

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT FOR 18TH NOVEMBER 2024 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING CLLR KIM BLOXHAM, CLLR KEVIN BLAKEY, CLLR SAM HAWKINS.

TAYLOR WIMPEY SALES OFFICE

We supported EDDC's actions regarding the concerns associated with Taylor Wimpey's move of its sales office to a prime town centre location, which will impede further development.

On 30 October 2024, East Devon District Council took enforcement action requiring the permanent removal of a Taylor Wimpey sales centre recently installed in Cranbrook town centre. The enforcement notice requires that the building be removed and that the site be returned to its former condition within three months.

Cllr Todd Olive, East Devon District Council's Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, said:

"We are acutely aware that the residents of Cranbrook want to see a vibrant town centre that includes a range of facilities. We also know that residents want to see a better balance between the emphasis placed on house sales by the developers and the provision of community infrastructure.

"We want to see further shops coming forward at this prominent high street location. It is deeply frustrating that Taylor Wimpey chose to go ahead with the installation of their sales centre that will block this objective.

"These works were undertaken without planning permission. The developers were advised before going ahead that planning permission was required and that the proposed site would be unsuitable.

"The Council acted swiftly to write to the developer requesting that the building and associated flags and signage were removed by the 25th October. This was not complied with and the issuing of the enforcement notice represents the beginning of formal action.

"The future of Cranbrook town centre is of critical importance for the success of the growing community. The Cranbrook Plan anticipates a vibrant, self-supporting town centre that includes a

range of uses and activities to draw people in. With the imminent completion of the supermarket, high street shops and children's nursery, the town centre is now starting to take shape. The Council will also shortly be considering a masterplan for the ongoing development to the town centre."

TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

The Masterplan recommendation was supported at the recent Strategic Planning Committee. We now have to push for delivery!

"That Strategic Planning Committee endorse the Cranbrook Town Centre Masterplan as an evidence document for use by project teams looking to develop facilities on the town centre land and by the local planning authority as a material consideration of planning applications on the land subject to minor changes and corrections to be agreed in consultation with the Portfolio holder Strategic Planning."

Winter Car Parking Offer

The £2 winter car parking offer has returned this year. After listening to residents across the District this offer has been changed to enable more people to make the most of the offer by limiting parking to 4 hours, with no transfer, in select high-volume car parks. All other car parks remain part of the original offer, allowing parking for the entire day for £2, transferable to other car parks.

For more information: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/news/2024/10/2-winter-parking-offer-updated-you-said-east-devon-district-council-delivered/>

Cranbox

Working with Cranbrook Town Council, EDDC has been awarded £1,950,742 for Cranbox in the town centre. It is anticipated this award will be used to develop a modular community and commercial hub.