

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Green Wedge Under Threat**

*Rockbeare Parish Neighbourhood Plan set to be Ignored*

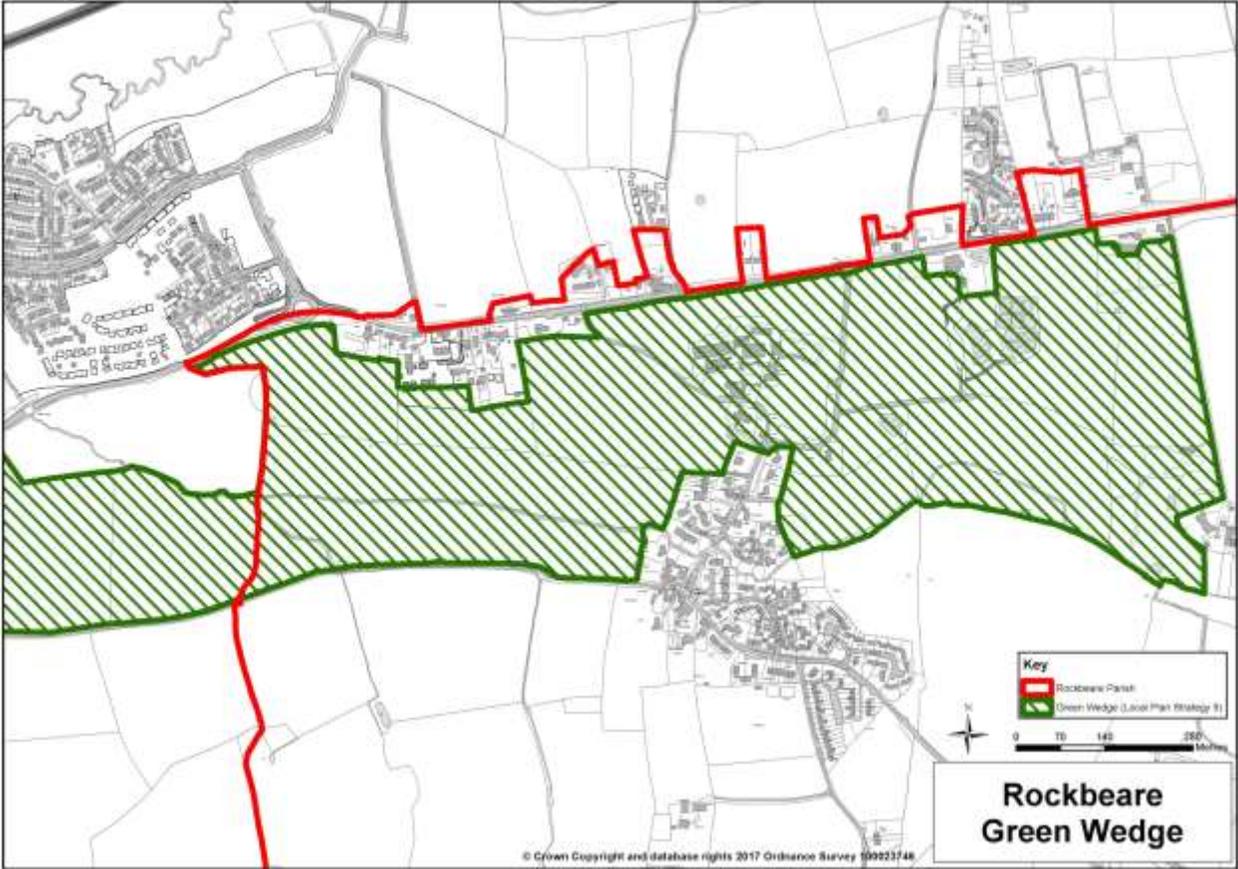
*East Devon District Council (EDDC) set to give go ahead to Cranbrook Expansion Plan at meeting of Strategic Planning Committee on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018*

Cranbrook expansion as proposed in the Masterplan flies in the face of the adopted EDDC Local Plan (only adopted January 2016), and Rockbeare Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan only adopted October 2018 and passed at referendum with a majority in favour of 93%

The Masterplan flies in the face of East Devon's Protection of the green wedge policy. The Local Plan again states: 'within Green Wedges, as defined on the Proposal Map, development will not be permitted if it would add to existing sporadic or isolated development or damage the individual identity of a settlement or could lead to or encourage settlement coalescence'

The proposed developments are not even supported by Cranbrook Town Council to quote from Cranbrook Town Council Response: 'The principle aim of Cranbrook development - over and above the delivery of bricks and mortar - is the delivery of a sustainable and cohesive community. That "community" includes the Town's immediate neighbours of Rockbeare, Clyst Honiton, Broadclyst and Whimple. The Town Council wishes to achieve a development that is

seen as positive and of benefit to this wider community so that it becomes a local hub for the delivery of welcome facilities and services whilst, at the same time, respecting the wishes of its neighbouring settlements (which have been in existence for a very long time) to maintain a physical separation and retention of their identity. Any suggestion that the development of the town will have an adverse impact on these wishes will, in turn, have an adverse impact on the ability to establish a cohesive and sustainable community.



It is a Rockbeare Parish Council aim to provide an environment that encourages a healthy lifestyle and promotes well being, as well as to Improve, protect and enhance the landscape and countryside". Green wedges provide a green lung to urban areas and provide a recreational resource; the role of green wedges therefore being of higher environmental and amenity value than other areas of countryside. This is contained within our Neighbourhood Plan Policy Rock06

The proposed expansion is contrary to the original design of Cranbrook with the Old A30 being used as a town boundary. The proposed expansion will create areas the other side of the Old A30 creating unsafe areas which will have no real connection or benefit to Cranbrook. This view is also supported by Cranbrook Town Council.

The proposed Cranbrook expansion is not supported by our neighbours Whimble Parish Council who support Rockbeare in their demands that the green wedge areas are kept intact: "Whimble Parish Council support the Rockbeare Neighbourhood Plan and recognise the concerns over retaining Rockbeare 'Green Wedge'"

Link to Strategic Planning Committee below

<http://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/2702251/271118strategicplanningcombinedagenda.pdf>

East Devons Plans are undemocratic and against the views of Council Tax payers!

If you would like more information about this topic, please call contact above