

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 26 October 2020 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

### Present

Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council and Transition Exmouth Representative
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Nick Christo	NC	East Devon District Council (StreetScene representative)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Jennifer Wellington	JW	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

### Apologies

Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey (ex officio)	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	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

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

In DP's absence, PS welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

#### 2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were approved.

#### 3. Matters Arising

##### CCTV Group

TS confirmed that the Remembrance Sunday event on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020 will be live streamed.

The use of the mobile camera was discussed but as the camera is being used to resolve any other matter, it will not be available.

#### **4. NP Implementation update**

The following updates were given on the Neighbourhood Plan Action points that the Council had started working on:

##### Bapton Valley Multi-purpose footpath and cycleway (GA12)

Investigative work, with regards to scope of work and costs, was being undertaken with East Devon District Council (EDDC) Engineers. The findings from this work would then be presented to the Town Council to decide on how to proceed with the project.

##### Tidal Defence Flood Gates (NEA11)

The flood gates are to be installed in January 2021. There is also outstanding work to be completed around the Jubilee Clock Tower.

Exmouth Town Council (ETC) will be working in partnership with EDDC and the Environment Agency (EA) to operate the non-highway flood gates. A report on this tri-party arrangement is published on EDDC's website as part of the EDDC Cabinet meeting that took place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

When the new floodgates are installed in January 2021, the lampposts along the seawall will be replaced to ensure the electric boxes are above the waterline.

It was uncertain as to why there is a three-month delay on the installation and completion of the flood defence works by the EA. NC updated members that he had spoken with the EA with regards to the Imperial Recreation playpark that is currently unusable due to ongoing work. During this conversation he was told that they have been equally frustrated that there is a delay to their work and hinted that it was in part due to Devon County Council (DCC) Highways not approving works. EDDC are pushing for work to be completed as soon as possible and CJ has emailed DCC for an update.

It is hoped that all flood defence work will be complete by June 2021.

##### Our Place Our Planet website (NEA6)

'Our Place, Our Planet' is a website paid for by ETC and created by Transition Exmouth.

AT started by giving a brief update of the website launch, which was a mix of a live outside broadcast from the Strand and a Zoom meeting, on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020. He then gave a brief overview of the website.

The website gives lots of tips on how to live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle and other towns can get involved by using the 'Add Your Place' function.

A press release has been sent out by Transition Exmouth's Secretary. TD suggested contacting Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) to help spread awareness of the website through their channels.

AT thanked all those involved in working on the website.

FC brought to AT's attention that, if searching for the website using a non-Google search engine, the website does not appear highly on the search results. Members were told that the website is accessible from the Town Council's website homepage but an investigation into trying to raise the search engine result will be pursued.

### Tree Charter and survey (NEA3)

CJ spoke with the EDDC Tree Officer regarding undertaking a tree survey. The main outcome of this was that ETC would need to establish the reason why a tree survey was needed. Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) are the statutory responsibility of EDDC, and they would keep these records up to date.

ETC's Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party have also been investigating the Tree Charter and tree surveys.

AT reiterated the importance of the attention that needs to be given to trees, which was recently highlighted through a development planning application, of the proposed cutting down of trees at the back of the old Rolle College site. It was reported via TD that councillors on ETC's planning committee had visited the site prior to the planning meeting. The application was supported through ETC's planning committee as advised by the EDDC Tree Officer's comments.

Concern was raised by Exmouth Community Association (ECA) that only a few Neighbourhood Plan actions had been started. In response, it was clarified that other Working Parties may be developing work on other actions, the notes of these Working Parties are available on the Town Council website. Members were also reminded that ETC have limited resources and jurisdiction, and work has or will be started on actions that are achievable/deliverable. COLP members will be kept informed of progress.

## **5. Master Plan**

The Queen's Drive Chronology of Activities (downloaded from the EDDC website) was circulated to members with the agenda prior to the meeting,

EDDC held a Queen's Drive Delivery Group meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 which was open to the public, live-streamed and is available on YouTube. COLP members were reminded that, as these meetings are now open to the public, they can watch the meetings and register to speak.

## **6. StreetScene**

NC provided an update as follows:

- EDDC published a press release regarding their latest green flag awards, which included Manor Gardens.

- Sowing of wildflower seeds for next season will take place this week/next week. Plant availability has been more difficult this year, but two suppliers were able to provide plants.
- EDDC's nature recovery strategy for sustainable planting helps to shape and manage EDDC's spaces in a sustainable way.
- StreetScene is tendering for grounds maintenance contracts, including ETC's. StreetScene will be providing plant feedback to ETC's Town Maintenance Contracts Task and Finish Forum (TAFF).
- Sand boards will be reinstalled on the steps at the beach next week to help prevent sand being blown onto the road. A beach pull-back and trenching is also planned for next week.
- A previous idea suggested regarding planting Christmas trees on the beach was investigated but was not thought to offer any benefits at this current time.
- The SideShore water sports centre is due to be fully completed by February 2021, which includes installing a ramp. However, some of the smaller businesses on the site have already started to open.
- The summer bins that were along the seafront will be removed from next week. Next summer, StreetScene will be adding additional 240 litre bin cases along the seafront and looking at additional bin provisions.
- Although the sand is higher near the Marina/Morton Crescent end of the beach, members raised the issue that storms and sand loss have exposed concrete steps and groynes by the Lifeboat Station.  
In addition, the RNLI are currently having to launch the lifeboat from the sea as they cannot launch the boat from the Station.  
NC explained that EDDC Engineers are reviewing the beach management plan.  
**Action: NC to raise this issue with relevant colleagues.**
- EDDC met with DCC on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 to try to improve the area around the drainage infrastructure on the beach. It was agreed that the excess membrane around the drains would be cut and tucked under the sand.
- A few noise complaints had been received regarding the fairground on the Imperial Recreation ground. However, decibel readings showed that the noise was not at an excessive level.
- As part of EDDC's climate change pledge, 20% of StreetScene's vehicle fleet is electric. Over the next 6 months, there will be 20 electric vehicles

which will bring the figure closer to 50% electric.  
StreetScene staff are being encouraged to cycle or walk where possible.

- In addition to StreetScene vehicles, they are also looking into electric sweepers and hand-held machinery.  
Unfortunately, electric sweepers are very expensive, so more research is required. However, over 30 items of hand-held machinery will be replaced with battery powered alternatives.
- The project raised at ETC's Plastic Reduction Working Party to install a trial 'recycling centre' in the Magnolia Centre is to be resumed.  
**Action: NC to contact CJ/JW with regards to moving this project forward.**
- The EDDC train station toilets are now open, and thanked ETC for the financial help. All toilets are now on a winter opening hours schedule, from 8am – 7pm, until March 2021 and are being cleaned 3 – 4 times a day.

## **7. Update from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives**

### Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

The next Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party meeting will be held tomorrow, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

### Quality Council

The application paperwork has been submitted, and registered with the accrediting body, for the Silver Quality Council award.

### Waterfront

Members at the Waterfront meeting praised the Abode of Love project as it has improved this area of the beach significantly as well as the EDDC shelters that had been recently painted.

The exposed steps by the Lifeboat Station was also raised in this meeting.

### Flooding and Land Drainage

Members at the Flooding and Land Drainage meeting gave feedback on the flood risk management strategy.

There was concern that as Exmouth was on a 3-year cycle of drain cleaning this could cause issues. DCC have been emailed regarding this issue, which will be followed up if necessary.

### S106 meeting

The results of the £300,000 sports project funding should be announced by EDDC soon.

## **8. Agenda items requested by ECO members**

*These items were covered in agenda items 4 and 5 above.*

## **9. AOB**

### Royal British Legion (RBL) Remembrance Service

A Safety Advisory Meeting was held to put in place safety measures for the RBL's Remembrance Service, which is to be held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020. NC updated that relevant parties attended, including the Police.

The meeting felt that the RBL had a suitable Covid-19 Risk Assessment in place and had staggered wreath laying, which would make the event safe enough to run. EDDC will be stencilling the area to highlight the social distancing regulations.

EDDC would not be getting involved in track and trace as it would not be their information to collect.

The main issue would be stopping members of the public from turning up as the event is on the Strand, which is a public space. All the RBL can do is advise against this and promote the fact that the event will be live-streamed.

It was also reported that some churches will be holding their own services.

## **10. Dates of future meetings**

The next meeting will be held virtually on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

The meeting ended at 11.30am.