

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Chairman's Report



2020 will be a year that none of us will forget.

Covid-19 has changed everything we do. No more face to face meetings, a new way of working for Councillors' meetings by Zoom and staff working from home and learning new skills.

I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to all staff and Councillors for all they are

doing and continue to do in these extremely difficult times.

Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council has continued to work hard on behalf of our community. During the year, we have continued to award grants and Service Level Agreements to local organisations and we have set up a hardship grant fund which is open to organisations, clubs and charities.

Our committees and working parties have continued to meet and to help steer decisions which affect the town. For example, the Town Council has agreed to contribute £158k in match funding to Devon County Council as part of its recent bid to the Pinch Point Fund to secure funding to complete the Dinan Way extension.

Our Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party is also busy in discussions with the relevant authorities to come up with a co-ordinated plan for closing the new flood gates which are due to be installed as part of the Environment Agency's flood defence works in Exmouth.

One of the casualties of Covid-19 was, regrettably, the cancellation of the extremely popular Exmouth Festival for the first time in 22 years. At the time of writing, the prospect of the Town Council hosting any Christmas events, including its annual lantern parade, also seems difficult but we will do what we can to bring festive cheer to the town.

Exmouth Town Council is normally made up of 25 Councillors, however at present we have two vacancies: one each in Littleham and Town Wards. These will hopefully be filled via elections in May 2021, subject to Covid-19 regulations. All Councillors are here to serve you and your Ward Councillor details can be found on the Council's website so please do contact them if you have any queries or questions.

Exmouth Town Council also has a good working relationship with our higher tiers of councils: East Devon District Council and Devon County Council.

Councillor Steve Gazzard,
Chair/Mayor, Exmouth Town Council

Planning Committee

Exmouth Town Council's Planning Committee meets approximately every two weeks to consider applications in its capacity as a statutory consultee. The Committee also has delegated authority to determine tree and advertisement applications. In 2019, the Planning Committee met on 26 occasions and considered 371 applications.

Finance Committee

Our Finance Committee meets once a quarter and has delegated responsibility for managing the Council's budget. Exmouth Town Council is empowered to award grants under a specific section of the Local Government Act 1972, known simply as Section 137. In 2019/20 the Town Council awarded funding to the following organisations:

Organisation (1-year grant funding)	Amount £	Organisation (3-year grant funding final payment)	Amount £
South West Brass Band	520.00	Exmouth Musical Theatre Company	1,000.00
Exmouth Open Door	1,500.00	Exmouth Swimming & Lifesaving Society	800.00
Exmouth Gig Rowing Club	1,020.00	Exmouth Community College Cadets	1,000.00
Museum Society of Exmouth	1,000.00		
Exmouth Amateur Boxing Club	1,260.00	Organisation (3-year Service Level Agreements final payment)	Amount £
Veterans Community Support Group	325.00	East Devon Citizens Advice Bureau	3,000.00
All Saints Pre-School	300.00	Exmouth Beach Rescue	1,500.00
Exmouth & District Community Transport	1,500.00	Exmouth In Bloom	4,000.00
East Devon Parkinsons Support Group	750.00	Exmouth & District Community Transport	5,038.46
Exmouth Sea Cadets	300.00		
East Devon Allotment Association	500.00		

New Strand Premises for Exmouth Tourist Information Service

Exmouth’s new Tourist Information Service held an official launch party on Wednesday 21 August 2019 to celebrate the opening of its new premises in the Strand. The Tourist Information Service would particularly like to thank AJ’s Taxis for their support in hosting the service over the last few years.

Previously based at the former AJ’s Taxis office just around the corner since May 2015, the Tourist Information Service moved to dedicated premises at 45a the Strand, in the centre of town. Manned by knowledgeable and friendly local volunteers, please check our website for opening hours.

To celebrate the move, as well as the Visit Exmouth brand refresh, the Town Mayor, Councillor Steve Gazzard, presided over the official launch.

This included the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in memory of former Mayor, Councillor Bill Nash, who was instrumental in Exmouth Town Council taking on responsibility for the Tourist Information Service back in 2014.



Exmouth Town Council Budget

Exmouth Town Council Budget	2019/20 Gross Expenditure	2019/20 Income	2019/20 Net Expenditure	2018/19 Gross Expenditure	2018/19 Income	2018/19 Net Expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Staff & administration	419	0	419	379	0	379
Accommodation	67	0	67	54	0	54
Grants & Service Level Agreements	40	0	40	40	0	40
Town management & economic development	83	0	83	63	0	63
Elections & Civic activities	27	0	27	34	0	34
Town maintenance	139	0	139	126	0	126
Arts	87	0	87	83	0	83
Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neighbourhood plan	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	0	10
Other	6	(105)	(99)	6	(111)	(105)
Contribution to/ (from) reserves	0	0	0	73	0	73
Council Tax Discount Grant		0	(0)		(8)	(8)
Total	878	(105)	773	868	(119)	749

This represents Council Tax Band "D" of annual cost of £60.00, this is a 2.4% increase from 2018/19

Climate Change and the Environment

Schools' Environmental Conference

Pupils from Exmouth's primary schools came together at Ocean on 25 September 2019 to learn about protecting their environment and how they can make a difference to its future.

The event was organised by Exmouth Town Council as part of its work to raise awareness on reducing single-use plastic waste and to look at the many ways Exmouth's community can work together to reduce our carbon footprint.

Pupils attended workshops led by local environmental experts to discuss current problems due to pollution, plastic waste and effects of climate change.

At the end, pupils spent time thinking about what they had learned and what they can do to help protect their environment by writing pledges on postcards.

Councillor Steve Gazzard said, *"On behalf of Exmouth Town Council, I would like to thank all the workshop*

providers for their input to the day, as well as all the schools for taking part, Dartline for providing transport and Ocean for hosting the conference."



Gorfin Hall Solar Panels

Exmouth Town Council is pleased to announce that Gorfin Hall, its well-used community hall in Claremont Lane, is now being powered by solar electricity, thanks to a new roof-mounted solar system.

The project follows the declaration of a Climate Emergency by Exmouth Town Council in June 2019 and the subsequent formation of a Climate Change Task and Finish Forum. This Forum has recommended a strategy and action plan for the Town Council with the aim of reducing the Council's overall carbon footprint and establishing it as a community leader in tackling the climate change crisis.



Community Fund

A new parents' support group, youth summer activities, a safe retreat for veterans and a fun day out to tackle loneliness...

These were just some of the community projects pitched to the Exmouth community at a Dragons Den style event at the Town Hall.

Exmouth Town Council had a £20,000 community grant fund and wanted the local community to vote for which of their favourite projects should get the funding. With almost £4,500 remaining from Devon County Council and East Devon District Council through last year's Communities Together Fund, Exmouth Town

Council took the decision to add to this pot to deliver this very successful event again.
























"It was a great event", said Town Councillor and Mayor, Steve Gazzard, who chaired the Dragons Panel. *"The community groups presented their projects to the Dragons Panel and an invited audience of almost 100 Exmouth people, who were asked to vote their top 5 projects for funding."*

There were great projects supporting parents of children with mental health and special needs, emotional wellbeing and mental health, sports and physical exercise as well as youth summer activities, early learning and breast feeding."

There's a lot going on in Exmouth!"

The top 5 projects were: Esteem's new support group for parents, the newly set up Littleham Youth Group, Veterans Calvert Trust weekend, Welcome Centre's day trip and Exmouth Library's new STEAM activities.

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCILLORS BY WARD

Brixington	 Andrew Colman (LD) andrew.colman@exmouth.gov.uk	 Aurora Bailey (I) aurora.bailey@exmouth.gov.uk	 Cherry Nicholas (C) c.nicholas@exmouth.gov.uk	 Fred Caygill (C) f.caygill@exmouth.gov.uk	 Ian Kirvan (C)	 Maddy Chapman (C) m.chapman@exmouth.gov.uk
Halsdon	 Andrew Toye (LD) andrew.toye@exmouth.gov.uk	 Brian Toye (LD) b.toye@exmouth.gov.uk	 Lynne Elson OBE (C) l.elson@exmouth.gov.uk	 Pauline Stott (C) p.stott@exmouth.gov.uk	 Tony Woodward (G) tony.woodward@exmouth.gov.uk	
Littleham	 Brian Bailey (LD) b.bailey@exmouth.gov.uk	 Bruce de Saram b.desaram@exmouth.gov.uk	 David Poor (LD) david.poor@exmouth.gov.uk	 Joy Whipps (C) joy.whipps@exmouth.gov.uk	 Michael Rosser (G) michael.rosser@exmouth.gov.uk	
Town	 Alex Sadiq (LD) a.sadiq@exmouth.gov.uk	 Joe Whibley (I) joe.whibley@exmouth.gov.uk	 Olly Davey (G) olly.davey@exmouth.gov.uk	 Tim Dumper (LD) t.dumper@exmouth.gov.uk		
Withycombe Raleigh	 Frank Cullis (LD) frank.cullis@exmouth.gov.uk	 Steve Gazzard (LD) steve.gazzard@exmouth.gov.uk	 Eileen Beech (LD) since October 2020 eileen.beech@exmouth.gov.uk			

COMMITTEES	WORKING PARTIES	OUTSIDE BODIES
<div>Full Council</div> <div>Finance</div> <div>Planning</div> <div>Please note the Annual General Meeting of the Council is held in May, when representation on all the committees, working parties and outside bodies is reviewed and agreed.</div> <div>Councillor appointments are listed on the Town Council's website.</div>	<div>Appeal Hearing</div> <div>CCTV</div> <div>Christmas and Festoon Lights</div> <div>Community Organisation Liaison Panel</div> <div>Community Resilience</div> <div>Exmouth Transport Partnership</div> <div>Festival and Events</div> <div>Flooding and Land Drainage</div> <div>Gorfin Hall Management Committee</div> <div>Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee</div> <div>Plastic Reduction</div> <div>Public Rights of Way</div> <div>Quality Council</div> <div>Section 106 & CIL</div> <div>Town Team</div> <div>Trust Fund</div> <div>Waterfront</div> <div>TASK AND FINISH FORUMS (TAFF)</div> <div>Campervan TAFF</div> <div>Climate Change TAFF</div> <div>Town Maintenance Contracts TAFF</div>	<div>Age Concern</div> <div>Allotments Association</div> <div>East Devon Arts and Culture Forum</div> <div>Chamber of Trade and Commerce</div> <div>Citizens Advice Bureau</div> <div>DALC County and Large Committees</div> <div>Exe Estuary Partnership</div> <div>Exmouth Water Users Group</div> <div>Exmouth in Bloom</div> <div>Exmouth Local Nature Reserve Committee</div> <div>Exmouth Police Local Action Group</div> <div>Exmouth Welfare Trust</div> <div>Fair Trade Steering Group</div> <div>Pavilion Advisory</div> <div>Queens Drive Delivery Group</div> <div>Ring and Ride</div> <div>Sea Cadets</div> <div>Town Team & Tourism Forum</div> <div>Transition Town Exmouth</div> <div>Twinning</div> <div>Woodbury, Exmouth and Budleigh (WEB)</div> <div>Community Health and Wellbeing Board</div>