



# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

---

Tel: 01395 276167  
Fax: 01395 276168  
Email: [townclerk@exmouth.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@exmouth.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.exmouth.gov.uk](http://www.exmouth.gov.uk)

Exmouth Town Council  
Town Hall  
St Andrews Road  
Exmouth  
Devon  
EX8 1AW

---

## ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Mayor's Report

Town Meeting 2011

The last few years have seen challenging economic times. International, national and regional pressures have had a direct impact on the work of Exmouth Town Council. Faced with cuts from Principle Authorities and the cessation of organisations such as the Regional Development Agency, Exmouth Town Council has been challenged with not only maintaining momentum in planning for Exmouth's future, but increasingly with how to safeguard assets and services that would otherwise be lost without local support.

The Government's desire for localism will undoubtedly increase the role of Town Councils and local residents in decision making and providing services. The last couple of years have therefore given us a taste of what is to come in the future – Exmouth Town Council is well placed to face these challenges.

For the sake of clarity, I have grouped the decision making processes and strategy of Exmouth Town Council into three categories:-

### **Protection of Assets and Services**

Protecting assets that the people of Exmouth hold dear and maintaining standards of services important to the Town.

### **Openness, Community Engagement and Empowering Local Residents**

Creating opportunity for residents and Community Groups to have clear access to information and the decision making processes of the Town Council.

### **Investment and Growth for the Future**

Ensuring that Exmouth Town Council work in partnership with Principle Councils and the Private Sector to ensure that the forward strategy of the Town is in place.

Providing support for local groups and groups of residents to enable them to make a positive difference within the Town.

### **So what have we done?**

#### **Protection of Assets and Services –**

In the face of cuts from Principle Authorities, Exmouth Town Council has stepped in to take over the running of some of our Town's most significant assets.

- Provision of landscaping on highways – East Devon District Council has ceased to fund these services. A tendering exercise resulted in a keener price from the District Council and private sector contractors not being able to compete with the District Council's price. We have at least been able to test the District Council service against the market and find it to be very competitive. EDDC Streetscene will continue this service in 2011. The Town Council will also be paying for the 3d Flower displays and is seeking sponsorship to help offset the cost.
- The Town Council has taken on the seafront festoon lights and by Easter 2011 the lighting will have been changed to LED's, which will be brighter, cheaper to run and should be longer lasting - removing the many gaps that soon appear with conventional tungsten light bulbs. This should provide savings long-term and reduce what were previously considerable running costs.
- The Clock Tower on the seafront has now been handed over to Exmouth Town Council as a transfer at no cost from East Devon District Council. Inscriptions on the stone plaques will be improved soon. The cost of maintenance will now be funded by the Town Council.
- Rolle Exmouth Ltd – The Town Council has budgeted for up to £30,000 to support Rolle Exmouth Ltd in its ambition to secure part of the Rolle Campus for the development of a new Rolle Centre for business start-ups, education and training and community use.
- Bus Shelters - The Town Council is currently looking at ways to enhance the maintenance and cleansing of bus shelters with a private advertising company.
- Exmouth Town Council is budgeting for providing its own reactive resource for enhanced cleaning, town maintenance and enforcement against dog fouling. This will ensure cleanliness in the town is a priority. I have met with other local Councils to see if shared working could help to fund this endeavour.

#### **Openness, Community Engagement and Empowering Local Residents**

This Council has worked hard to enable the voice of Community Groups and residents to be heard on key issues affecting the town. It is a priority that our decisions are made transparently.

To this end I have used the mechanism of a Town Meeting three times since November 2009. A Full Council meeting was convened straight after the end of each meeting so that members of the public could witness the decisions taken by Exmouth Town Council relating to the previous discussion.

The additional Town Meetings related to the following topics:-

#### **Rolle Closure**

An open public discussion regarding the future of Rolle. From this stemmed the creation of Rolle Exmouth Ltd, a community based company seeking to secure Part of the Rolle site for the development of a new Rolle Centre for Education, Training, Economic Regeneration and Community

. This is a tremendously important venture and the company has received funding and support from Exmouth Town Council.

### **Budget 2010/11**

In the face of serious cuts from Principle Councils a meeting was convened to discuss precept implications and the relative importance of various assets and services to the Town.

### **LDF – Local Development Framework**

A Town Meeting was held to ensure residents had their say on the LDF consultation proposals for future growth of the Town and potentially substantial housing development. Following the Town Meeting, Exmouth Town Council convened and voted to issue a strong response against some of the proposals. Exmouth Town Council was subsequently praised for its robust and detailed reply.

### **COLP – Community Organisations Liaison Panel**

This Panel was established in July 2009 by the Town Council to bring together those community organisations with an Exmouth wide interest to work together towards a shared future plan for Exmouth. The Community Organisation’s Liaison Panel has already produced a strategy document and

action plan to start the process of developing our own Exmouth Community Plan, the development of which has been budgeted for by Exmouth Town Council. It is an excellent organisation , the importance of bringing people together to discuss and action ideas cannot be underestimated.

### **Building for the future**

It is vital that we plan for the future, to ensure that opportunity for inward investment is not missed. Some of the current projects and projects for the future are highlighted below. Exmouth Town Council works in strong partnership with Devon County Council, EDDC and the private sector to ensure that these projects are delivered.

### **The Strand**

The enhancement of The Strand area is now entering its final stages. The landscaping and final touches will take place over the next month. The proposed building is awaiting the decision with regards to planning consent.

A three-way agreement is being worked on, to ensure the efficient management and licensing of the space.

### **Exmouth Masterplan – LDA Consultants**

The Exmouth Masterplan is specifically intended to bring forward significant improvements in the town centre and seafront. The District Council and Devon County Council have commissioned local company, LDA Design, to draw together a vision for Exmouth to directly inform the town centre and seafront-focused masterplan and the preparation of comprehensive proposals and a delivery plan to bring about investment in two key sites: the Royal Avenue/estuary side area and the London Inn area.

The Masterplan for Exmouth will help to guide change in Exmouth in the next 10-15 years. The Masterplan will comprise a series of ‘framework plans’, each addressing a different aspect of the town centre and seafront and including:

- Urban Structure: clearly setting out the structure of the town, including key entrances, landmarks and areas of particular activity, to help to give it identity and make it easy to understand and navigate, and setting out how these could be improved;

- Character and land use: dividing the town centre into distinct character areas to ensure that future development proposals will respond positively to character and opportunity, whilst enhancing and promoting the things that make Exmouth special;
- Access and movement: setting out the way pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles should move around the town and dealing with issues of access, parking and public transport;
- Green Infrastructure: identifying the existing network of green spaces, routes and biodiversity assets, and indicating changes that might be necessary to create a higher quality environment;
- Streets and Spaces: concisely setting out the role of streets and spaces in the town and what these should be like to ensure they function well and enhance the character, image and identity of the town.

### **Orcombe Point – Bright 3d**

Visitor centre experts Bright 3D have been appointed by Devon County Council to investigate an enhancement scheme for the Orcombe Point area as a welcome gateway to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. First ideas have been produced and these have been tested in consultation with a wide range of people including councillors, community interest groups and Exmouth Visitor Centre Trust. These proposals will be presented to the community very soon.

### **Liverton 2 –**

A five hectare site to the north of Liverton Business Park is being developed to deliver in the region of 10,000m<sup>2</sup> (100,000ft<sup>2</sup>) of employment space for businesses in the light industry or the storage and distribution sector. Liverton 2 is being developed to alleviate the shortage of serviced employment sites in Exmouth, which has long been a concern for East Devon District Council.

**Investing locally** – Exmouth Town Council has many Service Level Agreements with local organisations and has also contributed support and funding to many groups through out the Town. The majority of those supported in the last couple of years are listed in Appendix A at the end of this document.

### **Conclusions:**

As I approach the end of my second year as Mayor, I would like to record my thanks in writing to all the people who have been so kind, welcoming and supportive when I have attended ‘official functions.’ Aside from the usual rounds of meetings, Deputy Mayor Sandy Sutton and myself have combined to attend over 200 functions during the year. The wealth of talent, enthusiasm and selflessness on display throughout all walks of life in Exmouth is quite frankly amazing. The people of Exmouth make this Town what it is – a fantastic place to live.

Past holders of this post will agree with me that there are many emotional highs and lows, moments of great humour and moments of deep sadness. I have tried to represent Exmouth to the best of my abilities at every occasion – occasions which I will remember for the rest of my life.

In the future, I will be unable to commit the same amount of time to the role of Councillor. It is therefore my intention to stand down completely from my elected roles on Exmouth Town Council and EDDC and I will not be seeking re-election.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the many hard-working Councillors on Exmouth Town Council. They are a credit to the local Community. The tireless work of all the staff at the Town Hall must also be applauded. They so often go above and beyond the call of duty- volunteering additional time to make sure projects and events are seen through successfully.

Acclaimed speaker of the US House Samuel Rydon said in 1953 ‘anyone can kick a barn down, but it takes a carpenter to build one.’ This quote has great significance for our Town , as it will be far easier for much of the hard work that has been put in to be dismissed- for relationships to break down and for a period of introspective struggles to take place.

For Exmouth to reach its full potential of the next few years it needs to build on the hard work that has been put in and the momentum achieved. A strong Council must continue to work in partnership with COLP, local residents and an increasingly thriving Chamber of Trade.

With much work going on during a period of financial stagnation, Exmouth will have all the plans it needs in place to capture and attract more investment when the economy picks up – if it understands that those businesses that will provide the jobs , infrastructure and investment want to deal with a town that is confident in itself and knows where it wants to go.

The truth is Exmouth will be competing with other towns to attract such investment and jobs. Just because we live in a nice part of the world, we have no divine right to expect that we will attract the right kind of sustainable investment to take our town forward.

The challenge for Exmouth is to continue the progress and to continue working together. Then and only then will it be able to achieve its full potential.

## **2. The Council’s Mission**

Here is a reminder that the Council, like all organizations has a mission and this is summed up in the following words:-

- To improve the quality of life for Exmouth residents, the experience of visitors and build on the characteristics which make Exmouth special.

To go with the Mission is the Town Council’s slogan:-

- ‘Exmouth Naturally – Arts, Leisure and Environment’

The slogan sums up so much of what Exmouth aspires to be and future changes should take

## **3. Organisation and Accountability**

The Town Council has 25 elected members returned from 5 wards each with 5 members. The Committees of the Council are Planning, Regeneration and General Purposes and Finance. Working Parties are set up as required. Examples include Public Rights of Way Working Party, Exmouth Public Transport Partnership, Christmas Lights Working Party and Summer Festival Working Party.

The public can raise issues and concerns at public question time at each Ordinary Council meeting.

All meetings of the Council and its Committees are open to the public and press except where expressly excluded by resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. The public have the right to ask questions and make statements immediately prior to the commencement of each Council Meeting.

#### **4. Councillors**

The Councillors for Exmouth Town Council are as follows:-

##### **BRIXINGTON**

Mr T A Cope (Trevor)	LD
Vacancy	
Mr D Chapman (David)	Cons
Mrs M Chapman (Maddie)	Cons
Mr D Nicholas (Daryl)	Cons

##### **EXMOUTH TOWN**

Mrs P Graham (Pat)	LD
Mrs M Hardy (May)	LD
Mrs EE Wragg (Eileen)	LD
Mr S Gazzard	LD
Mr I Stewart (Ian)	LD

##### **HALSDON**

Mrs L M Elson (Lynne)	Con
Mrs V Duval-Steer (Vivian)	Con
Mrs J Whipps (Joy)	Con
Mr R Turner (Richard)	Con
Mrs P Stott (Pauline)	Con

##### **LITTLEHAM**

Mr K Harper (Ken)	Con
Mr J Humphreys (John)	Con
Mrs S Sutton (Sandra)	Con
Vacancy	
Mr M Williamson (Mark)	Con

##### **WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH**

Mrs J Mitchell (Jean)	LD
Mr M J Mitchell (Malcolm)	LD
Mrs B O Taylor (Brenda)	LD
Mr R J Taylor (John)	LD
Mr S C Wragg (Steve)	LD

Details of addresses and telephone numbers for Councillors can be obtained on request from the Town Clerk and are available on the Exmouth website and at the library and on notice boards within the town. A copy is attached to this annual report.

#### **5. Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships of Committees**

Mayor	Councillor Darryl Nicholas
Deputy Mayor	Councillor Sandy Sutton
Chairman Finance	Councillor Joy Whipps
Vice-Chairman Finance	Councillor Vivian Duval-Steer
Chairman General Purposes	Councillor Pauline Stott
Vice-Chairman General Purposes	Councillor Maddie Chapman
Chairman Planning	Councillor Lynne Elson
Vice-Chairman Planning	Councillor Richard Turner

## 6. Town Council Officers

Town Clerk	John Wokersien <a href="mailto:townclerk@exmouth.gov.uk">townclerk@exmouth.gov.uk</a>
Town Management Project Officer (Part Time) <a href="mailto:tmassistant@exmouth.gov.uk">tmassistant@exmouth.gov.uk</a>	Suzanne Birkett
Office Manager and Members Services Officer (Part Time) <a href="mailto:officemanager@exmouth.gov.uk">officemanager@exmouth.gov.uk</a>	Sue Cody
Summer Festival Organiser (Part Time) <a href="mailto:exmouthfestival@googlemail.com">exmouthfestival@googlemail.com</a>	Chris Woods
Administrative Assistant –Accounts (Part Time) <a href="mailto:admin@exmouth.gov.uk">admin@exmouth.gov.uk</a>	Julie Gregory
Secretary (Part time) <a href="mailto:admin@exmouth.gov.uk">admin@exmouth.gov.uk</a>	Mandy Westlake
Receptionists (Job Share) <a href="mailto:reception@exmouth.gov.uk">reception@exmouth.gov.uk</a>	Valerie Holland Rons Boatman
Town Hall Security and Town Maintenance Officer (Part time)	Ted Breeze
Gorfin Hall Caretaker (Part time)	Tony Lynch

All officers can be contacted via Town Clerk, Exmouth Town Council, Town Hall, St Andrews Road, Exmouth EX8 1AW. Tel:01395 276167 Fax:01395 276168 or email at the addresses shown under name.

You can also view information about the Council on the official website  
[www.exmouth.gov.uk](http://www.exmouth.gov.uk) .

## 7. Finance

The precept was set at £315,637 for 2009/2010 equating to a precept of £23.88 for band D properties. For 2010/2011 this was increased to £398,670 equating to a precept of £30. The precept continues to be one of the lowest for the larger towns and villages within East Devon.

The Council has complied with the Audit Regulations and appoints a professional internal auditor. Accounts for the previous year have been certified by the District Auditor.

## 8. Council Tax

Council Tax for the three Local Authorities responsible for Exmouth were at the following levels in 2010/11:-

- £30.00 for Town Council – (Equates to £398,670)
- £121.78 for East Devon District Council;
- £1,116.36 for Devon County Council;

- £156.60 for Devon and Cornwall Police Authority;
- £71.77 for Devon Fire Authority
- **£1,496.51 in total**

### **Council Tax Share based on a band d property per annum**

#### **9. Budget Requirement for 20010/11 compared to 2009/10**

<b>2009/10</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>2010/11</b>		
		<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>Net Spending</b>
<b>£000</b>		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
28	Town Management	60	27	33
29	Town Maintenance	77	5	72
124	Administration	136	15	121
30	Grants	49	0	49
33	Accommodation	36	0	36
72	Other Services	91	9	87
<b>316</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>398</b>

#### **10. Community Safety**

Under S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act Town and Parish Councils with District and County Councils have responsibility with the police and other bodies for public safety. In Exmouth the Exmouth Action Group meets regularly and has objectives to deal with pressing issues in the town. Councillor Steve Gazzard is the Town Council's representative on this group with the Town Clerk.

#### **11. Other Legal Requirements**

The Council is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998, The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Model Scheme), and has adopted a resolution under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and promote racial equality between people of different racial groups. The Council has taken all necessary steps to comply with the code of conduct for councillors.

John Wokersien  
Town Clerk



## **Appendix A**

Major funder of the Exmouth Festival

### *Service Level Agreements*

Age Concern Exmouth and District  
Citizens Advice Bureau  
Exmouth Beach Rescue  
Exmouth Council of  
Voluntary Services  
Exmouth in Bloom  
Exmouth Swimming and  
Life Saving Association  
Exmouth & District Community Transport Group  
Centre Stage  
Exmouth Tourist Information Centre  
Exmouth Carnival

### *Project Funds*

Exe Table Tennis Premier  
Club  
Exmouth Learning  
Community  
Withycombe Raleigh  
Playgroup  
Relate Exeter and District  
Littleham Leisure Centre  
Bay FM BS Explorer  
Scouts  
South West Brass Band  
Association  
Exe Sailing Club  
Littleham Family Activity  
Centre  
Littleham in Bloom  
3rd Exmouth Cub Scouts  
Headway Devon  
Rotary Club of Exmouth  
Exmouth Gateway Club  
Exmouth Rugby Football Club  
Fairtrade Steering Group  
Exmouth Eagles Youth Football Team  
Exmouth Archery – Individual Application  
Exmouth Ice Project

Bassetts Farm Pre-School  
South West Brass Band Association – hosting annual event in Exmouth.  
River Exe Regatta  
In a Heartbeat  
Brixington Bloomers  
Littleham Family Activity Centre  
Littleham Residents Association  
Exmouth Players Drama Group  
Exmouth Rowing Club  
Respite & Recovery UK  
Bridge building Basketball Exmouth  
The Friends of The Quiet Mind  
Exmouth & Budleigh Salterton District Scouts  
Open Door Nightshift  
Littlemead Residents As  
The Brix Youth Group  
Exmouth Local Exchange Trading Scheme  
Exmouth Allotment Associaton  
Exmouth Sea Cadets  
Exmouth Community College Kayak Club  
National Coastwatch Institute Exmouth Station  
Exmouth Amateur Youth FC under 7/8