

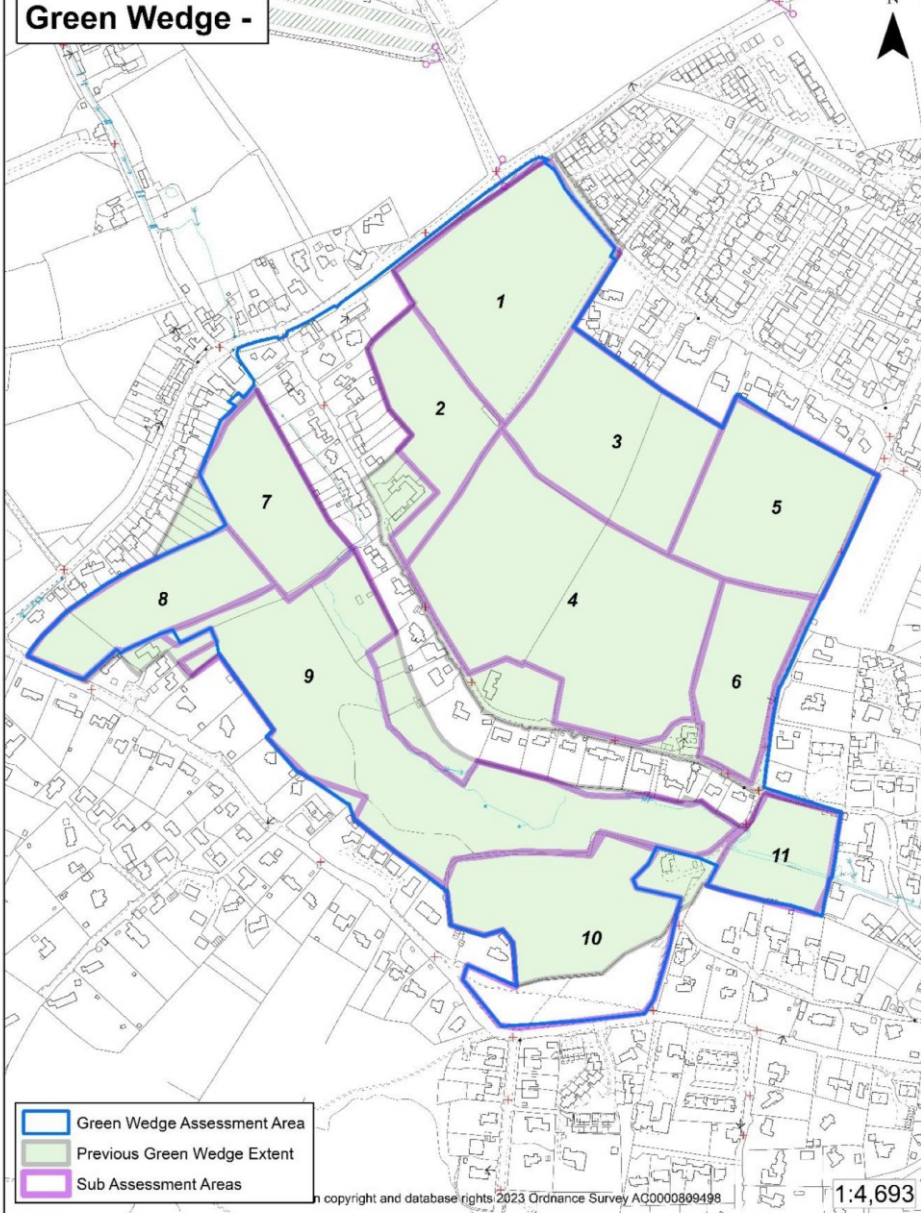
Councillor Report

February 2024

Green Wedges

Some of you may be aware that I recently expressed concern about the proposal to reduce the number of Green Wedges between Knowle Village and Budleigh Salterton. Green Wedges are an extra layer of protection to green spaces and once gone, leave them vulnerable to development. Below is the plan showing the current number of Green Wedges and then a plan detailing the proposed.

Green Wedge -



- Green Wedge Assessment Area
- Previous Green Wedge Extent
- Sub Assessment Areas

Proposed Green Wedge	
Does an alternative boundary or boundaries exist?	<p>Budleigh Knowle 1 and 2 are considered to be the only places where there is an open space between what could be considered to comprise Knowle village and Budleigh Salterton, although there is very little to physically distinguish the settlements. Whilst other land within the search area has an open character, no other sites are considered to make a significant contribution to prevent the coalescence of Knowle and Budleigh Salterton. Rather, they comprise open areas within the overall settlement of Budleigh Salterton so arguments about the coalescence of settlements and community identity (the fundamental purposes of the proposed green wedge policy) are not relevant. A strip of land to the east of sub-area 1 is specifically excluded from the green wedge to facilitate access to potential development sites (to be considered as part of the proposed allocations in the draft plan).</p>
Development Impact	
What built	There is no built development within the proposed green wedges

I have received letters from local residents who are very angry with these proposals.

I went along to the Strategic Planning meeting on Tuesday 13th February, and read out a statement summarising my concerns, as did the majority of other EDDC Councillors who were also concerned about the proposed changes in their Wards.

I am very pleased to let you know that the recommendation that was presented to the Strategic Planning Committee this morning about the

reduction in Green Wedges in Budleigh and across East Devon, was unanimously NOT accepted.

The overall feeling was that we should not be eroding our Green spaces but protecting them.

These are the actual recommendations that were agreed at the meeting.

- That Strategic Planning Committee cannot agree that the draft Green Wedges as presented are drawn in accordance with the intent of the Committee or with the spirit of the proposed policy.
- That the Assistant Director for Planning Strategy and Development Management, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Strategic Planning Committee, urgently review the methodology, proposed policy wording, and proposed boundaries in light of the issues raised by Committee, with particular regard to accounting for non-visual, intrinsic settlement separation and with input from Ward Members, and bring a revised proposal with relevant evidence to a workshop with all Committee Members invited, with conclusions and recommendations brought back to Committee as soon as possible for consideration prior to Regulation 18 consultation.
- That the Assistant Director for Planning Strategy and Development Management work with the Portfolio Holders for Strategic Planning and Coast, Country, and Environment, as well as relevant Assistant Directors, to scope the potential approach to a new Countryside & Green Infrastructure Strategy and Supplementary Planning Document, and bring a proposal back to Strategic Planning Committee at the appropriate time.
That a report be brought to Committee as soon as possible setting out the options for exploring a Green Belt designation in the West End of the district.

This is quite wordy, but it basically means that everything is now going to be looked at again, workshopped, then it will go back to committee for debate once more. District Councillors will be involved, and importantly, this that means that your views will also be heard.

Lyme Kiln Toilets

I had an update from Tim Child this morning. EDDC will shortly be tendering for the works but are currently still awaiting determination of the planning application. On-site works are most likely to start during April, and ideally post Easter.

LORP/Otter Estuary

I attended an event at Lime Kiln car park on Friday, to celebrate the Otter Estuary becoming part of the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve.

There were speeches from The Minister for Nature, Rebecca Pow, Clinto Devon's John Varley and a rousing history lesson about the area from Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England, very interesting!

The Otter Estuary becomes the latest in the "King's Series" celebrating the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and leaving a lasting public legacy for people and nature.

National Nature Reserves are the crown jewels of England's natural heritage. The King's Series of National Nature Reserves will see five major National Nature Reserves named every year for the next five years - 25 in total. NNRs share a commitment to seeing England's nature restored, enriched and reconnected to people.

SWW Tankers

I have a detailed explanation of the sewerage situation but to simplify, there is a massive tank under the carpark at Limekiln, and that needs cleaning once in a while. The work on the main street is to improve flow, and whilst they do that they need to shut the pipe and tanker from the tank to the sewage works. (I understand what's happening now is the sewage is going to Countess Wear, as Exmouth has its own problems), this is why we are seeing tankers at Lyme Kiln everyday at present.

Seachange

We have planted trees and climbers at the Sensory Garden, and marked out where the water feature is going to go. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.