District Councillor Allen Report – April 2024

Just so that everyone knows which committees etc I’m on at SHDC…

I’m on Planning and Licensing committees

The council rep on the National Landscape Board (old AONB)

And now am on the housing and letting task and finish groups looking at how the council will rent out the properties it manages (particularly St Anns)

In planning with relation to Totnes, the planning application for a house at the top of Maudlin Rd was approved. There have been endless problems with that site (including a mud slip which closed the road for nearly a year) and the house which has been through a few iterations was considered to be acceptable for that site as it now has an internal garage and some outside space.

In licensing, the proposed new Loungers where Eversfeld was has applied for a late night licence – up to 12.30 and throughout the day. I will let you know how this progresses.

The NLB met last month and it was announced that they have received a large grant for their (our) project called On the Edge – I will send the information on this by further email. Its quite a substantial amount of money and will mostly go into educating people about and supporting the fragile habitats along the coastline.

I have only been to one housing and letting meeting where we discussed the criteria by which people would be given priority to rent one of SHDC’s rental properties. Basically it operates as Devon Home Choice does, so priority is given to those who live or have a strong connection to the area and it is only when properties are not taken up by local people that they will be offered to a wider market. If anyone is interested into what properties SHDC manage, then let me know and I will find all the information for them.

Outside of official committees etc I have been involved in discussions about the lack of appropriate housing for people (desperate as you all know), the need for a football pitch for young people in town (connected to wider discussions about how we are to use S106 monies and improve our leisure facilities), issues regarding the Conservation Area update regarding lack of consultation – ongoing, happy to chat it through, the new Totnes community festival which will be held on Longmarsh this summer (not connected to the previous Totnes festival) and ongoing discussions with Dartington CEO regarding the possibility of getting Party in the Town going again and possibly/hopefully some sort of literacy festival. I will keep you posted.

Coming up – Baltic Wharf and Steamer Quay nursery applications – someone from the planning committee will be coming to SHDC planning committee next Weds to discuss concerns around the bulk and scale of the proposed nursing home beside the Guinness Home.

Happy of course, to answer any and all questions regarding the above or about the Freeport or other wider concerns.