

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 28th September 2020 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

1. Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council and Transition Exmouth Representative
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Nick Christo	NC	East Devon District Council (StreetScene representative)
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Jennifer Wellington	JW	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

2. Apologies

Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey (ex officio)	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Rev. Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together
Rev. Steve Jones	SJ	Churches Together

3. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

4. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 17th August 2020 were approved.

5. Matters Arising

Redgate Planning Application

Exmouth Town Council's (ETC) Planning Committee reaffirmed their recommendation for refusal on the Redgate, Salterton Road planning application. The application is due to go back to East Devon District Council's (EDDC) Planning Committee for the final decision later this year.

Beach Shelters

Members shared how much better the sheltered area on the seafront looked since Love Abode community art project had completed their artwork. NC confirmed that anti-graffiti paint had been used and although there had been

small amounts of graffiti, this had been removed relatively easily. Members added that not having a blank canvas may be a factor in the reduction of graffiti.

The wooden seating in this area had been removed and EDDC had no plans to reinstate them. NC is keen to hear the public's feedback on this.

6. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy

Bapton Valley

ETC has been working with EDDC and Devon County Council (DCC) looking at various proposals for cycle and foot paths for this area, for example linking Dinan Way all the way through to the town centre via Pound Lane. The proposed route planned is straight forward and cuts through Parry's Close Farm to join Partridge Road (it will be slightly different to what is in place currently) and Pound Lane.

Preliminary drawings were currently being drawn up by an EDDC Engineers, which will give an indication of the cost. ETC will then produce a report to take to Full Council with the recommendation to proceed with this project, possibly using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies.

The ownership of the entrance from Parry's Farm Close into the Bapton Valley is currently unknown. However, as this ownership was extensively contested when the development went in, it is possible that information on this is recorded in the archives.

Action: CJ to inform EDDC Engineers of this former planning application information for this site as reference was made at the time for the need to create an entrance from Parry's Farm Close.

Tri-party agreement

The flood defence work by the Environment Agency (EA) and Kier has progressed well.

The EA has proposed a tri-party agreement with EDDC and ETC (through volunteers) to close the floodgates. It is intended that EDDC would close all the floodgates on the highway (closing the roads) and ETC would be responsible for all the non-highways gates, including Morton Crescent, Camperdown Creek, Imperial Hotel and the Rockfish/The Grove area.

This plan is in the early planning stage, with approval in principle being put forward to the October ETC Full Council meeting as well as EDDC's Cabinet meeting, also in October.

If approved in principle, the operational side of this agreement would need to be worked on, including having clear guidelines on liability if the floodgates are not closed on time, how many volunteers would be required and how they would be alerted by the EA to shut the floodgates. Volunteers would need to be trained appropriately to ensure adequate cover is available for non-highway gates.

NC added that as EDDC Street Scene work across the district, support by them may be limited. Partaking in frequent drills of closing and opening the floodgates would be important to ensure they are mechanically sound when they are needed.

The EA are looking to install the floodgates in January 2021 so volunteers would need to be in place and trained as close to that date as possible.

7. StreetScene Update

NC provided an update as follows:

- The workload overall has quietened down a little, but it is still quite busy. However, plans are in place to catch-up on the usual annual tasks, such as hedge-trimming, that have been postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Future winter plans will be dependent on further Government updates with regards to the Coronavirus.
- Seasonal staff contracts are due to end shortly, therefore the street bin collection schedule will be reduced.
- ETC has agreed to fund the opening of the EDDC public toilets next to the train station. The aim is to open them on the 1st October 2020 to the end of March 2021, with cleaning four times a day. The public toilet closing time is currently 8pm until the winter season. However, 5pm winter closing may be too early so planning to close at 6pm or 7pm were being considered.
- The Manor Hotel and several Strand businesses have had pavement licences issued, with other businesses interested in applying. The licenses run until September 2021.
- The Bradley's 10k and Exehammer events took place on the 27th September 2020 and seemed successful. EDDC Officers went along to check they were Covid-compliant. Rowlands Fairground has been allowed to set-up on the Imperial Recreation ground in the coming weeks.
- Three electric fleet vehicles are to be delivered on the 29th September to replace the current diesel vehicles. This brings the number of electric vehicles in the Exmouth fleet to 6. There are 3 electric car charging points in the Camperdown depot, with plans to install a further eight points. A survey to install public charging points in a selection of EDDC carparks is due to take place.
- The swings at the Imperial Recreation ground playpark are due to be replaced imminently.
Action: NC to find out when the swings will be reinstalled.

- TS's request for barriers for the Remembrance Sunday Service would have been directed to the EDDC Events Team, not to Street Scene.
- PS thanked Street Scene for their hard work over the summer period and TD added his thanks to Plastic Free Exmouth.
- The issue of graffiti along Langerwehe Way was raised. As this involves private ownership, it is not something that can be addressed at present. However, NC plans to investigate providing a graffiti removal service for commercial and private properties once time and resources allow.
- The on-street recycling bins do not seem to be as successful as hoped, with most of the waste collected having to be segregated at the Camperdown depot. ETC's Plastic Reduction Working Party had initiated a trial with Street Scene help to try and improve the amount of waste collected via on-street recycling bins and it was agreed that this be picked up again.
Action: CJ/JW to liaise with NC to pick-up on this project.

Delivery of the new seafront bin lift vehicles was delayed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The new delivery date is scheduled for December 2020.

- BBQ bins along East Devon's beaches are due to be removed as the demand for them lessens. There have been instances where the normal, plastic bins have been used to dispose of BBQs which has caused them to be burnt to the ground.
Action: NC to send a photo of a burnt bin from Budleigh with CJ/JW assisting in the promotion of the importance of using correct bins.
- Members asked whether the temporary car parks behind Ocean and Queen's Drive will be closed after the Sideshore water sports centre opens.
Action: NC to ask Andrew Ennis/Alison Haywood for details on the closure of the temporary car parks.

8. For information only

Members were asked to note the following information:

Planting schedule as part of Tidal Defence Scheme

The planting schedule, as part of the Tidal Defence Scheme, was attached to the agenda and circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Notice of casual vacancy in Withycombe Ward

For information on the casual Councillor vacancy in the Withycombe Ward:

<https://www.exmouth.gov.uk/co-option-vacancy/>

Former Rolle College Pre-Application details for residential development of 39 new homes

Details of the pre-application at the former Rolle College site were attached to the agenda and circulated prior to the meeting. Members were updated that this application is to be discussed at ETC's Planning Committee on 28th September 2020.

Members were reminded that comments on planning applications can be submitted via EDDC's Planning Portal on their website. Any members of the public wishing to speak at an ETC Planning Committee meeting need to register before the meeting by contacting the Planning Administrator.

9. Update from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives

Exmouth Transport Partnership (ETP)

TD updated members that the Bapton Valley project had been well received.

In addition, ETP members were disappointed that Exmouth did not meet the criteria for the Government's road space scheme and that DCC were prioritising other areas in Devon.

Great Western Railway (GWR) franchise arrangement for Exmouth railway has been extended for the next two years.

Unfortunately, Stagecoach were unable to send a representative to the ETP meeting to discuss the ongoing bus issues. Therefore, TD had emailed them for an update.

PS added that ideas were being considered around creating safer cycle paths in the town centre and seafront. Ideas included a one-way road for vehicles at the traffic light junction of Exeter Road with Marine Way so that the other side of the road could be used for cyclists.

Transition Exmouth

The 'Our Place, Our Planet' website, that has been funded by ETC is progressing well with the launch event planned for the 20th October 2020.

TS added that the new Rev. SJ would like to be involved in Transition Exmouth matters as he has prior experience with other Transition Towns.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

The Chair of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party was meeting with other Working Party Chairs, Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk to ensure work was not duplicated. This way any ideas or work can go through the appropriate Working Party channels.

The idea of sharing EDDC's electric car charging points with ETC was raised but NC was unsure of the logistics of this and will investigate this further.

Community Resilience Working Party (CRWP)

Work was taking place to improve and strengthen of the Emergency Plan to include pandemics. As ETC did not have any statutory duties, its role would be to support the community by providing help and guidance to organisations as well as financial aid through grants. ETC's volunteers and emergency boxes would be utilised as and when needed until the statutory authorities arrived on the scene.

Exmouth Mutual Aid now includes a listening ear service, with the phone line manned for four hours every Monday to Friday.

Action: TS to contact the Exmouth Mutual Aid organiser with regards to ETC sending out information about this new service.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

This Working Party have been looking at the conditions of the PROWs in Exmouth and it appears that any maintenance issues have been dealt with in good time by DCC and ETC's Town Maintenance staff. However, there were several smaller footpaths and linkways which still needed addressing.

CJ had spoken with ex-Councillor Brenda Taylor regarding the wooden fence by Withycombe Brook and found out that some intervention had been put in by DCC. However, it seems that the land is not owned by DCC and there was concern about liability issues and the problem remains unresolved.

Festival and Events Working Party

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, the working party had agreed that there will not be a Christmas Fayre event this year. However, a School's Christmas tree decorating festival and community lantern parade was being discussed with the help of Rev. SJ at Holy Trinity Church. Any plans will need to be in line with current Coronavirus safety regulations.

Work on the installation of a Christmas tree in the Strand and Christmas lights around the town had commenced.

NC added that EDDC are proceeding with caution regarding Christmas events due to the ever-changing Coronavirus rules.

PS asked whether Christmas trees could be planted alongside the beach-side of the seawall to help with sand displacement.

Action: PS to research locations in the UK where this has happened previously and provide further information to Streetscene.

TS reminded members that the Remembrance Sunday event in the Strand is not an open event for the public to attend. Organisers have been inviting selected guests from the community to attend in a Covid-secure manner,

Action: NC to ask EDDC's Events Team to liaise with TS regarding this event.

ETC can help promote message that this event is not for the public to attend in person.

Action: TS to talk to the CCTV group and Royal British Legion with regards to live-streaming the event for the public to watch.

CCTV

A new CCTV system was being trialled with a camera being temporarily installed on the seafront. Members of the CCTV Working Party were given a presentation by the company. PS reported that the picture quality was very good with zoom and movement facilities.

A report will be given to the Town Council for consideration.

Quality Council

TD updated members that as a Quality Council, ETC has delegated authority for planning decisions for trees and signage.

Under the new scheme which replaces the Quality Council scheme, there are now three levels of the award. ETC is currently on the foundation level. The Working Party is working towards achieving the second level. With most of the criteria having been met, it is hoped that ETC will be able to apply for the next level within the next 6 weeks.

Town Maintenance Contracts Task and Finish Forum (TAFF)

This TAFF has been focussing on work around the town and seeking expressions of interest to tender for ground maintenance.

ETC's, EDDC's and DCC's grass cutting work around the town is being mapped to iron out overlap and gaps.

Gorfin Hall Management Committee

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, Gorfin Hall hiring has been restricted to Sunshine Nursery for the foreseeable future.

10. Agenda items requested by members

Parking Restrictions

Members raised concerns over unauthorised parking on pavements, slipways, and other inappropriate places.

Imperial Recreation Ground, a popular water sports spot, is one of these areas of concern. There is a lack of enforcement for the inappropriate parking. NC confirmed the faulty bollards in this area are to be surveyed and replaced.

EDDC's Car Parks team are aware of the issues and are trying to enforce where they can.

The motorhomes parking issues on the seafront will need to be dealt with by DCC.

Action: It was proposed by PS, seconded by TD, that ETC through COLP contact DCC to find out if there is an Enforcement Officer patrolling the seafront and Orcombe Point.

Cars parked on Belshers slipway, have also been causing a problem. It is believed that EDDC had enforced parking in this area in previous years. NC confirmed that the EDDC Beach Safety Officer does patrol and talk to the public when applicable.

Action: NC to find out from Andrew Ennis, EDDC Car Parks team, if vehicles can be ticketed if they are parked on the shoreline including the use of the a Public Safety Protection Order (PSPO).

Members also raised the issue of cars being parked on the corners of roads. It was unclear if parking on corners of roads was an illegal, enforceable law or just an advisory guideline. If members see any dangerous parking on the highway, it was suggested this be raised with DCC.

11. Any Other Business

Flood Defence Works

GS raised a concern that the work area at Camperdown Creek looks to have been abandoned, with metal fencing still in place but no work was being done.

NC confirmed that the EA and Kier would need to tidy up the areas once finished and the work on Alexandra Terrace junction remains outstanding.

Action: The notes of the Flooding and Land Drainage meeting, including the outstanding EA work, once approved by the Town Council, will be circulated by CJ/JW to COLP members.

12. Dates of future meetings

The next meeting will be held virtually on 16th October 2020.

The meeting ended at 11.48am.