

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 2.00pm on Tuesday 13th October 2020

Present

Bruce de Saram	BdS	ETC councillor, Chair
Chetna Jones	CJ	ETC Deputy Town Clerk
Tim Dumper	TD	ETC councillor
Pauline Stott	PS	ETC councillor
Steve Gazzard	SG	ETC councillor
Frank Cullis	FC	ETC councillor
Cherry Nicholas	CN	ETC councillor
Kate Pearson	KP	EA, Flood Resilience Advisor
David Hancock	DH	EA, Project Manager, Assets & Incidents
Tom Buxton-Smith	TBS	EDDC, Engineering Projects Manager
Jessica Bishop	JB	DCC, Senior Flood Risk Officer
Thomas Aldridge	TA	DCC, Flood & Coastal Risk Management
Tim Clatworthy	TC	ETC, notes

Apologies

Jeff Trail	JT	DCC Councillor
Cameron Robison	CR	DCC Highways
Richard Elliott	RE	DCC Highways
Emma Stamp	ES	DCC Highways
David Seaber	DS	SWW
Ben Harman	BH	SWW

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Notes of previous meetings of 14th July and 22nd September 2020

PS proposed and TD seconded the veracity of the 14th July notes; PS and FC of the 22nd September notes.

3. Matters arising from these meetings

Legal advice on the Tri-Party MOU to ensure ETC's interests are protected:

Both EDDC and EA are consulting solicitors in respect of possible legal challenges regarding the MOU, and EA have said they would not discourage ETC from doing the same. They suggest that ETC solicitors be made aware of Clause 8.2 which states that the MOU is not a legally binding document.

TD suggested that DCC should take a more active role in the Tidal Defence Scheme generally as well as in the agreement for closing of the flood gates.

4. Review and agree a response to the DCC consultation on the Flood Risk Management Strategy

TD proposed and PS seconded that the Flooding and Land Drainage working party provides the following comments in response to the Devon Risk Management Strategy consultation:

1. ETC welcomes the proposals in support of the Climate Emergency, in particular, the actions to reduce the carbon footprint and protect the natural environment.

2. Based on the proposals above, does the strategy recognise the urgency and is there a timeline identified for the proposed actions?
3. Exmouth Town Council agrees with the proposal for community resilience, in particular the strong partnership working and holistic approach. The Town Council's own community resilience planning, similar to Lympstone's, is aiming to ensure the community is prepared and understands what it can do to take preventative action.

5. EA/Kier – DH

There was no representation from Kier.

a) Proposal and date of next phase of Tidal Defence work

- a. Work is intended to resume from January to July 2021, including progress at Imperial Hotel. Exact dates are still being worked on with DCC.
- b. Reinstallation of the festoon lights: Two lamp columns (by The Grove and The Imperial) need to be slightly relocated (0.5–1 metre) to accommodate two new floodgates, which may affect the hanging of the lights. CJ awaiting an update from Ashley Back of Kier as ETC have not been able to carry out the service for the lights.
- c. Furthermore EA will install new lamp columns with higher hatches so that the hatches will be above flood levels. Councillors requested that the equipment boxes be kept unless EA were providing new ones.

Action: DH to take these queries to Kier and to provide an update to this working party.

b) General updates

By completion, the Tidal Defence wall by the Royal Avenue will have a new 'finish', and there will be additional landscaping as well as trees planted there. Planting details were provided and circulated in advance of this meeting.

6. SWW

There was no representation from SWW, but TBS explained that there had been a recent change of Project Manager for the Regents Gate scheme, but not yet any contact with them.

7. EDDC – TBS

Nothing to report, but for information especially to EA, whose contractor (Kier) currently have their compound in the Estuary View car park: Another contractor, working for Network Rail, will install their compound in the car park from mid-October to Christmas.

8. DCC

CR was unable to be present but emailed this report:

There have been many localised flooding issues recently with the bad weather and autumn leaf-falls, but DCC does not have enough budget to attend to those not classed as safety defects. However most of Exmouth is due its 3-yearly clean in quarter 4 of this financial year (January-March).

- a. In the meeting it was commented that by then the autumn weather would have made the situation far worse and that Exmouth is therefore very likely to suffer considerable surface water flooding this year. JB recommended that complainants log in to the DCC website individually to report issues, not only through ETC, as the more individual 'hits', the higher priority those particular issues will become.

Action: CJ to request DCC to provide a presentation on the benefits of DCC's Report-It function.

- b. Express Autoworks Garage, junction of St Andrews/Imperial Roads: This premises is repeatedly flooded sufficiently that the business has to close, as the nearby drain gets clogged up frequently, and this is a years'-old problem. SG has written to JT and

requests that JT visits the garage to talk with them. See AOB below. Members were reminded that 18 months ago DCC, EDDC and ETC coordinated their clearing and cleaning schedules to greatly improve the situation at the Colony and it was suggested that this approach should be used again.

Action: CJ to email JT to remind him of the situation brought up by SG.

- c. PS pointed out that there was rapid loss of protective sand on Exmouth beach which has left drainage and sewage systems exposed.

Action: JB's team, with EA and EDDC, to follow this up.

9. ETC Councillors

No comments additional to those under other items.

10. South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee update

There was no representation from SWRFCC.

11. AOB

- a. KP suggested that members may like to signpost residents and businesses to this new website: <https://www.befloodready.uk/> for guidance on how to protect their property.
- b. TA has provided the group with a link to DCC's Property Flood Resilience scheme: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/flood-resilience/property-flood-resilience-funding-scheme/> This is aimed at residential property owners who have internally flooded, and it will provide up to £5000 worth of flood resilience measures, a survey and a post installation check by independent surveyors. If you do hear from residents who have experienced flooding it is always something worth mentioning to them!

12. Date of next meeting

Meeting invitations will be sent out when dates for next year have been agreed.

13. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 1508.