

East Devon District Council
Moving and Improving Communications Events
July 2012



Methodology

As part of EDDC investigating a move from Knowle, Sidmouth to Honiton we organised three communications events. These were arranged at a variety of times to suit working age/retired/ younger residents. Two of these were arranged in the Market Square so it was accessible and so we could talk to people that maybe hadn't heard about the project as they walked past, one was at the North end of town to give residents there the opportunity to find out more.

The events were:

- Tuesday 10 July from 9 - 11am in Market Square in Sidmouth
- Saturday 14 July from 10am – 2pm in Market Square in Sidmouth
- Tuesday 17 July from 6 – 8pm at Stowford Community Centre in Sidmouth

At the communications events was a display showing the current outline pre-planning application proposals for the current Knowle site. Councillors and project staff were on hand to talk residents through the ideas and answer questions.

The main purpose of the events was to communicate the current situation and proposals to people and answer any questions they may have. Also at the event the public could complete a brief consultation form to give us their thoughts and suggestions about the outline pre-application proposals. People that attended the events could complete the form on the day and hand it back to us or had the option of taking away a form and sending it back to us or completing it online if they wished.

Respondents had until Friday 20 July 2012 to return completed forms to us.

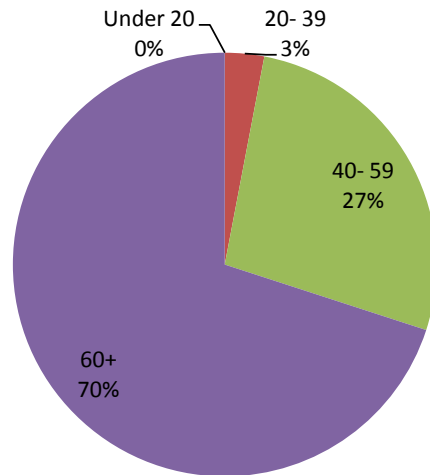
Results

We would estimate that at the events we spoke to about 100 individual people, many of whom attended two or three of the events.

We received 78 completed consultation forms. The results of these are below. In the 2001 census the population of the Parish of Sidmouth was 13,135 people.

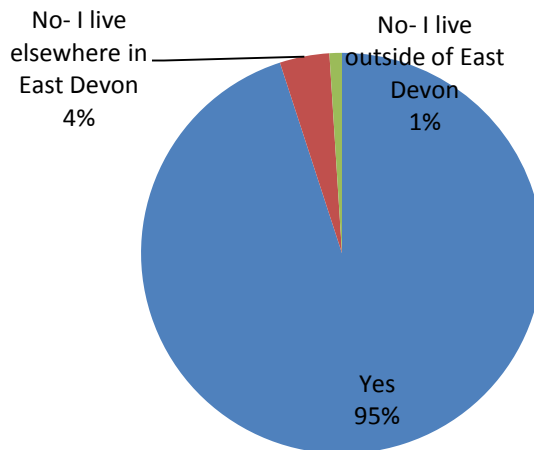
Which age group do you fall into?

63 respondents answered this question. The results are illustrated in the pie chart below:



Do you live in Sidmouth?

73 respondents answered this question. The results are illustrated in the pie chart below:



Q1 What are your views about the proposed developments that you see on display? It is likely to be a good mix of affordable and private housing and a care facility. These are not finalised as yet.

1. I can't believe the consultation process is credible until there is more detail in the plans. The density and type of housing is crucial information and it will impact on transport, schools etc.
2. Zone E not suitable- Knowle Drive very narrow.
3. 1973 gave park and grounds to the people of Sidmouth. There are listed trees, grotto and parts. Development is ill advised and will cost taxpayers money in court.
4. This is a question of profit for Sidmouth against valuing open spaces. The Knowle site is a rare jewel in an overbuilt area. It is far more valuable than anything else. Sidmouth is unique because of the sea, the Byes and the Knowle. Take it and you shoot yourself in the

foot!

5. Do not like any of the proposed development. EDDC should not spend Council taxpayers money on moving to Honiton. We do not need more housing. Would the care facility be a Council run facility or privately owned?
6. The car park should be kept for a park and ride. Proof should be shown on the need to move. Way too much housing. Question should be do you agree to want this- answer- No.
7. (*Officer name*) and whoever has presented maps that are ignorant and ill conceived and mislead the public. Knowle Drive is actually Broadway. Get your map and details right or you make the oppositions life easier.
8. I think the car park is an important feature especially in the Summer and I would not like to see it built on. I find it difficult to comment on something which has not been finalised.
9. Good idea
10. Main question should be are you in favour. The rest is irrelevant.
11. I am strongly opposed
12. Is the care facility required by the people in Sidmouth or is this proposal just a political sop to our consciences? What is a 'good mix' of affordable and private housing. There is plenty of private housing already- make all of the housing available to first time buyers of council tenants.
13. I am completely against this move which is unnecessary, bad for Sidmouth and bad for the environment.
14. Station Road will need to be widened at some future date- has this been considered? The 'park and walk' car park would be a big asset to the town if it was available 7 days a week. The present parking problems are bound to get even more difficult in the future. If this car park is developed it should be restricted to single or two storey properties to reduce the visual impact to local residents and visitors.
15. Very concerned with limited information on plans. No key. No numbers of properties or type so impossible to assess impact, overlooking etc. Concerned about trees and orders covering trees. Very concerned about noise, disruption, site traffic and how this will impact on residents and wildlife.
16. We need to see a full financial appraisal for your scheme showing costs for maintaining the status quo and defend . Without transparency on this you will be rightly accused of bias for a CEOs pet plan. Above all show sensitivity to the numbers of modest and major changes to assumptions.
17. I strongly disagree with EDDC allowing a developer to build on any part of the Knowle Gardens or parkland. This was given to the people of Sidmouth by the UDC at a full meeting of the Council in Oct 1973 as an open public space in perpetuity.
18. I am totally opposed to the proposed developments. The amount of land allocated to the housing and care facility seems to be increasing with every new issue of the plans.
19. Absolutely dreadful! We do not need extra housing crammed onto this beautiful parkland.
20. The whole plan is ridiculous and with all the new housing at Cranbrook totally unwarranted. We have lost care homes, who is going to want one to run?
21. Pay for itself, retention, significant, the public, accessible, parkland, affordable, care said with tongue in cheek I would say. To comment on your question would give credence to it and I do not wish to do that.
22. We need no more houses in the town. Traffic along the road by Knowle is already tight when coaches come through we don't need the extra traffic coming from a housing estate. Or are EDDC so intent on destroying Sidmouth we won't have any visitors and then the traffic problem is solved.
23. Absolutely disagree with the proposed developments of any part of the parkland. However I suspect completion of this form will be unnecessary expense as you will do what you want and not what the people of Sidmouth want.

24. Imagine a state of the art health centre at the Knowle site so it could develop into the best in the country instead of the worst. Tourism is Sidmouths bread and butter- where are the priorities? I would like to see a health centre at the Knowle that meets the communities needs and the tourists needs.
25. Let us not be fooled. As with other similar events it has already been decided. So called 'consultation processes' are a con. The entire area should be left as promised in the Sidmouth Herald of July 1973. The grounds a public open space.
26. Too much building. Difficulty with extra traffic impact entering Station Road.
27. I can see no advantage in moving to Honiton. The present offices are central and satisfactory except for a new boiler! Having worked there for 24 years. I am appalled at the present Councils proposals and attitude to the public views. The Council has become arrogant.
28. I am bemused by the proposal to relocate the Council offices- financially and environmentally it seems flawed. I cannot see any costings in the display.
29. Have you considered other options such as selling this to the Wetherspoons Group? They would, from what I've seen, keep the beautiful grounds for the public to enjoy and it would be a much needed, reasonably priced family restaurant pub which would surely benefit Sidmouth far more than yet more housing and care facilities. All I've spoke to fully support this.
30. Absolutely disgusting. There is no way you would ordinarily allow anyone else to build houses on prime parkland. There is no consideration for removing parks, trees and environment which cannot be replaced. There will be a loss of parking which will not be replaced. And there is no way that there is access for the houses proposed and plans that include three storey buildings in that area do not add up.
31. It is an act of utter destruction to a beautiful site. Raise the taxes of second home owners who force our young people out.
32. There should be no new developments as new roads have to be built and new sewage etc. The Council have always been able to do what they want, even if people do not want them to do it. The parklands will be torn up and for most of the year the tenants do not get to use it. The Council want to sell everything to use the money.
33. The status quo should be maintained. No movement to Honiton. No development. Retain our parkland and the beauty of Sidmouth.
34. Utter dismay that you are planning to build on areas outside the footprint of the existing Council offices. Sidmouth will lose a vital Park and Walk facility which is so important for the future growth of our tourism industry. The whole character of Knowle Drive will be destroyed. At present it has the look of a country lane with properties of good sized plots. This new development will worsen the existing access problems from Knowle Drive onto the pinch point onto Station Road.
35. We are totally opposed to the proposed developments on the Knowle site. Although somewhat neglected in recent years it is still an important amenity to the towns residents and a significant part of the towns history and attraction to visitors. The building of more housing along Station Road will spoil the wooded aspect so attractive to those entering Sidmouth along its main access road. The building over of the lower car park will remove the parking facility so useful to those using the oak and cause even more congestion on adjoining roads.
36. Do we need so many more houses in Sidmouth? Are the towns amenities going to be updated to cope with the influx? E.g. Car parking, school and medical facilities. How mixed will the housing be e.g. Side by side or segregated?
37. I think the scheme is fundamentally flawed and bad for the town and as a result potentially East Devon. The current parking should be kept and used public parking for the town and not built on. The town has a shortage of parking as has been already proved.

There it is sat waiting, all you need is to put the meters up, hopefully set at a sensible price to compete with 1.60 charged at Lyme Regis (E.Dorset)for all day. We send lots of people to Sidmouth who cannot find a parking space and then they go somewhere else. I cannot understand the council making this move at this time, to make it cost neutral as claimed you need to make the most of the development. This will not happen in the current economic climate as developers are very cautious and will not pay a premium for the land. The development should not include the present parking as its needed and is another stream of income for years to come for East Devon. If the development cannot be cost neutral without the development of the car park areas IT SHOULD NOT HAPPEN ! Please listen to the public opinion sometimes they are right and should not be pushed to one side.

38. I believe that the Knowle and all that goes with it was left to the people of Sidmouth and as such should not be sold to developers. EDDC should remain at the Knowle, move Sidmouth Town Council into the same building and sell their building to developers, sell part of the Knowle building to developers and use the proceeds to upgrade their offices.
39. Although the proposed development appears to be sympathetic to it's surroundings, I have more fundamental concerns for the proposal: What is the driver to provide more housing in Sidmouth, considering the construction of almost 3000 new homes at Cranbrook some 10 miles away? It would be better to concentrate on improving facilities for the existing population, particularly a new school on a single site or a modern medical centre. I also have concerns about the timing of the proposal-the depressed economy would limit the number and creativity of any potential developers. I suspect that that the proposed move to Honiton is driven by short-sighted financial reasons only
40. There should be no development of the Knowle. Sidmouth needs to retain its precious green spaces and 'unspoilt' quality. This is its main attraction to tourists - who are its main income. PLEASE DO NOT RUIN IT.
41. I think fifty homes in the site is low density compared to other high density developments with Sidmouth. There should be provision of studio apartments for the young/old, who want less space. I think a care home with flats or bungalows similar to the Gittisham Site is a good idea. This site should be a stand alone site, to create a balanced community. It would be a good idea to base it on Poundbury at Dorset, not the constant Persimmon designs and make it a unique site. Fry's have a similar site in Exeter. A village style with various cottages etc. I also think perhaps the executive style homes, should be sold in plots so you have varied style built by different builders. With the need of care assistants within the area in constant demand, I think affordable homes are required within Sidmouth. What concerns me is that these affordable homes are often bought, then rented out at high rental rates..... defeating the object. This site within a mile of the sea is in a lovely location and the need to keep affordable homes just that "affordable" not by and sell on at a profit quickly, could a time limit be set? If you look at the recent two developments within Sidmouth, some of the affordable homes have been purchased and used for the private rental market.
42. Flawed and illogical the proposals do not offer a solution. Few apart from a small cohort of Honiton Councillors including the unelected Leader wish to move to Heath Park industrial estate and nor has the public been asked. Rather than addressing the needs of the district the move is self serving and the proposals do nothing to improve local employment and prosperity. Losing 350 jobs to the local economy there will be no benefit to Sidmouth and EDDC proposals are an opportunistic attempt to milk the town. It is simply unethical for EDDC to sell prime public amenity which it does not own without first seeking the approval of the community.
43. Care Home a very good idea, sheltered housing development like McCarthy Stone too. The care home may release larger council accommodation. Flats and starter homes to

encourage people to their first home. Good idea to build homes for people with a disability - ground floor flats and bungalows.

44. Very unhappy and disappointed that you are using parkland with unusual and beautiful trees to build houses on. This goes against national policy to preserve our environment and trees and I do not believe this site especially site E would have been considered ordinarily . The access to Knowle Drive is a single lane on side E with no passing places and a narrow gate. Also I think it is bad planning to loose a very large park & walk at the W/E which is heavily used (sometimes up to 80 cars) when Sidmouth depends on a tourist trade and is short of parking. You do not seem to be providing what the town wants and needs but just thinking of the council needs. I am still not convinced you could not update what you have got and sell either Honiton or the old Knowle building to generate cash. Just to add I believe you are considering town house on site C when all the housing round about was told they could not build high so there seems to be some double standards.
45. Initial reaction is utter dismay. I seem to recall that when you took over this area you agreed that the formal gardens etc. would be maintained as a Public Amenity for the people of Sidmouth. If that is correct, what right do you have to build on it?
46. I think that the plans are dreadful. There is NO NEED for affordable, nor private housing to be built in Sidmouth. Why a care facility, these seem to be springing up everywhere these days. Aren't the government suggesting a reduction? Instead, do something with the empty accommodation that is around, particularly in the town centre, above the shops. This is beginning to look disgraceful. The Knowle, I believe, is part of the new Arboretum. Visitors will want to look at the trees in their original, landscaped location, not in the middle of a housing estate. This is part of Sidmouth's history that you want to destroy. If I want to visit the council offices currently, I can walk there, I cannot afford (time or fuel)to travel to any other location. Why do EDDC seem to want to destroy the very being of Sidmouth by destroying everything that makes Sidmouth, Sidmouth, and a place where people want to live? Keep its reputation as an unspoilt Regency Town. This will need to be removed from signs soon as you seem to want to do nothing else but destroy its Regency beauty. Other examples include plans for the redevelopment of the Ham, a marina has been suggested, Boutique hotel!!!! All things that Sidmouth does NOT WANT.
47. It is clear from your display that there will be overdevelopment of the site. Very little of the formal gardens would remain. Assuming vehicular access points are those marked 1 - 4 on your plan, then the 'mix' of development is of no consequence, but the predicted number of vehicles owned by occupiers, staff and visitors to the flats, houses or elderly persons facility is what counts here. These extra public exits onto Knowle Drive would cause considerable problems. Already, with the existing traffic (which does not include EDDC staff as they have their own entrance/car park), it is difficult to exit the ends of the drive. The lower end is only one car's width. Because of the pinch-point on Station Rd., cars are held up in the Drive, so vehicles wishing to turn into the Drive block the main Road. Exits 3 and 4 would be onto particularly narrow points with no pavements for pedestrians.
48. I am 100% against the development of the site for housing. Whilst EDDC continues to insist that the residents of Sidmouth do not know what is good for them, and that young people are not interested in saving the site for their future, the decision makers will not have to live with the consequences. I fail to understand why the fiscal incompetence of senior managers of EDDC is not being questioned here rather than focusing on how to get them out of the mess they have got us into? There is nothing to suggest that future management will be any better than past management. Certainly meeting (*officer name*), did nothing to increase my confidence. The residents of Sidmouth wish to preserve the current site for its intended purpose, to be enjoyed as a recreational facility as it has been for years. Many young people in Sidmouth, my own 19 and 21 year old children included

have enjoyed the folk festival, music concerts, playing game e etc within the grounds, enjoying their freedom as intended. I am stunned by EDDC's plaintive 'what can we do as we are broke?' attitude. Why have you neglected to plan for the future, by the creating of a sinking fund or other budgeting measures? You are blatantly unapologetic for this mismanagement and see the selling off of this land as your 'right' to rectify your shockingly poor management of assets to date. I doubt you would be terribly sympathetic if I told you I was unable to pay my council tax unless I sell my house. No, I have to plan and budget to ensure this situation does not occur. Incidentally I was quite shocked to find that your (*officer name*) knowledge of local geography was so poor as to suggest that any workers travelling from Exmouth to Honiton would have an easier journey than they currently do , 'straight up the A30', even though he only lives in (*town name*). He shows a total lack of engagement with the issues at stake here. Phrases such as 'these are not finalised yet' are regularly churned out in the name of 'consultation' and another example of your attempts to baffle with vague and meaningless sound bites. It would also be better if you stopped using phrases such as 'cost neutral' and stated the facts "We have completely mis-managed our budgets for years and failed to plan for the future. We are now trying to save our incompetent senior executives jobs by selling off one of Sidmouths most well loved assets to the highest bidder." Sadly your residents are not as stupid as you would like them to be and see this move for exactly what it is.

49. Most of the area of parkland at Knowle is designated on the East Devon Local Plan as "Land of Local Amenity Importance", where the interest of the community is deemed more important than the interest of the developer. Development should only be permitted on the existing office area and the two upper car parks. In particular the area adjacent to Station Road, including the smaller car park, should not be developed as it is clearly visible to all visitors entering the town. If any other development is permitted, it would create a precedent for any proposed development in any other areas of Local Amenity importance in the town, such as the Byes or Connaught Gardens.
50. Is this the right site to site affordable homes amidst high value homes? With such limited parking in Sidmouth some of the parking should be retained for the benefit of the town. With such large scale alterations proposed in Sidmouth, Knowle, Port Royal(Eastern Town) and possible Industrial area surely a comprehensive plan should be implemented with regard to Parking & Traffic Management. This is well overdue and should be dealt with well before all these other proposals.
51. Unattractive and uniform 'homes' will not enhance the general area and also make the initial approach to the town unattractive. Developing Zone E will not only take away badger sets and the existing natural attractiveness of the site but the view down to the town. However, if the development must go ahead, to redevelop the existing council offices and car park must be the only consideration.
52. I strongly object to any type of building structure at Zone E. Zone C- please keep any buildings and fences within the existing building foundations. I object to any encroachment onto the park. Perhaps consideration should be given to the development of luxury apartments on the existing site, similar to Sanditon House, Sidmouth near the cricket pitch.
53. I am totally against development on any more than the present footprint at the Knowle. To build on the parkland just in order to finance a move to Honiton absolutely appals me.
54. We do not support any aspect of this desecration of our town. If the Council wishes to move then move but do not ruin a lovely parkland to pay for it.
55. What is the evidence that Sidmouth needs more housing and employment (assuming no relocation of EDDC). Is the proposed move being used as a reason for developing new areas of employment? Are housing and employment allocations in Cranbrook fully taken?
56. The question implies that the development is a done deal and that we have no choice but

- to accept it. A 'good mix' in whose opinion? There is not enough detail to form an opinion.
57. I do not agree with any more residential areas or industrial areas in Sidmouth. I spend a lot of my time in the South East which is grossly overpopulated. Sidmouth is special. We have a tourism industry. Please promote tourism in Sidmouth. Do not do more to spoil Sidmouth and East Devon villages.
 58. What is EDDC doing re Knowle to offset what Sidmouth residents put towards the purchase of Knowle on the understanding that it would be used for facilities for the community i.e. Dances and garden parties. Leave the car park to Sidmouth to compensate.
 59. Please leave Sidmouth as a beautiful unspoilt town. I feel very strongly about the suggested development which has been proposed, as I have lived in a little hamlet which has now become a new town development.
 60. No private housing. Trade the site for the 3 primary school sites. Keep green areas for children. Sell sites to fund move.
 61. Too big, not enough detail to understand the full extent of what is planned e.g. Number and size of houses. The only answers to questions was 'I don't know' and 'not yet decided'. What about the covenants already applied to properties in Knowle Drive?
 62. Absolutely disgusted and ashamed that EDDC are not looking after Sidmouths best interests. Sacrificing parkland and the Park and Walk facility is disgusting when there are so many alternatives. You have spent so much on extending and modifying a beautiful old building- now you want to demolish it.
 63. The Knowle was designated as a public open space in 1973 to help ensure against developments such as EDDC are proposing. It should be retained as public open space for residents and visitors to Sidmouth to continue to enjoy now and in the future.
 64. Not at any price. Leave well alone. EDDC being whiter than white are pushing the carbon footprint argument. Please answer this, even the new premises will have a footprint, also in its build. What will be the carbon footprint of 50 homes and a nursing home including building the same. Also change in travel of employees. What is affordable homes idea about. When I started out I could not even get a mortgage being newly self employed. Over the years I went onto build 3 homes for myself and my family. All by my own efforts.
 65. I don't like development at all. If there has to be some residential at least some should be affordable, local people should move into them. I moved here for the beauty of Sidmouth and the town centre.
 66. Although I am against you moving, as it will never be cost neutral. Should be more affordable housing, 60%, all for the young people of Sidmouth. Councillors that make the decision should be from Sidmouth.
 67. Need satellite Council office in the town of Sidmouth. Not on the Knowle site, needs to be more accessible.
 68. I don't like it. If a need to move EDDC offices and the sale of Knowle building alone would fund it, so be it. The loss of car parking is disastrous. Any building on the parkland is unacceptable.
 69. Knowle Drive is not an adequate access road for a lot of extra traffic. It is barely possible for two vehicles to pass each other at best, and the area between Station Road and area 4 on your map is only single file traffic- even a pedestrian meeting a vehicle on this stretch has to dive into a driveway to let it pass- so too much development here.
 70. Obviously EDDC is trying to maximise its financial gain by selling the Knowle to a developer with consequent detriment to Sidmouth. The local economy will be surely affected to say nothing of the loss of the only recreational site of its kind in the town. We have been told by a local Councillor that development within private gardens is not permitted- it seems amazing that fifty houses are proposed to be crammed into this site completely contrasting with local properties and runing Knowle Drive.
 71. I have no objection to some housing (?) which might pay for some modernisation of the

existing buildings. However, I am emphatically against the loss of employment that would result from a move to Honiton.

72. My view is that the development of housing and a care facility on the Knowle parkland is a travesty. The parkland was gifted to the people of Sidmouth (in 1973, and has not since been revoked), and it is therefore not the property of EDDC to sell to developers. Knowle Drive itself is a particularly winding and narrow road, which cannot cope with two way traffic in some points and certainly not car parking, especially on waste collection days. Zone E at the bottom end of Knowle Drive will cause significant access problems at the pinch point in Station Road.
73. A big no to the proposed development in the garden and parkland of the Knowle. Please do not spoil the beauty of this little bit of Sidmouth.
74. The proposal itself is in question: lack of information; a rushed notification; total disregard of AONB; no case for project
75. I would like to think that affordable housing will be provided as this is a superb area and asks to have large houses on it, which I don't like. We already have too many large houses being built at the moment. What about infrastructure and the probably large numbers of people moving in.
76. Moving from a prestige historic building in a central coastal location to a site on an inland industrial estate will be an extremely bad move which will be detrimental to East Devon Council.
77. Buildings should not be more than two storeys. The buildings in Zones A and B must not interrupt views of houses in Broadway and Eastern side of Knowle Drive. The narrow width between the stone pillars at South end of Knowle Drive will impede access to Zones C, D and E and with the additional traffic on Knowle Drive is sure to prevent the free flow of vehicles in Station Road. Improved public transport to new offices in Honiton will be essential to Sidmouthians.
78. Assuming the move away from the Knowle is happening as this whole questionnaire implies, then here are my views. Zone E is currently undeveloped green land with trees and wildlife- this should remain so. Access to this planned site is from Knowle Drive which would further endanger pedestrians and cyclists. Zone D- access from Knowle Drive would create same problems as for Zone E. Zone C- same access from Knowle Drive- as Zone D. Access to this area is currently by the Drive from Station Road and should remain so. The area covers green land and any developments should only replace current built land. Zone A- Keep as Park and Ride/ Hopper.

Q2 We will be keeping a significant area of public parkland. Do you have any suggestions for improvements to this parkland?

1. Don't need to waste money on artists. The beauty of Sidmouth is its rural and unspoilt visage. Keep it simple and natural.
2. Keep it open and natural with trees preserved.
3. Access to park from Knowle Road is a right, despite silly recent signs. The park is for all residents for perpetuity.
4. Leave the Knowle as it is with a newly designated arboretum.
5. All parkland should be kept and maintained for public use.
6. This is an ideal park for dog walking and I would like the whole thing to be preserved. It is a beautiful feature of Sidmouth and home to varied wildlife which I would like to see protected.
7. More seating
8. Coffee on the stand is so unprofessional. No eating or drinking on the stand ever!

9. None of the above suggestions please. Leave the park as it is- the rabbits, squirrels and pheasants provide plenty of entertainment. It should be a pleasant place to walk and visit not a playground or municipal park.
10. Leave it as it is except dig up the bottom car park and grass it.
11. The concrete base formerly used for the festival tent could be used as an occasional venue for short term entertainment.
12. Worried about cost of maintaining and policing i.e. Noise, nuisance, anti-social behaviour. Currently a quiet green space with many birds etc.
13. No- just keep the parkland as it is. If your scheme doesn't work without butchering Sidmouth then don't do it.
14. The area of open public space you have left for public use would be considerably reduced by your development plan. I would like to point out that the Local Plan was for 50 dwellings at the Knowle and your proposed Zone B which I understand from (*officer name*) is not included in the 50 dwellings obviously greatly increases the amount of building on this site. The position of Zone E is completely unacceptable destroying as it would the most attractive part of its garden and interfering with the newly created Sidmouth Civic World Arboretum. The additional amount of traffic on Knowle Drive- a narrow, partially unpaved road is hazardous and unacceptable to residents.
15. I cannot agree that a significant area of the Knowle will be kept for public parkland. It seems that all of the valuable attractive areas are being taken over for development. The only area left for public use would be the steep slopes and damp flat areas adjacent to Station Road. Play areas, gym, seating are a sop to try to soften the fact that the development of Knowle will be depriving Sidmouth residents and visitors of the only open space in Western Sidmouth.
16. We need to keep the parkland just as it is. Ridiculous idea considering the above suggestions. A quiet restful parkland is all that it should be.
17. To touch the existing parkland is to damage it and to miss the point of parkland. We do not want gimmicks. If the Council are hard up how do they buy sculptures.
18. Before you and others desecrated the beautiful hill known at the Knowle. A thing or place of beauty overlooking the sea. Give it back, nature will forgive us. Leave it alone, don't go.
19. This is already parkland. If you build houses the people in those houses won't want any of the above. What are EDDC planning to build on and keep a significant area of public parkland.
20. All of the parkland should be retained in its natural state- no play area, gym or sculptures. Maybe one or two seats.
21. Parkland stays as it is. The two car parks on site of a health centre existed there would be free at weekends.
22. Leave it and the trees alone! If it is built on then what is next? Blackmore Gardens, three cornered plot, putting green, golf club. Once this gets nodded through we can say goodbye to dear old Sidmouth, hello Blackpool.
23. Where there is already parking for the public at weekends- could be extended along the bottom to provide permanent extra parking for town at all times.
24. I am against the proposal
25. You are also removing a significant area of parkland and trees. It is not a sensible area for a children's play area. It should be well maintained and given to the public or national trust as a park and maintained as such.
26. Keep Sidmouth quaint as it is why we are not Exmouth or Seaton. Leave it alone.
27. Anything that benefits the community. The parklands should be kept as it is. Stay where you are and modify what you have. The Sidmouth population is an old one so why would you move to Honiton where it cannot be accessed by them easily.
28. Retain the status quo

29. I do not agree that you are keeping a significant area of parkland and have no suggestions for improving it as it is perfect as it is! The views, wildlife, shrubs, trees etc create an oasis of peace and tranquillity enjoyed by all ages. As it is, this area is a natural play area and does not need a more formal play area.
30. Under the development proposals the parkland area which would remain comprises little more than a third of the existing site. A small wedge of green in a plethora of bricks and tarmac! It is ridiculous to talk of improvements in this context.
31. The parkland is lovely as it is. It provides a beautiful aspect on entry to the town from Station Road. No need for an outdoor gym or playground here which would spoil the peace and quiet of the park.
32. The overall plan is wrong
33. Keep it as it is
34. Enhancing the Arboretum project. An outdoor amphitheatre for summer performances. Sculptures and outdoor gym are a good idea. Something similar to "Go Ape" would be fantastic, involving suitable local trees!
35. By keeping it the way it is now as unspoilt parkland - without any 'improvement'
36. The site is a good way from any local shops, so perhaps a convenient store? Also a bus stop? It would also benefit from having the open parkland so why not install a football pitch, tennis, bowls etc. to make use of the space.
37. This questionnaire is not a consultation on the appropriateness of the move but is a PR exercise in distraction which implies the move is programmed to take place. The presumption should be in favour of recycling and retrofitting the existing Old Knowle Hotel as a sustainable cultural asset. The Knowle parkland was given to the people of Sidmouth and does not belong to EDDC so the car parks must be retained for visitors to the resort.
38. Allotments - waiting list very long at present - encourage an interest for all ages.
39. Yes obviously it would be nice to have seating etc but not to the detriment of losing parkland, trees and building houses on the green space and the main road into Sidmouth. I think access to site C and E is a big problem due to the size of the road in Knowle drive at one end.
40. You have indicated two principal areas. The first is a small piece of the existing formal garden which will be sandwiched between Zones C, D and E, and will therefore just be a retained public space/play area which more remote residents are unlikely to venture into. The second, the Arena area alongside Station Rd., is no doubt left because of the expense of developing such a sloping site. This is not a suitable area for walking or pushchair use, nor is it particularly attractive when isolated from the formal garden which you propose to destroy. With that in mind, your suggested 'improvements', which a developer would no doubt be happy to finance, are irrelevant. In any case, vehicular access to Station Rd. would be hazardous.
41. Providing that The Knowle is KEPT as the council offices, then I have no objections to more seating and sculptures being provided. Certainly NOT a children's play area or outdoor gym, which are places that attract the more unsavoury members of society, particularly at night. Vandalism would also be an issue.
42. I note that the 'significant area of public parkland' you are keeping is mainly the 'rough' steep area which is unsuitable for building. This would also be unsuitable for the majority of the would-be residents in the flats and elderly care facility. No doubt the children in the 'affordable homes' would make use of it, but children from other areas could not access it as there will no longer be any parking! As for extra seating, statues etc in the formal gardens, these would be very much appreciated. Unfortunately, however, you have earmarked the majority of this area for building (especially the sloping area at the top with wonderful views which should be available to all, not just the flats). This area should be kept for the benefit of all, including area E which has significant numbers of valuable trees,

- recently designated as an arboretum. I should point out that it is not just the "older residents of the area" who appreciate the formal gardens. Like many others of your under-valued high council tax payers we have children and grand-children who spend holidays and breaks in Sidmouth. Our grand-children enjoy the children's' facilities at the Ham and Manstone Rd., but they think the 'Knowle Park' is special with it's strange trees and the wildlife - rabbits, foxes, squirrels and badgers. Please let us keep it for all our grandchildren - there must be other available sites for care homes and houses in the area.
43. The site is perfect as it is and need no further urbanisation. The fact that you will allow the developer to dispose of the Grade II listed summerhouse begs the question what is the point of listing a building and will planning committees for affording Sidmouth grade II listed home owners the same right should it become convenient or cheaper for them to do this than to retain and restore historic architecture?
 44. The arena used for open air concerts should be retained as such, including appropriate access from the main entrance. The parkland also features as a principal destination on the Sidmouth Arboretum walk - many of the trees have a significant value in this world - leading project. More seating may be appropriate in selected places.
 45. This parkland should be retained and maintained for the benefit of Sidmouth and it's visitors. I would have thought there were enough play areas already in Sidmouth. Gardens and areas to walk and relax with more seating. The arena area should be retained for outside events as has been used in the past, for this reason also some parking should be retained.
 46. Keep it as it is. Loss of anything is a disaster to both local people, visitors to Sidmouth and the wildlife that actually live there; badgers, rabbits, birds, etc. Additionally, loss of wild fruit, which again gives enjoyment and rewards. It takes years to create a 'park' as the Council now calls this and these mature gardens and trees are too few and precious. Certainly do not include any 'art sculpture' - waste of money. Keep the already existing natural 'summerhouse' possibly add a new seat in it if you must. The play area are the grounds themselves with the above mentioned natural attractions - there's already play areas in the town. Far more healthy and educational.
 47. Perhaps one or two more seats near the highest point for views.
 48. You say 'We will be keeping....' as if the decision has already been made.
 49. Keep more parkland available. To build on any part of the parkland is bad enough but to desecrate the lower end of Knowle Drive with housing is outrageous. Access from the traffic pinch is poor now and restricted by protected pillars. Development at the top end is understandable but Zone E development which destroys the beautiful lower end. Highways would have to be improved to allow more access to the lower part of Knowle Drive. Any development should take place at the Broadway end.
 50. The proposed areas of development are significant in area and will cause a huge loss of trees, shrubs, wildlife environment. Is building on the parkland in accordance with NPPF?
 51. It looks as though many mature and interesting trees are going to be cut down to make way for the development. Any new trees (if there are any) could take up to 100 years to reach maturity. There is no indication on the proposal of a car park for people visiting the area of public parkland. This will be another large piece of parking asphalted area and, no doubt with parking charges payable to EDDC.
 52. Leave it all alone to be used as it is now.
 53. The cost of staff and public travelling from Sidmouth to Honiton is significant. The remaining parkland will be limited.
 54. The land should be maintained in accordance with a management plan. Encroaching brambles and weeds should be removed. Existing trees should be supplemented with new and interesting specimens to mature over a period of time.
 55. Who are these suggested park improvements aimed at. They will be open to abuse by the

wrong element.

56. Get an independent person to look at the trees and survey them.
57. Sidmouth Town Council should be in charge of it.
58. Keeping all of it.
59. More seating and possible art sculpture would be ideal- anything else would be unwelcome intrusion. While undoubtedly affordable housing is needed, and the majority of households are elderly in this area, it is too far from the local schools to attract younger families.
60. It would be acceptable if building were to take place on the present EDDC office footprint but the significant area of public parkland retained is hardly that. The parkland should remain as it is. (?)
61. More seating.
62. So if this is public parkland- how do you have the right to build on it? The majority of voting members of the public object to these plans. The parkland needs to be better tended, especially the verges on Station Road. I find this question insulting and disrespectful to the people of Sidmouth- there is no voice approving this development apart from yourselves.
63. Parkland suggests peaceful appreciation of nature. We already have a large well equipped playground on the Ham. Improvements are not needed.
64. If this is to be promoted as parkland then it needs a parking area and pedestrian access and adequate seating.
65. All the parkland should be retained as parkland with no development of any kind. More new trees should be planted.
66. A small play area for kids is ok but no outdoor gym or sports facilities which will encourage rowdy elements, particularly late at night. Remove all the rhododendrons and replace with interesting trees and shrubs for the enjoyment of visitors, birds, butterflies etc.
67. This question implies the Knowle is parkland- why is there any consideration of developing it? As parkland maintenance alone is not sufficient. There needs to be something to suit all ages: well planted theme areas for the mature people with shelters and seating. Safe play areas for the young. Skateboard park for pre-teens and early teens.

Q3 Do you have any thoughts on access through the site? There are currently pedestrian access points to the park, although there are no rights of way. These would stay as part of the parkland and possible involve establishing some rights of way.

1. Station Road is narrow and windy. It's already a little hazardous for access. I regularly leave through Peaslands Rd into Station Road and have to take great care now. It will get worse and more dangerous with current proposal.
2. Yes, all access should be open.
3. The Knowle parkland should be a public amenity.
4. Rights of Way should be granted.
5. Access must remain as it is- by rights.
6. Public land it is and public land it should stay.
7. There should be access across the entire site as existing
8. Make the access paths rights of way to all residents and visitors to Sidmouth.
9. Establish new rights of way including a bridle path.
10. Rights of way should be established to ensure the long term retention as a recreational asset to the town.
11. Very concerned about Knowle Drive vehicular access, already very narrow, no pavements, pillars, pinch point problems currently with joining and leaving Station Road

12. Access is fine at the moment- leave well alone or risk the wrath of the electorate.
13. As (*officer name*) well knows a footpath application with 44 evidence forms completed by long standing users of the park for periods of up to 35 years was submitted to the County Council on 30 April 2012 and is being processed at present.
14. I believe that there is an established right of way through all parts of the Knowle by virtue of decades of use by residents. This must remain the case.
15. Keep the current pedestrian access points and allow to be rights of way!
16. I would want access to the park from all existing points. Knowle Drive struggle with the existing traffic. This road cannot safely support more.
17. There should be no development.
18. Keep it as it is. Quote "All the grounds around Sidmouth Council offices at Knowle should be dedicated forever as public open space. The UDCs Finance Committee decided last week" Sidmouth Herald, Saturday June 28th 1973 page 11.
19. So it is already decided and the public will be kept to where they want the public to be allowed.
20. Establish rights of way.
21. I am against the proposal
22. A number of the trees should be protected and the area should be maintained for public access.
23. Why should the Council make rights of way just because you want to do it. No way. It should stay as it is. You have never sold it before. Only because you want to do it. You will be taking existing parking and making no extra parking. Nothing expect making money for the Council.
24. Retain the status quo
25. Unlimited access to this whole site has been available for many years as it was intended as parkland for the recreational use of the people of Sidmouth. I believe that legally because of its constant use a right of way has already been established.
26. Access is quite adequate as it is. Certainly it should remain for pedestrian access.
27. The overall plan is wrong
28. Rights of way have probably been established by usage over the years. EDDC were underhand in removing footpath signs recently.
29. Establishing public rights of way to the area would be vital. Outside the site, the only suitable pedestrian crossing point of Station Road is inadequate and is a safety risk. This would need fundamental improvement.
30. The park has full right of way now - it should remain as such UNDEVELOPED
31. Not many people use this walk through anyway.
32. For those visitors who arrive by car the car parks should become the gateway to the resort. This would require improved pedestrian access and rest points along the route.
33. The access to this site is limited, perhaps remove the metal fencing to open up the parkland more and put signs up to attract attention that it is a public open space.
34. No I can not really visualise a whole load of houses with ultimately a lot of beautiful trees taken away around the small green parkland left in the middle. I am sure the owners of the houses with their cars, visitors and deliveries to the care home will snarl up the area. People will not be walking down so much as there will be no parking either
35. What access? Apart from access via Station Road, any vehicular access from Knowle Drive would be impracticable - it is impossible for two vehicles to pass at the lower end without one going into a private driveway and the stone gate pillars at the bottom are constantly being damaged as it is. Meeting another vehicle coming into the road at the bottom, in the pinch-point, is extremely hazardous and extra traffic would make it an accident nightmare. With the great shortage of Car Parking in the Summer months, it is unbelievable that you

- propose to allow new-build on the entire existing car-park area, including that currently open to the public. This will simply force more traffic into the congested town area (Most visitors do not seem to discover the Manor Rd car park).
36. Rights of way should be established, hopefully this will then PREVENT any development of the land.
 37. Looking at the small amount of formal gardens remaining, and with developments on all sides, anyone entering from 'outside' would feel like an intruder. I note your wording implies that we are only expected to pass through the parkland.
 38. The site is perfect as it is and needs no further urbanisation. Phrases such as 'possibly involve establishing some rights of way' indicate your plans to establish rights of way if they prove financially attractive to you as part of your 'bundle' of perks for the developer. I imagine these will also help to line your own pockets rather than provide any benefit to Sidmouth residents.
 39. Public rights of way should be established for regular users of the parkland, and for the Sidmouth Arboretum walk. The Definitive Map Review of public rights of way in Sidmouth is shortly commencing.
 40. Both access points on Station road should be retained and the spot where vehicles can access should have Station Road widened by 3 feet over a length of 80 feet approximately to avoid congestion with lorries & coaches which does at present cause considerable congestion. The pedestrian access from the Southern corner of the site onto Knowle Drive is essential and should be retained. (I've used this considerably over the last 38 years)
 41. I'm surprised there's no rights of way as I regularly walk all the access points and see others doing the same (with or without dogs). So why is the dog bin there and signs saying no ball games!
 42. I accept the existing access points.
 43. As these pedestrian access points go through the park and a restriction has never been made surely it is the case that a right of way has now been established.
 44. Existing rights of way are fine. Should be left as they are with the rest of the parkland. The silly signs which have just emerged are just a waste of our money.
 45. All pedestrian entrances are well used at present and provide valuable traffic free walking routes to the town for many residents including pupils, parents and personnel from St Johns School.
 46. I don't think that the remaining 'arena' area of parkland, which is treeless open space, will be as appealing to walk through as the area of parkland from Knowle Drive to EDDC offices- people enjoy walking through trees- not over open grassland.
 47. If it becomes a school then pedestrian access would not be possible. Otherwise keep access.
 48. Knowle Drive is too narrow to accommodate the increase in traffic.
 49. Pedestrians have historically accessed the site from numerous entry points and had free roam of the gardens and parkland. This should continue with no green space lost to housing or other developments.
 50. Pedestrian access should all be kept.
 51. I haven't been to the site. Couldn't get parked as car parks are always full.
 52. Rights of way should be retained in any case.
 53. Rights of way should be established- I was surprised to find that, after 30 years of walking the existing paths on many occasions, that this was not the case, notices to the contrary have only very recently appeared.
 54. Pedestrian access, which has been used for more than 30 years should definitely remain. Vehicular access at the bottom of Knowle Drive when it is very narrow seems to be dangerous and the increased traffic at the Broadway end will exacerbate what is already a difficult access point.

55. Complete accessibility for the people of Sidmouth. The question of access to the proposed developments is a different issue. At the top of the site, Zones B and A, access should be from Station Road, as currently. The access to Zone C is potentially very dangerous. This corner of Knowle Drive is blind in both directions, and the road is narrow at this point. I think that there should be no access for motor vehicles at '2', access should be via '1'.
56. Establish enough rights of way for access from the town.
57. Existing access points adequate. Dogs should be allowed without being on leads, as was allowed by Sidmouth UDC. The clear intention of the former Sidmouth UDC was that the Knowle should remain as public open space (without any form of development) for all time.
58. Move Northbound bus stop at Broadway junction to a safer position, say some 10 metres South. All roads in the Zones to have a pavement, Forbid all roadside parking. Every house to have its own garage or car standing. Wheelchair access to all roads and properties. Existing entrance drive to EDDC to be closed off at access point '1' otherwise traffic will flow constantly through to Zone C. Where will all the 'Park and Walk' visitors leave their cars.
59. Q2 says this is public parkland so the new notices re no rights of way are confusing, especially since the taxpayers own EDDC assets. The current access points are fine.

Q4 This is part of the District Council's information activities about the possible relocation of EDDCs offices to Honiton. What other measures could we take to make sure you are better informed?

1. Honiton's economic gain will be Sidmouth's loss. There may be relocation costs but what about work/ life balance for staff transferring.
2. Well notified but do not agree with the move.
3. The move is not necessary in the current economic climate.
4. Open and honest answers. Proof that there is a need. Community leaders to be shown around the Knowle to prove need.
5. Get your maps right- poor information. Poor proposal.
6. It would be great if the Council could organise tours of the existing site and explain why they feel it is so crucial to move. This questionnaire is flawed, where is the question asking 'Do you agree with this proposal'?
7. Honesty. Openness. Transparency. Serious questionnaires.
8. You hid these plans for years and did not include them in the 2011 plan. I am glad to see that you feel the need to inform us better but we still do not want to see the move from Knowle.
9. Tell us you aren't moving!
10. Clearer maps in the Sidmouth Herald- no key, too small to read without magnifying glass and should have been showing names on the plan etc i.e. Knowle building, depot etc. Needed much more information, no's of properties, type, number of residents in nursing home. Am aware we are at outline planning just not enough clear information. Adjacent residents to be notified at all stages.
11. Everyone I have spoken to about your Market Square consultations was unimpressed by the lack of information available. Also by the confusing statements made by members of your team, some of whom didn't even know the Knowle site never having visited it. The answers to the question as to how many houses were to be built on Zone E varied considerably from 8, 10, 16 houses of 6 or 7 three storey town houses. Take your pick. You even managed to rename Broadway at the top of your map as Knowle Drive.
12. EDDC should try honesty and openness. EDDC's reputation has diminished to a point where residents do not trust anything associated with EDDC.

13. Inform residents before you consider any developments! This would never have been considered from our former caring Councillors who respected our town.
14. Remember who pays the wages of workers etc and who elects the Councillors. This has been an atrocious communication exercise so far and we have been kept in the dark for too long.
15. Relocation! I recommend you fill the form in and hand it to Devon Home Choice classified as homeless. With such a large group it may be a while before you are able to be housed together. It may be they could put you (temporary of course) at Dunkeswell with plenty of extra parking. You could try renting.
16. Does it matter, EDDC are taking no notice of public opinion.
17. Be open
18. Be transparent. Have communication with all departments. You are paid to do a job, if you do not know what you are meant to be doing and what your role is how can it be effective EDDC. Communities need to be part of decision making, they are right to have feelings of mistrust and unrest. Is anyone looking to Sidmouths future. Where are the leaders with vision?
19. What do the staff who live in Sidmouth think about the 100 miles a week driving. That's £20 per week!! There is also a loss of business to the shops in the town.
20. More reliable access to plans i.e. Through library where they can be seen by everyone. Specific clarity updates in the Sidmouth Herald.
21. I would want to see a cost benefit analysis
22. You could stop the way you arrogantly state things in the press. Many people cannot attend meetings during the day so any public meetings should be at evenings or weekends.
23. You already have buildings, use them. Why should you do it now.
24. I am dismayed that, until recently, we have not been kept up to date with the full extent of EDDCs plans. I understand your views on the need to relocate but do not agree with the destruction of this parkland designated for the recreational use of Sidmouth residents as a means of funding such a move. Members of EDDC who do not live in Sidmouth, or represent Sidmouth residents have no moral right to make this decision as they will not have to live with its results.
25. EDDC should consult effectively with local residents who have already expressed clearly their opposition to the proposals. The allocation of a few minutes for a spokesman of the Save Our Sidmouth campaign to put forward the reasons for that opposition was a mockery of democracy. So much for Big Society!
26. A scale model would give a better idea of the proposed development.
27. The overall plan is wrong
28. I Propose a town meeting in the Knowle gardens on a Saturday afternoon when working people can attend. You may be surprised by the reaction of the town.
29. A regular update column in the Herald would benefit all
30. By leafleting houses. Many of Sidmouth's population is elderly and have no internet access. This is important if the council is to act democratically in a demographic like Sidmouth
31. Local offices in Sidmouth, Axminster and Seaton with Town Centre locations. With the efficiency savings from the proposed move - money not to be spent on new E.D.D.C. job creations. I.E. Communications Officer, the Council should look to Mid Devon District Council with a view of sharing services or out sourcing these services. Car sharing should be encouraged for 30% of staff relocating to Honiton, as Devon County Council Staff do.
32. EDDC appears to be self serving and out of touch with the people it is suppose to represent and serve. It fails to engage with the community and ignores the wishes of

Sidmouths residents. EDDC plans are detrimental to the resort as a premier tourist attraction. With no mandate to vandalise the town in this way EDDC should rather endeavour to provide a proper solution.

33. Keep the Sidmouth Herald informed - local press best communication of all.
34. You could let us know why your reasoning and justification on some of your decisions i.e.) why it is ok to loose the car parking which is so important to the town and suggest an alternative Ensure that you have coasted out other alternatives and give some figures as an explanation i.e.) be more transparent with your figures, the council building that most of the staff are in to me looks as though it could be updated and added on to. It appears as though you have just decided you must go to Honiton no matter what. I also feel your expenses may have many hidden costs you are not revealing. I have been told that the park was already designated an open space for the public and many trees have preservation orders on them simply because they were planted at a certain date but you are not very forthcoming about this.
35. As well as your own 'Sales Pitch', publish a summary of 'points against' without glossing it over, so that both points of view are heard. Sidmouth is a small town. Imagine that this was all scaled up, and the proposal was to destroy an existing Historic House and beautiful park in Central London, in order to build all over it. Would you be in favour of that? - if not, why do you think that it is OK to do it in Sidmouth? Such places are supposed to be held in trust for future generations, not destroyed for short term financial gain.
36. More information published on the website and letters sent to householders. But as the relocation SHOULD NOT take place, information about this issue will be unnecessary.
37. It is of no consequence to us where you re-locate, only that you leave behind what you held 'in trust' for the residents and visitors to Sidmouth. As for being better informed, I would like to know why this parkland (formal and otherwise) has not been designated as a site of amenity importance, when it has been in use as such by locals and many visitors from all over the country for more than 50 years (in my memory). If it had been, you would not have been able to build there unless there was no other suitable site for the proposed development. Clearly this failure to so designate the land was an oversight by EDDC and the Planning Ctee. should judge it accordingly. I would like the Planning Officers to explain what criteria would be used in deciding why this site should be built upon as against other available land in the area. Has the need for another care facility and yet more flats been identified? We know the Council wants the money to build new offices, b it if this was not the case would the Planning Ctee. grant planning permission for all this extra development - including on your car-park?
38. You could provide a full breakdown of the costs of restoration of the current council offices as I find the figure quoted by (*officer name*) of 8-9 million beggar belief, particularly when he stated that is was your decision not to waste time and money on giving the public a breakdown of how you arrived at this figure, preferring to focus on the figures in favour of relocation. Also when he suggested that this figure should be kept secret from developers. Land is worth exactly what the buyer and the seller agree, behind closed doors, is mutually financially beneficial. You could hold meetings at venues that can hold sufficient numbers of those who wish to attend at times that are convenient for working people. You could publish all letters of objection. You could hold up your hands to your financial incompetence and explain why this will be different in future. You could explain how you are going to make those who did not plan for the financial future of Sidmouth accountable?
39. Publish the feasibility studies which have caused the District Council to consider the move. Publish the final detailed documents justifying the move, if and when they are available.
40. Can there not be a direct and easier access to Knowle Relocation site on the web. Better and more prompt information through the local paper allowing more discussion

41. I dread to think what legacy at the Knowle your sell-out will leave as I've seen the effectiveness of your decisions; when I drive into Seaton and see the disaster that town has become - it used to be a reasonable place to visit but now with its supermarkets taking up the environment and the monolithic sea front wall it's a concrete urban disaster zone and all under your guidance.
42. I accept your reasons to move to Honiton but could you please leave a small office in Sidmouth i.e. Library, Kennaway House or rent a small corner of a shop such as Fields.
43. Be above board. Open and honest about your proposals.
44. Be more open! We want to know what is going on behind closed doors! Where are the figures behind the no cost move. Where are the figures to prove that we need more industrial land? Build your new office on the existing site then sell off the area occupied by the oldest buildings. Most of the Knowle buildings look newish and of sound construction.
45. Greater transparency re possible links with EDBF or developers.
46. Stop taking decisions behind closed doors and listen to the wishes of the residents of Sidmouth.
47. Be more transparent in your activities. Consider visitors to Sidmouth- where will they park? Certainly the Park and Walk car park should be retained as a permanent feature.
48. The Council need to be honest and transparent and engage with the local community representatives. To issue these new plans with additional detail via a press release is unacceptable. A single well considered plan needs to be proposed written in consultation with local people.
49. Be honest and don't only put comments forward that are in your favour.
50. In the local newspaper and public meetings.
51. EDDC will ignore what local people want. More information in local newspapers.
52. The main thing EDDC needs to improve is its listening skills and its openness.
53. You could inform residents in the immediate area likely to be affected of the planned changes you are proposing i.e. Knowle Drive, Broadway and Station Road.
54. There is a (?) that all the EDDCs plans are not being revealed e.g. The revised plan has more homes than initially shown- where will it all end before the final plan? Consider those peoples views- they are just as important.
55. I would like to ass my comment about employment. EDDC is the only sizeable employer in the town. Without it there will be no white collar jobs for youngsters with a couple of A Levels and Sidmouth will be left as a retirement ghetto/ Exeter commuter suburb. It will just encourage more travelling in contravention of green policies.
56. I think you still need to prove the business case to move. You need to make the process more transparent- by having an open day at the existing offices, and showing and discussing the measures necessary to bring this property to the condition required 'to embrace agile working practices'. Have you actually sought any quotes? If so, make them public. The costs of redundancy and relocation payments will be considerable- these need to be made public to the taxpayers.
57. This whole matter has been hidden from the public until the last moment- I wonder why?
58. The exercise which has been taken so far is entirely meaningless. No financial costs have been published. Full financial costs and statistics should be published.
59. Regular bulletins mailed to Broadway and Knowle Drive residents.
60. Let the voters and taxpayers inspect the conditions of the Knowle. Let us have an independent study and business case to assess the rationale of move versus refurbishment and leasing excess space- 50%. According to EDDC and business forum there is a need for accommodation for hi tech companies.