

Plan Mid Devon

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 March 2022 12:29
To: Plan Mid Devon
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject:

Dear Sirs.

Zeal Monachorum Parish Council wish to provide the following comments on the current consultation. Please see the following.

The plan identifies 5 priorities

1. Responding to the climate emergency and moving to a net zero carbon future.
2. Delivering development, infrastructure and regeneration to meet our needs now and in the future.
3. Addressing housing affordability and improving choice
4. Protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment and respecting environmental limits
5. Improving our health and well being

These priorities have clearly been well thought out and hard to criticise. However I do question whether number 5 is really a strategic planning issue?

How does this fit into the context of Zeal Monachorum?

We were very much a self-contained settlement but over the years have become more of a satellite of Bow. We have no health facilities, we have lost our shop, the school has been closed for many years and new development has been very limited. Generally youngsters growing up in the village move away due partly to a lack of affordable housing.

Public transport links are virtually non-existent and many village homes have to rely on street parking which are currently at a premium. The village Hall is a much loved and used facility but it has limitations which ought to be addressed,

The Council would wish to enter into a dialogue with the Council as the plan develops to potentially identify sites that may be suitable for a limited development to provide for;

A new village hall incorporating a community shop

A new village car park with Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points

Allotments (an identified need already exists)

Affordable Homes for local people

Limited further residential development to provide some cross subsidy to the above.

As with all Communities any talk of change brings different opinions. As part of the discussions with MDDC we would have parallel consultation with the community and land owners. New Development can help sustain existing and new facilities, but without it communities may be less able to cope with the challenges set out in the priorities above.

Regards

Christopher Voaden – Clerk to Zeal Monachorum Parish Council