

Report to Parish Council

This is my second year as District Councillor and again it's been an enjoyable but very busy time. I am now exactly half way through the term of office before there is another election for the District.

Future of Raleigh Ward

The Government's Boundary Commission is required to ensure equality and effective convenient local government, and because of population growth and new housing within East Devon, this ward "Raleigh Ward", as we know it, is recommended that it will be abolished in a recent proposal. The commission's proposal is the creation a 3 District Councillor ward called "Budleigh Raleigh" from 2019.

Although I have been very busy fighting this proposal as I believe it will not provide good governance to this rural ward there is a likelihood that at the next election you will have 3 district councillors who will be covering most of the existing Raleigh ward and the town of Budleigh.

Local Issues

Central Government are demanding more and more for less and less from Local Government. However East Devon Council are managing to steer around this changing financial landscape by changing the way it is run and many changes in operations.

This June will see the introduction of better and more effective recycling with cardboard, extra plastics and other items being recycled. Exmouth has already seen the benefits of the new scheme with 60% of rubbish now being recycled.

East Devon are only one of the few local Authorities to run its own housing stock. We are required to sell some of these properties to tenants but we only keep a small percentage of the proceeds with the majority going to the treasury. We need to sell 4 houses to be able to pay for one new house. However East Devon will in the future try a new approach by having its own building and property company and it is hoped that this will provide much needed social housing at an affordable price and in the right locations.

The government require Local Authorities to have forward plans for the areas future needs. This is why you are seeing Plans for the Parish, Plans for the whole district and now "Greater Exeter!!" We are required to consult with neighbouring councils, and although we have our own District Plan until 2031 we need to talk and discuss with our neighbouring districts and County Planners to look at the bigger picture.

We all know Exeter is a very important growth point and the surrounding areas like ours are dependent on getting it right. The road and rail network is a great example. We are dependent on one motorway and one rail line. The problems encountered at Dawlish and Cowley Bridge and last weekend's traffic chaos because of an accident on the M5 clearly show that care and much thought is required if the wider area around Exeter is to be greatly expanded. That's why East Devon Council have agreed to liaise with their neighbours now so individual council's needs are considered and the wider consequences thought out jointly.

It's changing times and an interesting time to be involved in local affairs, and I thank you for your continuing support, and I look forward to another interesting but busy 2 years.

Cllr Geoff Jung
Raleigh Ward
EDDC