

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Exmouth Transport Partnership

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### Present

Tim Dumper	TD	ETC councillor, Chair
Lisa Bowman	LB	ETC Town Clerk
Pauline Stott	PS	ETC councillor
Ian Kirvan	IK	ETC councillor
David Poor	DP	ETC councillor
Olly Davey	DP	ETC councillor
Tony Jackson	TJ	ALRUG
Jan Gannaway	JG	Active Travel Exmouth
John Petty	JP	Active Travel Exmouth
Andrew Ennis	AE	EDDC
Lewis Ward	LW	GWR
Cameron Robison	CR	DCC Highways
Tim Clatworthy	TC	ETC, notes

### Apologies

Brian Bailey	BB	ETC councillor
Derek Fishpool	DF	DCC Public Transport
Jade Miller	JM	DCC Highways
George Shorters	GS	Exmouth Taxis
John Colby	JC	ALRUG

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### 1. Welcome and apologies

### 2. Notes of previous meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020

PS proposed and DP seconded the veracity of these notes.

### 3. Matters arising from previous meeting

It was agreed that matters arising would be covered elsewhere in this meeting.

### 4. Access Strategy

#### a. Active Travel Exmouth – JG

The earlier concept of a continuous Exmouth cyclepath has been expanded to include pedestrians and wheelchair users and strengthen links with local public transport to improve on sustainability and sociability, it now being the Government's aim to put walking and cycling at the heart of transport policy. Several suggestions for consideration were presented and it is hoped more people will join the small group who have put this together to help take the work forward. [www.gettingaroundexmouth.org](http://www.gettingaroundexmouth.org) gives up-to-date information on Active Travel's work, and the DfT publication, "Gear Change" provides background.

**Action: CR to present JG's suggestions to the Highways Traffic Team.**

#### b. Bapton Valley Improvements – LB

Plans for this are already in progress; the feasibility of three newly-constructed paths is being assessed, compared and costed and will be referred to ETP for recommendations to Full Council. If approved, this would fit in with the aspirations of the Neighbourhood Plan Infrastructure Delivery Project. Ideally the quality will be of the same standard as National

Trust paths. These are not, however, envisaged as part of the NCN (National Cycle Network) which is a 'cycle motorway', but a local facility intended for general community use, e.g. pedestrians, wheelchairs, buggies, and cyclists.

c. Active Travel Exmouth– LB

It was hoped Exmouth would receive funding under the Road Space Reallocation initiative, intended to encourage workday commuters off overloaded public transport by creating good quality and convenient local cycle routes/pathways. There were two tranches available but unfortunately Exmouth qualified for neither, (a) because the town has a rather small population that commutes within the town boundaries, relative to other Devon towns in competition for the same funding (most of Exmouth's commuting is to Exeter, which already has the Exe Estuary Trail), and (b) because we did not have any 'shovel-ready' schemes, i.e. which could be started on at short notice, which other competing towns did have. Nevertheless there are funding possibilities from CIL and S106 and other avenues.

Further details on: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/safe-travel/road-safety/safer-roads/reallocation-of-roadspace-for-active-travel/>

## 5. Electric Charging Points

Installation of ECPs remains a priority but has been delayed, and it may be some months before a detailed plan is finalised. Points are planned for EDDC depots, carparks, Blackdown House, Exmouth Town Hall, and on-street locations. Six ECPs are expected to be situated at the Grenadier site in an EDDC-run public car park there.

**Action: AE to keep ETP up-to-date with progress on the electric charging points.**

## 6. Stakeholder Reports

a. ALRUG - TJ

- 1) The Avocet line will be closed 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October to enable works at Exmouth Junction; a bus replacement service will be provided.
- 2) Sunday services are still reduced to hourly since lockdown.
- 3) The 0555 service to arrive in London by 0900 has been reinstated, but not the connecting return service at the end of the working day.

b. GWR - LW

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED BRIEFING BY LW. Short summary of this and meeting report:

- 1) 90% decrease in passenger numbers even before lockdown. Emergency measures were agreed with Government, but these delayed projects which had been planned for the (simultaneous) start of the new franchise.
- 2) Whilst timetables are now almost back to normal despite necessary extra cleaning regimes (especially on sleeper trains), the need for social distancing presents challenges for train lengths. Catering provision has also had to be reduced.
- 3) Driver-training on the new units is still delayed, coinciding with increased health-related absences, but new rolling stock will shortly appear in our area.
- 4) GWR is working closely with the education sector to manage the autumn influx of commuting students and the stipulations on facemasks and social distancing. Exeter Central is now one of the busiest stations on GWR's entire network.
- 5) Capital investment continues: Exeter Depot is due to open in the next few weeks.
- 6) Our CCIF bid for improvements round Exmouth Station is on hold due to coronavirus, its future currently uncertain, but LW envisages closer working relationships in the future with non-profit organisations such as ALRUG and Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership.
- 7) The constructions of platform extensions at St James Park and Lymestone Commando start w/c 21<sup>st</sup> September.

c. DCC Public Transport

DF supplied this report by email:

We are currently very busy sorting additional journeys for schools and colleges and ensuring that everyone can travel as safely as possible.

d. DCC Highways – CR

**Action: CR to suggest a residents' parking survey and to present Active Travel's suggestions to HATOC in December.**

e. Stagecoach

No report provided at this meeting.

f. EDDC Car Parks – AE

- 1) Extensions to licences for the temporary car parks by the old lifeboat station and by Queens Drive Space were discussed.
- 2) It was pointed out that many more cycle parking spaces were needed to effectively encourage more cycling; LB suggested that there may be scope for these to be at least partially funded via CIL and S106 funds.

**Action: AE asked that seafront cycle parking be on the agenda for our next meeting.**

g. Taxi Operators

GS supplied this report via email:

- 1) Work has been very poor throughout the six-month period. Many taxi drivers are taking up alternative employment if they can find it, and EDDC Licensing are having to work hard to fulfil all their requirements for new cars and drivers in a Covid-safe manner. It is hoped business will improve now, but with the new curve and new restrictions, this may be a wish rather than a reality.
- 2) **Action: Can we keep the matter of the gate at the back of the station in our sights so that it can be revisited?**

**7. Any other business**

No other issues were raised.

**8. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**