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Hatherleigh Plan it Project  
C/O West Devon Borough Council  
Kilworthy Park  
Tavistock

17<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Dear Sirs,

This is a covering letter to my local residents survey on the future of Hatherleigh. Thank you for inviting such detailed comment and forming the Plan it group. I wish to make the following comments to supplement the survey and contribute to the thinking going on about how to save our struggling community.

Under Q 14 you ask about reasons to shop in Hatherleigh and its economy. There are three important reasons for us, not mentioned. Pyles auction, Hancocks garage and the papershop. Pyles bring in customers from the whole region and operate from ageing premises with limited unloading facilities. I hope that the work being undertaken will assist them in strengthening their business. Hancocks, being in town rather than on an industrial estate, helps business at Cornwall Farmers, the Post office, and other shops, when taking a car in for work. The paper shop plays a community role as well as its basic one. Economic regeneration of Hatherleigh would be needed even if the market were not about to be sold, and I think your key priority should be helping to get more new business into the town. If we could be linked into one of the pilot Rural Growth Networks, and become a location for an Enterprise Hub, with access to all the new RDPE schemes, that might help. I presume this case will be made to the Heart of the Southwest LEP. The abattoir gets no mention, I don't know the detail on it but it seems to me that it needs either to modernise ( eg better treatment of waste products and odour), or become part of the regeneration site, a tough call.

Housing is going to be one of the most controversial aspects of this plan. I understand the role that it may have in improving the vendor's capital value, and in the money it may bring WDBC for each new house built. But time and time again, I hear people say that we don't need new housing, and express the worries that if we do get it, the houses will be small, inhabited by people who add little to the economy, or worse still may lie uninhabited or used to house problem families from afar, as seems to have happened in Holsworthy. I do think you need to demonstrate that you are listening to this point, and not take the view that the community's cooperation on housing is the price to be paid for your helping save the market.

Renewable energy gets only a small mention, and I would hope that Anaerobic Digestion ( or similar treatment) of abattoir, market, restaurant and household food waste will be considered, as will woodfuel heating of the new buildings, and a small hydro scheme.

A comment on Q 40 to 46, why keep this confidential? Clearly, you have to now you have said you will, but the ability to analyse the responses by respondent could be useful. Finally, I understand that the ownership and thus future of, the market car park is in some doubt. Could the Plan it group clarify this, please?

Yours faithfully,

