

## Sandra Hutchings

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**From:** DPD  
**Subject:** FW: Response to Scoping Report

**From:** Anne Roxbee Cox  
**Sent:** 18 August 2013 20:38  
**To:** DPD  
**Subject:** Response to Scoping Report

Local Plan Review  
Forward Planning  
Mid Devon District Council  
Phoenix House  
Phoenix Lane Tiverton  
Ex16 6PP  
18th August 2113

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for emailing me a copy of the Scoping Report 2013 which I have read with interest. However instead of replying to the various options as to where new housing should be located I would like to make a few suggestions regarding economic growth and the creation of jobs which are fundamental to these decisions.

In general it is desirable that people are enabled to live near their place of work, otherwise more road traffic is created, with frustrating delays and resultant pollution. Moreover in the future, with the inevitable rise in the cost of fuel, commuting will not be an affordable option for all.

### HOW THE AREA MIGHT DEVELOP

After the present established need for housing has been met, especially in affordable housing, action should be focussed primarily on economic growth and job creation.

**Relating to the 'high street'**. Town centre improvement should be seen as a priority. The visual appearance of the town centre in Tiverton has been much enhanced, and further support should be given to the retail sector through **free or very cheap parking** which would draw shoppers into the town. Shops selling local produce or offering a good after-sales service still have an advantage over the internet sites, as have shops selling merchandise requiring personal participation by the shopper.

Economic development and the creation of jobs is a longer term project. Looking beyond the commercial sector I would suggest that **education provision should be substantially increased**. This would act as a magnet for movement into the area.

We need a large vibrant **6th form college** offering quality education in a wide range of subjects to compete with Exeter College and Richard Huish. This would further develop the potential of our young people and keep them in the area for longer. It could be linked to an expanded **FE Centre** (possibly on a new larger site?) where the range of subjects could be increased to include a courses in **Agriculture and the Countryside** along the lines followed at Bicton. It is a great pity that local young people are discouraged from continuing their education by the cost of transport and having to spend so much time and energy in travelling. It would be a stimulus to further development in the area if Tiverton was an educational centre in its own right instead of being subsidiary to Exeter, Bicton, Taunton and Barnstaple.

Other possibilities might include an **an adult education centre offering day and residential courses** and **an outdoor activity centre** which could be linked with the Mid-Devon schools as well as stimulating the tourist trade.

**Cycling routes** could be created using some of Devon's many minor roads. These roads might have limited access, serving only residents and agricultural purposes, so creating a safe, virtually traffic-free environment. Facilities (picnic tables and eco-toilets?) could be sited in strategic locations so as to encourage **long distance cycling** (possibly linked with Somerset and Cornwall). This would provide an opportunity which could benefit local farmers and others living at some distance from a main road who might wish to provide bed and breakfast.

After a period of vigorous job creation it should become clear where economic development is taking place. These would be the places where new housing should be located, so that houses would be built where they are needed rather than as bases for commuters who work outside the area.

Yours faithfully.

Anne Roxbee Cox  
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