



Cllr Jack Rowland blog post

My name is Jack Rowland and I wanted to write about a few subjects that many of you are naturally concerned about. My blog post attempts to set out the current situation as I understand it and the role, if any, that Seaton Town Council can play in resolving the issues.

Fosse Way Court Development

Planning permission was granted by East Devon District Council (EDDC) in December 2014 with a number of approved revisions since then. Initial construction work of laying foundations started in 2017 and further funding for the whole scheme was received from several institutions spanning 2019 to 2022.

The project encountered a number of challenges. The foundations had to be redesigned to cope with the loadings and the piling work re-engaged twice resulting in a 9 month delay. This was followed by issues with scaffolding and all the time the costs and interest charges were rising.

By May 2025 the primary funder instructed agents to carry out a strategic review of the scheme and the result of the review was that the funder decided to withdraw. This led to Fosseway Transitions Ltd being placed into administration in June 2025 and the administrator, Begbie Traynor, appointing MDA Consulting Ltd to carry out a full assessment and advise on the most appropriate strategy going forward.

I phoned the administrator on 9 January who confirmed that the assessment has been completed and the administrator is now considering a way forward.

The Lookout on West Walk

This building was purchased from EDDC via an auction by a company based in Wiltshire. However, since that purchase several years ago the company has never submitted a planning application or indication of how they envisage it will be used.

As a result the property has continued to deteriorate and has been subjected to graffiti and anti-social behaviour. Despite letters from Seaton Town Council to the owners nothing has progressed and I have been pressing EDDC to use their powers to issue what is called a Section 215 enforcement notice to the owners requiring them to improve the building. To date EDDC have not agreed to issue that enforcement notice, but I continue to lobby them to take that action.

Conclusion

If you have read this far you will appreciate that all 3 sites on our seafront are privately owned and for various reasons are outside the direct control of Seaton Town Council and are at different stages of hopefully being resolved. As both a Seaton resident and a Town Councillor I am as frustrated as anyone with the impact that these 3 sites have on our seafront and the current impression they give to visitors as we rely heavily on the tourism industry.



Hook & Parrot

Planning approval for the redevelopment of the site into a ground floor restaurant and apartments was granted by EDDC in February 2022 and because that permission expired without work commencing a further scheme with slight variations was approved in November 2025 with a number of conditions to be met.

Hopefully the developer has the funding in place to meet those conditions and start the redevelopment before the more recent approval expires again.

SEATON'S SEAFRONT: progress, challenges and next steps