 5 October, but is in part B of the meeting where the public and press are excluded as the item is to consider the 2 offers made that contain commercially sensitive information.

The Cabinet members have had the opportunity to receive presentations from the 2 parties on 28 September and ask questions in advance of considering and making a decision on 5 October as a recommendation to Full Council.

## **Councillor Surgeries**

I've attended both surgeries on 20 August and 24 September where all Town, District Councillors and our County Councillor were invited. Many of the resident comments and questions raised do relate to EDDC concerning planning applications, refuse and recycling collections, the Jurassic Centre future, the seafront plans for example so I was able to answer the vast majority face to face or have subsequently answered the question.

I appreciate that many Councillors have other commitments, as we all do, but the attendance at the surgeries by Town Councillors, particularly on 24 September, has been disappointing as apart from myself, Amrik, Eric and Marcus attended.

## **Wider EDDC subjects within the Finance Portfolio**

### **Motorhomes / Campervans proposed policy**

In view of the pilot that has been operating in Exmouth regarding the use of suitable EDDC carparks to allow overnight motorhome / campervan parking and sleeping I chaired a working party on 11 July that involved EDDC / DCC Officers and Exmouth based Cllrs at Town, District and County level.

The outcome from the working party discussion has resulted in a proposed motorhome / campervan policy and the report is on the agenda for the EDDC Cabinet meeting on 7 September. The report is recommending that relevant EDDC towns, such as Seaton, set up their own representative working party to consider adopting the same Exmouth policy for relevant EDDC carparks, but have the ability to decide on a local charging structure based on local knowledge and requirements taking into account local private companies that provide facilities for these type of vehicles. The recommendation was approved to enable the process of setting up the individual working parties to begin in relevant areas of the district.

### **Carparks**

The latest available data shows that almost 60% of the income is now paid by card or the Ringo app and cash now accounts for 28% with the remaining balance from permits.

Despite the reservations expressed at the time that some car park charges were doubling (bearing in mind that charges had not been increased for 10 years and during that time VAT had also increased from 17.5% to 20%) the actual income against the

budgeted income for the financial year to date to the end of August shows the income in excess of the expected amount.

If Town Councillors have related questions on any of these subjects I will either answer them at the meeting on 3 October or provide written answers subsequently.

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