

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Flooding & Land Drainage Working Party
Notes of Zoom meeting held at 2pm on Tuesday 14th July 2020

Present

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| Bruce De Saram | BDS | Exmouth Town Councillor, Chair |
| Maddy Chapman | MC | Exmouth Town Councillor |
| Tony Woodward | TW | Exmouth Town Councillor |
| Pauline Stott | PS | Exmouth Town Councillor |
| Cherry Nicholas | CN | Exmouth Town Councillor |
| Chetna Jones | CJ | Exmouth Town Council Officer |
| Tom Buxton-Smith | TBS | EDDC, Engineering Project Manager |
| Richard Elliott | RE | DCC, Neighbourhood Highways Engineer |
| Cameron Robison | CR | DCC, Neighbourhood Highways Officer |
| Jessica Bishop | JB | DCC, Senior Flood & Coastal Risk Officer |
| Jim Faux | JF | Environment Agency Area Officer |
| Kate Pearson | KP | Environment Agency, Flood Resilience Team |
| Dave Hancock | DH | Environment Agency, Project Manager |
| Tim Clatworthy | TC | Exmouth Town Council Notetaker |

Apologies

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| Olly Davey | OD | Exmouth Town Councillor |
| Andrew Colman | AC | Exmouth Town Councillor |
| Aurora Bailey | AB | Exmouth Town Councillor |
| Steve Gazzard | SG | Exmouth Town Councillor |
| Tim Dumper | TD | Exmouth Town Councillor |
| Joy Whipps | JW | Exmouth Town Councillor |
| Joe Whibley | JoeW | Exmouth Town Councillor |
| Jeff Trail | JT | Devon County Councillor |
| Dom Maxwell-Batten | DMB | DCC, Emergency Planning Officer |
| Jayne Johnson | JJ | Kier Public Liaison Officer |

1. Welcome and apologies

BDS welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 14th January 2020 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

As JT was not present, there was no further information available on the South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. It was noted that on its website a meeting was planned for 9th July. The Deputy Town Clerk had emailed JT for an update of this meeting.

Tidal Defence Flood Gates – A report was to be presented to EDDC's Cabinet for a joint proposal to help with the closing of all flood gates, including those yet to be installed. Further discussions are likely to take place to finalise arrangements.

Flooding issues in Manor Gardens have been dealt with by EDDC.

4. Update from EA and Kier

Work has completed on the wall at Morton Crescent and Imperial Hotel.

Works continued around Royal Avenue and the realignment of the road and reinstatement of the triangle car park.

Camperdown Creek hard wall and foundation work was now complete.

There was a demob during the summer period with work starting as soon as permissions were obtained from Highways, primarily for the work at the Alexandra Terrace junction and the table-top work by Premier Inn and The Grove.

Flood gates were all to be installed in the next phase of work.

Councillors noted the improvements at Morton Crescent and the positive feedback received from residents on this newly improved area.

Kier were thanked for installing the service ducts to the Sea Scout Hut on the Imperial Recreation Ground.

Action: The Environment Agency will circulate a plan and schedule of planting and reinstatement of trees.

5. South West Update

Issues with contractors resulted in a delay in the Regents Gate Drainage Scheme but it has now been re-planted and re-turfed.

The drainage from the scheme differed from where the original contractors thought. They advised it was connected into the SWW sewer in Long Causeway, however this was not the case. It is currently connected to a soakaway in the rear of number 15 Regents Gate. SWW were scoping this to remove the drainage from the soakaway and put it into the SWW sewer in Long Causeway as was originally planned.

A SWW representative had met many of the residents in Regents Gate as many were not happy with the look of the scheme, as well as meeting with the SWW engineering department and representatives from EDDC. The SWW engineering department are liaising with the residents of Regents Gate and will probably have another site meeting with them at some point along with the representative from EDDC, as the maintenance of the scheme (grass cutting etc) will be handed over to EDDC at some point. Nothing has been scheduled in yet.

Residents of Regents Gate are keen to have the scheme removed and put back how it was, but this is not likely to happen. The point of the scheme was to reduce surface water getting into the network to reduce consented spills from the sewers during periods of heavy rainfall and improve the bathing water quality at Exmouth as it is a blue flag beach.

There were no other updates from SWW.

EDDC's Engineering Project Manager, TBS, confirmed that further discussions were required as there were concerns that taking on this responsibility was resource intensive as well as introducing a water hazard where there was none. EDDC will be liaising directly with SWW.

6. EDDC Update

There have been no major flooding issues in Exmouth.

7. DCC Update

Highways

Due to lack of rain there were no major issues. During this period, much of the gully clearing work has taken place on the highway across Devon whilst roads remained quiet.

Exmouth is due its tri-annual gully clean early next year.

Priority will be given to blocked drains which will cause flooding to properties rather than blocked drains at the top of a hill.

Flood Risk Team

The Flood Risk Strategy is currently being worked on and Exmouth is likely to be included as surface water flooding is of concern. A consultation is likely to take place later this year and more information is to be available for the next meeting.

8. Flooding concerns from ETC Councillors

Concern was raised over the recent planning application at Goodmores Farm where permission is being sought to remove trees. Councillors were concerned that surface water is likely to cause flooding via The Poet's Estate and the Brook. The Environment Agency, Highways and Flood Risk Team were asked, as consultees, to investigate these concerns, review the runoff rates and respond accordingly.

9. Any Other Business

No other business was brought forward.

10. Dates of future meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th October 2020.

11. Meeting Closure

The meeting finished at 2.45pm.