

EDDC street-trading – VGS submission – notes – 25feb23

closing on Sunday 26th February 2023 at midnight. All responses to this consultation need to be received in writing by either email: licensing@eastdevon.gov.uk

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/licensing/street-trading/street-trading-policy-consultation-2023/>

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/2szl14ty/st-policy-for-website-23.pdf>

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*The **council** said the Market Square, New Street, Old Fore Street, Church Street and The Esplanade (road only, including the turning circle at The Ham) should become Consent Streets throughout the year, allowing occasional trading licences to be granted. Trading on the Promenade along the seafront should be permitted only during the Folk Festival, and licences should be considered only for events supported by the town council.*

It added: “All other roads/streets should be removed from the list proposed by the District Council as they were not considered to be suitable for street trading and applications would therefore not receive agreement from the Town Council.”

<https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/23342168.street-trading-sidmouth-town-councils-view/>

<https://sidmouth.gov.uk/sidmouth-town-councils-chairs-statement/>

<https://www.eastdevon.radio/news/local-news/sidmouth-town-councils-response-to-the-ongoing-street-trading-consultation/>

<https://sidmouth.nub.news/news/local-news/street-trading-should-be-exception-rather-than-the-rule-in-sidmouth-town-council-chair-says-172511>

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***Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce and Sidmouth Town Council** have reacted to East Devon District Council’s (EDDC) proposal to extend street trading in the town – moving away from the current one-week Folk Festival period.*

Businesses claim residents have not been made fully aware of EDDC’s proposal to open up more than 30 streets in the town to stalls, vehicles and traders, including the beach and seafront.

The town council said it did not support EDDC’s proposed full-scale lifting of current restrictions on-street trading in Sidmouth, calling instead for ‘some flexibility’ for a small number of areas.

Traders have urged residents to look at the ‘consent street’ proposal consultation, and comment, before the deadline on Sunday, February 26. The town’s chamber of commerce said many of the streets identified by EDDC were ‘completely unsuitable and inappropriate for this type of trading’.

<https://eastdevonnews.co.uk/2023/02/24/street-stalls-sidmouth-consultation-2023/>

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*“The **Chamber** is unhappy with the current description of the consultation process on the EDDC website. This implies that the only change in Sidmouth is to the Esplanade, where EDDC want to see street trading such as we have during Folk Week allowed throughout the summer.*

“The EDDC press release does not mention that they also want stalls, vehicles and traders on the beach in the summer and in 30 other streets in and around Sidmouth town centre. For example, they wish to see street trading in Glen Road, Manor Road, Fortfield

Terrace and Coburg Road, and in busy thoroughfares like All Saints Road, Vicarage Road, Sid Road, Salcombe Road, the High Street and Fore Street. Surely these roads are completely unsuitable and inappropriate for this type of trading.

“The Chamber is very comfortable with the kind of street food and stalls that are currently offered from time to time at the Ham and, for example, Kennaway House. We think this is the right balance going forward. Indeed it was the Chamber who first suggested that The Ham should be a Consent Street.”

The Chamber is concerned about street traders coming into Sidmouth from outside the area during the peak summer season, creating ‘unfair competition’ for established businesses.

There are also concerns about increased litter, and the fact that trading licences would be controlled by the district council, with Sidmouth having no say in what would be allowed.

<https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/23336218.concerns-street-trading-proposals-sidmouth/>

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*Councillor Joe Whibley, **EDDC** licensing and enforcement committee chair, said: “One of our key aims, as part of the new policy, is to ensure the needs of traders, residents, businesses and visitors alike are all met. Which is why we want to hear from you.*

“Ultimately, the aim is for us to have a street trading policy which complements the amazing businesses we have here in East Devon, while also being sensitive to the needs of our residents.

“The idea of street trading is to offer our residents and tourists a greater choice of products, attracting people to different towns and villages in East Devon, with the aim of improving the economic benefits for everybody.”

EDDC said street trader stalls included where goods were sold at outdoor events, markets, street stalls, festivals, food vans at the roadside and in car parks, or in the open and pedestrian areas.

A district council spokesperson said: “The majority of East Devon’s streets are already ‘consent’ streets – allowing trading to take place, once an application has been submitted to and granted by EDDC.”

They added: “Honiton High Street and part of Axminster town centre have ancient charters which allow weekly markets to take place.

“The proposed changes do not apply to these areas as the charter exempts them from being controlled by this more modern legislation.”

<https://eastdevonnews.co.uk/2023/02/20/east-devon-street-trading-rules/>

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<https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/23341182.abolish-business-rates-street-trading-allowed/>

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1. Information about street trading

Restrictions

From the 2 October 2017 street trading will be possible across East Devon as long as we have given you our consent.

There are some streets in Sidmouth where street trading is not allowed at any time, these are called prohibited streets.

Charter Markets

Honiton and Axminster town markets have established historic charter rights which allow them to hold certain markets. This means that these markets don't need a street trading consent.

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/licensing/street-trading/information-and-how-to-apply-for-street-trading-consent/information-about-street-trading/>

15. Prohibited streets

List of designated streets in Sidmouth at 2 October 2017

The following are designated as prohibited streets where street trading is at all times forbidden by law;

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/licensing/street-trading/street-trading-policy-and-application-guidance/prohibited-streets/>

SOCIAL MEDIA: SIDMOUTH COMMUNITY FB

Do we want street trading in Sidmouth? 6 comments - 19feb23

We have a week to respond to the District Council's consultation.

Here's some research into exactly where the 'consent streets' are being proposed - and what that might mean:

[\(20+\) Sidmouth Community | Do we want street trading in Sidmouth | Facebook](#)

Michael Thornton

Sidmouth could stand still and die - it needs to move forward and attract local people into town not busloads from wherever - **Yes** to street vendors but it must reduce parking fees and bus prices and encourage visitors

•Jose Jose

Yes it will liven the place up its too quite

•Ann Chance

In a word, **No**

•Mandy Holland

Definitely.

•Stephen Low

Less chance of contracting Covid though. Not aware of many Sidmouth shops with Covid mitigations in place, such as ventilation or air filtration.

•**Jacqui Page**

Well something needs to happen before Sidmouth goes under! **[yes]**

4/6 yes

Sidmouth Chamber Of Commerce 78 comments - 17feb23

Would you like to see trading on the esplanade regularly from May - September or a burger van on Manor Road for example?

Remember to have your say regarding EDDC Street Trading Consultation email licensing@eastdevon.gov.uk before 26th February.

Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce has advised East Devon District Council that it will oppose their proposal to turn almost all Sidmouth's roads to 'Consent Street' status. This will allow street traders to sell goods and services almost anywhere in the town subject only to a licence from EDDC.

At present only the Ham is a consent street, along with The Esplanade during Folk Week. The Chamber thinks the current arrangements work well, and the right element of control over street trading is applied. A spokesperson commented: "The Chamber is very comfortable with the kind of street food and stalls that are currently offered from time to time at the Ham, and, for example, Kennaway House. We think this is the right balance going forward.

Further information regarding the streets affected and how this could affect your business or street 🙌

<https://www.sidmouthchamber.co.uk/.../street-trading...>

[\(20+\) Sidmouth Community | Facebook](#)

Melissa Jane

Author

It's **OK for events** but not for more.. The town businesses need more support not a plan to take business away from them! Come on people we need to support the local shops and invest in the future of sidmouth. Pop up stalls are not the answer....

•**Zoe Smith**

Melissa Jane pop ups can also be locals that can't afford brick & mortars! I feel this could be a really good way to support small business, but only **if done properly**. I'd argue we deffo don't need food vans for example

•**Duncan Nice**

Block off **old fore st** to vehicles so market stalls once a week can trade , footfall will be up and local businesses will benefit. It will create a social meeting place for locals and visitors .

•**Tracy Nice**

Duncan Nice **yes!!!** ❤️

•**Terry Thomson**

Duncan Nice Bang on Duncan. Anything that can increase footfall has to be a benefit for all, so shouldn't be considered as competition at all. Preferably it should be **market**

stalls operated by locals of course, but my first thought when I read the post...

•**Janina Walther**

Duncan Nice very good idea Duncan 👍

•**Clare Swanning**

No, it will turn the esplanade into a flea market!

Support the local shops

•**John Butler**

Clare Swanning Snob..... Remember that Sidmouth once had its own indoor market, but you probs didn't like that either. **[yes]**

Clare Swanning

John Butler I'm definitely not a snob and the indoor market was fine, I used to work there! It's different the sea front is a beauty spot where people go to get away from commercialism etc

•**Michael Parkin**

Local Shop owners and renters have enough trouble generating enough income to pay rates and the parking and salaries - Think of them First - through very quiet times hour on hour day by day - then others whom appear and MOP up the footfall and monies t...

See more **[no]**

•**Eleanor Ludgate**

NO there are already enough shops & cafes selling everything you need & having to pay a lot for their premisses, business rates etc. Please do not clutter up the prom & take vital trade away from the hard working shop owners of Sidmouth

•**Wendy Taylor**

Eleanor Ludgate absolutely right **[no]**

•**Louise Laybury**

Actually **once a month** might be a good thing for all, brings people into the town, stall holders pay a trading license and pitch fee and visitors do walk around therefore will visit other venues in the town. Yes, the parking fee needs to be looked at ho...

See more

•**Bobbie Jones**

How would I and others get to sit on the benches (one dedicated to my husband) and 'watch the world go by'? **[no]**

•**John Butler**

Bobbie Jones sounds a bit selfish that. Why not try thinking of **young families that need to earn money by running market stalls**. It is an honest living you know.

•**Tony Cox**

Progress I hear you say?

In the name all things conservative I say **NO!**...

See more

•**Diane Kendall-Torry**

No, will be bad for local businesses who have to pay rates/staff costs. Great having them for Folk Week or the odd event but not all year around

•**Jane Baker**

Absolutely NO!

•**Linda Truscott**

*No, No, No thank you ! But a **monthly farmers market** in Market Square with free stalls available for current shop traders would be good. There are many local food producers who might benefit.*

•**John Butler**

Linda Truscott Farmers markets are just for snobs. High priced stuff not for working class people, but then you probs don't care about working class people. Market stall for working class folks, BUT, here we go again, and I will repeat what I've said many times. Sidmouth has to decide if it is a posh town or a working class town, and it cannot be both.

Eleanor Ludgate

John Butler Why not?

•**Jackie Morris**

*Town needs to try new stuff.....**give it ago**. Xx more visitors will go in shops too. Town needs to move on x*

•**Ruth White**

*Jackie Morris **absolutely***

•**Eleanor Ludgate**

*Jackie Morris **No**, Sidmouth is special because it has staid the same!*

•**Howie Brooks**

Local shops need support more than Pop up Stalls! Folk week is acceptable as at least 80% of the pop up stalls are craft and folk related. Many years ago when Folk week was much larger with many International folk groups attended and the main park area...

See more [no]

•**Marc Wasley**

Surely it will just bring more people into the town. Plus the local shops will have the option to have their own stool anyways [yes]

•**Eleanor Ludgate**

Marc Wasley I think the local shops have enough to do without trying to take their produce out onto the prom in all weathers! [no]

•**George Fallows**

I don't think street trading will benefit Town

Where shopkeepers pay rent and council tax

It would be unfair and may drive them to close their business...

See more [no]

•**Rita Barnes**

No it would change the face of Sidmouth.

•**John Butler**

Rita Barnes And it needs changing too

•**Andrea Davis**

Definitely **NO!**

•**Ros Sutherland**

No. The existing shops have a difficult enough time.

•**Simon Jinks**

does this council just sit around and look for ideas to screw over the shop owners in the high street. we are still suffering from the covid fallout, the cost of living crisis and the doubling of parking charges. They should hang their heads in shame **[no]**

•**Simon Page**

Great 👍

•**Kay Baker**

Definitely **NO**

•**Rachel Fallows**

And it's a **NO** from me

•**Helen Connor**

No, I prefer to browse around the shops and this idea would restrict pedestrians walking along the promenade

•**Donna Fayter-small**

Why not try

•**Pat Hamilton**

No definitely not

•**Janet Fernley**

NO, BURGER VANS. Where do you think you are, Blackpool? Neither are you encouraging healthy eating.....and what about the mess that comes with it?

•**Kym White**

I'm up for it if it's **food** and not the folk festival rubbish

•**Zoe Smith**

Omg I'd absolutely love this ???

•**Ollie Moore**

Farmers Market once a month either The Ham or Market Square during the summer months would be good. Hopefully this would bring trade to the existing businesses as well as help.

•**Josh Meek**

Everyone that doesn't own a shop will be commenting "yes please" but people that own

shops along the seafront and in town will have a completely different answer

•**Wendy Janet Charnley**

Would like to see a **farmers market** with local producers and local shops being able to trade would this work?

Think pop up stalls suggested would spoil the seafront.

•**Elizabeth Charlton**

There are two parts to this consultation - permission for street trading on the Esplanade all summer. This could result in more shops closing as it will reduce footfall in the town as people won't walk in to town. The second part is to allow street trading in 30 plus streets across the town many of them where people live. It extends as far as Salcombe Road and Sid Road. The photo is misleading as it looks like it is just about a few more craft fairs on the Esplanade. EDDC should explain properly to people what this is about and extend the consultation date beyond 23rd Feb. [no]

•**Scott Tobin**

I'd rather see a **market** in the square

•**Graham Symington**

Not on the seafront but a once a month Christmas or **Farmers Market** style event on the **Ham** may help bring additional visitors into the town?

•**Clare Swanning**

Graham Symington or **Blackmore gardens** where it's a little more sheltered from the elements

•**Lorraine Frost**

A park et ride system needs to be implemented for high season. Why not put pop up stalls into the empty shops like MetCo. That's soon to be vacated. This will still bring people into the main town to browse et hopefully make purchases.

•**Tomas Richardson**

Darren Bowden place for a pop up roast dinner? 🍴

•**Martin Spence**

It's difficult, can see both sides of the argument really , local shops restaurants etc been hit lately , but equally more life on the prom would be good... perhaps more permanent **street food at the Ham** etc , is Rockfish actually opening at that end ?

•**Debbie Townsley**

Once a month seems reasonable. But I too have a business in old Fore Street and know that deliveries have to drive down there to supply the different eateries. I too need access to load and unload for my shop so whilst it's not the worst idea it needs more thought.

•**Mark Wilson**

Oh **no** ,it's not Coronation Street are they off their trollys' it's not 1/4??

•**John Butler**

ark Wilson Another snob.

•**Sandra Homer**

I thought I read business rates high for street traders if they use the spot regularly. Will they be able to afford to come?

•**Jan Rees**

No thanks .

•**Carole Roche**

NO absolutely not !

•**Andrea Gosling**

*No - the shops in Sidmouth are struggling as it is. I agree that a **monthly Farmers Market** would bring more shoppers into the town.*

•**Louise Hastie**

*I don't own a shop and absolutely **no**, the esplanade is already busy in summer without squashing people into a narrower space.*

•**Ruth Watkins**

The plan to make additional streets 'consent streets' is problematic to me and lacks detail for residents. It feels like they have never actually visited the streets because many of them would be hugely impractical I.e cause horrific traffic within the town, too far or set away from town to even notice, take away important parking spaces or restrict access for emergency vehicles. It isn't just the Ham and the esplanade. Kennaway, Blackmore gardens, Bedford Car Park are also regularly used well for trading - I can't believe we need more? [no]

•**Anette Farrington**

***No** to those proposals but **yes to a monthly event**, perhaps focused on the market and some of the surrounding streets. Include seasonal themes, busking and other entertainments. Make it something various community groups can get involved with. Something like that would likely bring more people, locals included, into town and introduce them to the shops there. Hopefully they would then be more likely to pop in at other times, too.*

•**Stephanie Charlotte**

Yes to local businesses!

•**June Murrell**

***Definitely not.** The esplanade is for visitors and locals to enjoy just leisurely walking along and chilling out, not for stalls and queues for burgers and things. It's been nice the last couple of years with less stalls at the folk festivals. A **once a month selection of stalls in the market place** would be good. We must look after our local shops/coffee shops who have had a hard time the last couple of years.*

•**John Butler**

Well I hope all you snobs are busy spending your wealth in all the local shops then. If shops are not selling things then it proves that things are either over priced, things not wanted by people or that local people can't afford shop prices. Why else is business down ? A. because it's cheaper to buy online. B. Because it's cheaper to shop in Exeter even taking in the parking costs. I can buy trousers, jeans, shirts et al, cheaper in Exeter than i can in charity shops in Sidmouth. I dare not even look into the 'new clothes' shops in Sidmouth. For food, many people go to Spar or Lidl etc. Sidmouth town is boring and

expensive. What makes Sidmouth so wonderful is the seafront and the countryside. But putting market stalls on the front would do no damage at all and it would encourage more people to Sidmouth. Of course the local shops are frightened of it, because the local shops are boring and over priced.

•**John Butler**

<https://www.msn.com/.../plymouth-market.../ar-AA17DABg...>



•[Plymouth Market booming as three new stalls and a hot dog stand open](#)

•**Ian Hanson**

Why not put them down at the **Ham**? Why clutter up the Sea Front?

They all blow away in a light wind.

Out of 78: Yes 8; No 27: Others – monthly market at Market Square or Ham

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[Sidmouth Chamber Of Commerce](#) – 1 comment - 21jan23

Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce would like to make you aware of a consultation currently underway by EDDC on their Street Trading Policy in Sidmouth. See below the communication from EDDC which gives you an opportunity to have your say on whether you are for or against the changes.

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/.../st-policy-for-website-23.pdf>

[\(20+\) Sidmouth Community | Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce would like to make you aware of a consultation currently underway by EDDC on their Street Trading Policy in Sidmouth | Facebook](#)

Jean Twibell

As long term resident, I would welcome increased street trading in any part of the town **where it is practicable**. The **outdoor tables** on the pavement in Church Street and in Fore Street greatly add to the general atmosphere of the town as a visitor attraction.

Jean Twibell Farthingwood Broadway EX108HS

[Qualified yes]

SOCIAL MEDIA: SIDMOUTH COMMUNITY FOR THE PEOPLE FB:

[Sidmouth Chamber Of Commerce](#) 9 comments 17feb23

Remember to have your say regarding EDDC Street Trading Consultation email licensing@eastdevon.gov.uk before 26th February.

[\(20+\) SIDMOUTH community for the people | Remember to have your say regarding EDDC Street Trading Consultation email \[licensing@eastdevon.gov.uk\] \(mailto:licensing@eastdevon.gov.uk\) before 26th... | Facebook](#)

James Woolly Woollacott

Sounds good to me and the town 🤙👍

•**James Woolly Woollacott**

Yep be good for the town.

•**David Williams**

No

•**Monica Bell**

You need to put the email as a comment with nothing else so you can copy and paste it.

•**Brian Of-Holcombe**

*I thought the singing pirate stall was **fantastic**. Really added to the interactive atmosphere off the festival. Arrrhhh it did.*

•**Susan Perryman**

Sorry but the shops we have are struggling, along with everyone, I feel it will finish the town and our own traders

•**James Woolly Woollacott**

Susan Perryman unfortunately most are over priced.

Susan Perryman

James Woolly Woollacott some maybe but their business rates are ridiculous and then they have to pay for their own rubbish removal too....so what do they get for their business rates

3 yes: 2 no

Sidmouth Chamber Of Commerce 4 comments 21jan23

Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce would like to make you aware of a consultation currently underway by EDDC on their Street Trading Policy in Sidmouth. See below the communication from EDDC which gives you an opportunity to have your say on whether you are for or against the changes.

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/.../street-trading-policy.../>

Bob Anthony

*Sensible proposals to give flexibility whilst retaining controls. Plenty of street trading opportunities to **extend our town retail offer** (especially food - not more burgers or pizzas though !) Will need extending pedestrianised areas.*

•**Hayley Otway**

not ideal for the businesses who trade year round, employing local staff and paying their business rates

Bob Anthony

Hayley Otway Adding to the retail diversity will bring more shoppers into town and keep them here longer, rather than heading off to Exmouth etc where the variety is greater.

•**Ste Harp**

The proposal so you CAN trade from these streets....more than Folk Week.

Over the years there have been many 'consultations' about having street trading in Sidmouth – and every time residents have said 'No': <https://visionforsidmouth.org/do-we-want-street-trading-in-sidmouth/>

This was considered in 2008, 2012 and 2015 – but each time proposals to extend street-trading to Sidmouth was rejected: <http://futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2015/07/street-trading-in-sidmouth.html>

In October 2016 further consultation made it clear that it would not be happening:

Sidmouth's overwhelming opposition to proposals for relaxed street trading laws could see the town excluded from East Devon-wide changes. The district council staged a public consultation on whether to lift current, widespread restrictions and allow people to apply to trade anywhere outdoors. Some 81 per cent of all respondents from Sidmouth said the changes would cause problems. Zero per cent of town businesses who responded said it would benefit them. East Devon District Council (EDDC) is now considering moving forward with its idea in other towns, but leaving Sidmouth as it is. [October 2016: <https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/20456124.sidmouth-rejects-bid-relax-street-trading-laws/>]

And in March 2017, the District Council dropped all proposals for Sidmouth:

East Devon District Council (EDDC) is proposing to designate the whole of the district as a consent street, meaning street traders would have to apply to EDDC for a licence to trade. However, following its initial consultation, EDDC now plans to exclude Sidmouth, which would retain a general ban on street trading, except for during folk week. [March 2017: <https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/20455013.views-sought-trading/>]

It is clear, then, that Sidmouth is very much against 'street-trading' – and yet at the same time, it is very much for 'street-markets', which are quite different beasts. And this has been the opinion held consistently for years now:

<http://futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2016/12/street-trading-street-markets-and-high.html>

Looking at the responses to the latest District Council consultation on introducing street-trading to Sidmouth, the opinions expressed are consistent with those from earlier consultations.

The Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce is against any relaxation of the current system, as it always has been – and yet would be open to food stalls on the Ham: <https://eastdevonnews.co.uk/2023/02/24/street-stalls-sidmouth-consultation-2023/> and <https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/23336218.concerns-street-trading-proposals-sidmouth/>

The wider business community in Sidmouth are also against the proposals: <https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/23341182.abolish-business-rates-street-trading-allowed/>

The Town Council would be in favour of granting consent status to the Market Square and

streets branching off it – but only for food stalls and such like on a monthly basis, that is the equivalent of a regular farmers' market: <https://sidmouth.gov.uk/sidmouth-town-councils-chairs-statement/> and <https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/23342168.street-trading-sidmouth-town-councils-view/> and <https://www.eastdevon.radio/news/local-news/sidmouth-town-councils-response-to-the-ongoing-street-trading-consultation/> and <https://sidmouth.nub.news/news/local-news/street-trading-should-be-exception-rather-than-the-rule-in-sidmouth-town-council-chair-says-172511>

Looking at the 100 or so responses on social media, the overwhelming opinion is against the proposals – and yet there are many voices who would welcome the 'variety' and 'attraction' of stalls down-town.

Again, however, almost all of those welcoming a relaxation of the current system would like to see more 'food' stalls' – something which might “**extend our town retail offer** (especially food - not more burgers or pizzas though !)” Again and again, the comments seeing the introduction of more consent streets would only want licences allowed for a monthly farmers' market on the Ham or in the Market Square.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1454300221320890/posts/5913798828704318>

A further comment considered the practicalities of putting up stalls in the narrow streets of the town centre:

The plan to make additional streets 'consent streets' is problematic to me and lacks detail for residents. It feels like they have never actually visited the streets because many of them would be hugely impractical I.e cause horrific traffic within the town, too far or set away from town to even notice, take away important parking spaces or restrict access for emergency vehicles. It isn't just the Ham and the esplanade. Kennaway, Blackmore gardens, Bedford Car Park are also regularly used well for trading - I can't believe we need more?

The Vision for Sidmouth Group's own initial comment reflects these concerns – and reflects the provisions set out by the District Council itself:

<https://visionforsidmouth.org/do-we-want-street-trading-in-sidmouth/>

1: The council makes it clear that street-trading will not be permitted if there are issues of safety, access, obstruction, parking and other practical encumbrances:

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/licensing/street-trading/street-trading-policy-and-application-guidance/stage-3-site-assessment/>

2: Furthermore, it makes clear that it “*The Council will not normally permit a new consent for the sale of goods or services which conflicts with those provided by nearby traders (whether street trading or in business premises).*”

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/licensing/street-trading/street-trading-policy-and-application-guidance/stage-5-consideration-of-applications/>

In other words, it seems clear to the VGS that by allowing across-the-board consent throughout the town centre's Conservation Area, the District Council will not only be contradicting its own current policy guidelines – but will also be going against the overwhelming opposition expressed by the Town Council, the Chamber of Commerce, Sidmouth businesses and the Sidmouth community.

The District Council is clearly keen to bring Sidmouth into line with other towns in the District, where all town centre roads are 'consent streets':

“The majority of East Devon's streets are already 'consent' streets – allowing trading to take place, once an application has been submitted to and granted by EDDC.”

<https://eastdevonnews.co.uk/2023/02/20/east-devon-street-trading-rules/>

However, there are other towns in the District which are 'exceptions' to this rule: *“Honiton High Street and part of Axminster town centre have ancient charters which allow weekly markets to take place. The proposed changes do not apply to these areas as the charter exempts them from being controlled by this more modern legislation.”*

And if Honiton and Axminster are allowed 'exception status', then East Devon's most old-fashioned and conservative town should also be allowed to continue with its current status. The overwhelming majority of comments from Sidmouth residents stress the 'unique quality' of the town – and that any large-scale allowing of street stalls would damage the town's character and setting. Sidmouth, after all, has the most number of listed buildings in Devon apart from Exeter.

The Vision Group for Sidmouth in its submission would therefore urge the District Council to fully recognise the scale of the opposition to the full-scale, blanket recasting of Sidmouth's streets as 'consent streets'.

We would propose the following:

- 1: there should be no extension of the period of street-trading along the Esplanade beyond what is currently allowed during Folk Week;
- 2: there should be no general reclassification of Sidmouth's town centre as 'consent streets';
- 3: nevertheless, there should be a very controlled allowance of street-trading on the Ham and in the Market Square – with the clear and specific aim of creating a monthly local farmers' market – and that the granting of licences should be determined by the Town Council.

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