

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Public Rights of Way Working Party

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 4.00pm on Wednesday 23rd September 2020

### Present

Bruce de Saram	BdS	ETC & EDDC Councillor, Chair
Olly Davey	OD	ETC & EDDC Councillor
Heath Nickels	HN	P3 Co-Ordinator
Ross Hussey	RH	Footpaths Volunteer
Helen Bennett	HB	Footpaths Volunteer
Emma de Saram	EdS	Footpaths Volunteer, TARA (The Avenues Residents' Association)
Jan Gannaway	JG	Active Travel Exmouth, Sustrans
John Petty	JP	Active Travel Exmouth, ECA (Exmouth Community Association)
Chetna Jones	CJ	ETC Deputy Town Clerk
Tim Clatworthy	TC	ETC note taker, & Footpaths Volunteer

### Apologies

No apologies were received.

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### 1. Welcome and apologies

### 2. To confirm and approve the notes of the previous meeting of 29th January 2020

JP proposed, JG seconded, and it was agreed that the notes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be approved.

### 3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- A. 6c FP5: Handrail added. **Action: check for directional marker**
- B. 7 Covered in Item 6 of this meeting
- C. 8a CJ has taken this up with the Exe Trail Partnership.
- D. 8b Richard Spurway replied that this was not a high priority for DCC. RH thought a low-cost solution (e.g. gravel) would be a sufficient solution. CJ thanked RH for his excellent video.
- E. 8f **Action: HB to send photos of the damage to ETC.**
- F. 9a JG reported that the toxic yews have been removed.
- G. 9b **Action: Tim Dafforn to be invited to next PROW meeting in January.**
- H. 9f The April 'Active Travel Day' had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus, but it is hoped to hold one once restrictions are completely lifted.

### 4. To receive update from the P3 Co-ordinator

- A. For fuller details please refer to HN's spreadsheet sent out with the agenda.
- B. A lot of erosion near Devon Cliffs, consequently FP1 has had to be diverted.
- C. More signage there for FP3 would be helpful.
- D. Two issues raised in survey:
  - Replace the Golf Course fingerpost at junction FP3/13, which has collapsed.
  - Replace the stile at the bottom of FP4 at Castle Lane, which is now unusable.
- E. The broken FP5 handrail between the Buzzard Route and McDonalds has been replaced.
- F. Green Farm: The broken tree has been taken down and the farmer encourages walkers to walk round the edge of the field; however, FP6 cuts diagonally through the field.  
**Action: HN and CJ to highlight issues to Richard Spurway regarding a sign to 'lift the handle' on the gate in the electric fence to allow walkers to use the official diagonal footpath, and to clarify the situation with the field-border fencing.**

G. FP14: DCC no longer classes this as a FP (though it is still marked as such on the map) and no longer funds its maintenance, but ETC staff nevertheless attend to it when time allows.

#### **5. To receive update re. the Definitive Map Review**

No updates have been received since our last meeting.

#### **6. To receive update on Bapton Valley access improvements**

Plans for this are already in progress; the feasibility of a multi-use path including a cycleway is being assessed and costed. If approved, this would fit in with the aspirations of the Neighbourhood Plan to improve access and link valley parks. It is intended that this will provide an excellent link from the Dinan Way area to the Town Centre for pedestrians, cyclists as well wheelchairs and buggies.

#### **7. Agenda items requested by members**

Information received from Richard Spurway, DCC PROW Warden to questions asked by the P3 co-ordinator when submitting the annual survey earlier this year:

- A. FP1 as part of the coast path is maintained by East Devon DC under an agency agreement, the warden is Dave Palmer [dpalmer@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:dpalmer@eastdevon.gov.uk) . Issues relating to general maintenance should be referred to him. As the Highway Authority, DCC does of course continue to inspect and carry out more major repairs when required.
- B. The part of FP1, running from the easternmost tarmac area of Devon Cliffs just north of Straight Point Rifle Range, to a small ravine further east, eroded many years ago and walkers now walk slightly inland nearer to the caravans. DCC were asked if this should be reflected in a change in the PROW map via the DMR currently in progress. Alison Smith (PROW Officer) is already aware of these, but long-term, the Coastal Access Bill should be addressing this when implemented as it will allow, in most instances, for the path to roll back when erosion takes place. However in this example it may still require negotiation and good will from Devon Cliffs.
- C. The collapsed wall on the estuary side of FP11 weakens the tidal defences there and if left unattended, the railway track and footpath will eventually get washed away. Whilst there are cost considerations here, should the erosion continue Network rail will surely act to protect their asset, also the landowner, NT, could act to protect their land.

#### **8. Any other business**

- A. Lime Kiln and Long Lanes in the Avenues area need maintenance, as the earth banks are eroding rapidly after heavy rains and over-enthusiastic weeding and trimming. DCC Cllr Christine Channon has already been informed, but due to coronavirus effects this work has become low-priority.
- B. A repository for photos of footpaths over the years was suggested.  
**Action: CJ to discuss possibilities with our technical provider.**
- C. It was suggested that "Visit Exmouth" provide a web link to the Active Travel Exmouth site.  
**Action: TC to request this from Rons Boatman.**
- D. Repairs to the Exe Estuary Trail are of poor quality, "like sleeping policemen". Information of this nature to be passed to P3 co-ordinator.

#### **9. Dates of future meetings**

Mid-January date was suggested, the exact date to be agreed later.

#### **10. Close of meeting**

The meeting was closed at 17.08.