

Planning Consultation (DPD)

From: richardg.bunning [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 January 2022 06:00
To: Planning Consultation (DPD)
Subject: Suggestions to add to the plan

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We own Hatherland Mill Farm [REDACTED]

There are a number of issues here which we feel ought to be addressed by the plan.

1. A few years ago we received County Wildlife Site designation from DCC, which falls mainly within Tiverton parish. There should be a commitment to helping more areas like this to achieve designation and to protecting them from development. Our CWS contains a great ending otters holt, brook lamprey in the stream, ancient woodland an area of "carr" habitat and rare flora and fauna. Reference <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/habitats/woodland/wet-woodland>
2. Part of the area designated here contains a geographical feature of national importance - an ox bow lake. This was formed when the Exe changed course a little over a century ago. It seems to us that having this feature ought to be recognised in the plan and again some commitment to preserving it should be made.
3. Along the northern side of the ox bow is the parish boundary with Washfield. We are attempting to restore a hard demarcation here by erecting a field fence, as well as planting trees along it to clearly mark it for posterity. Because our field boundaries tie up the parish boundaries, we are told this makes the farm saxon. We feel that the Tiverton plan should include a commitment to restoring and maintaining the historic boundaries of the parish like this one.
4. The mill building on the farm can be traced back to the 13th century. As such, it is we are told one of the oldest mills in Devon. It must have played a significant role in the wool wealth of the town so should be recognized as an important part of its history. Reference https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MDV89083&resourceID=104
5. The Exe is central to the parish, but it is a fickle asset. We are worried about bank erosion here and have had visits by DEFRA, SW Water and a number of experts. Erosion causes silting up of gravel beds where salmon spawn and harms water quality. Shortly the new environmental land management scheme ELMS replaces the existing EU scheme. Part of that will be landscape level funding for major environmental projects. We would like Tiverton to back a scheme to cover the whole mid Exe valley to address issues like erosion, water quality and to foster wildlife along the valley.
6. Farms upstream of Tiverton have a vital role to play in reducing flooding in the town. We do our best to allow our fields to flood as much as possible when the river is in spate, relieving pressure on the flow by taking millions of litres of water on to our land, then releasing it slowly to keep the peak level of water reaching the town as low as possible. We feel the plan should commit to supporting this sort of initiative by committing to restore and maintain the flood plains of the Exe. This also fits in with "Up Stream Thinking", a project to remire Exmoor, retaining rainwater in the hills to reduce flooding. Reference <https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/upstream-thinking/>
7. The historic statements in the plan are excellent, but omit a significant feature on the north western parish boundary. There is a robbed out iron age hill fort just above our farm on the hill top which must have dominated the valley, reference https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle_Close.

I hope these points are useful suggestions.

Please call me if you would like to discuss them.

Regards

Richard Bunning

