

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Waterfront Working Party

Notes of the meeting of the Waterfront Working Party held on Tuesday 20 October 2020 at 10am via Zoom.

Present:

Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Fred Caygill	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Pete Blyth	PB	StreetScene Beach Safety Officer, EDDC
Chetna Jones	CJ	Deputy Town Clerk, Exmouth Town Council
Jennifer Wellington	JWe	Note Taker, Exmouth Town Council

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Joy Whipps	JWh	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council

1. Welcome and apologies

PS welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. To approve the notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the previous meeting dated 22nd October 2019 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

PS asked for an update on any planned repairs to the wall at Carlton Hill that had been knocked down. PB stated that, as the Gunfield Gardens area is outside of the realms of the Waterfront meeting, Nick Christo, East Devon District Council StreetScene (EDDC), would need to be contacted separately for an update on this matter.

4. Update on Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme

It was suggested that the long-term plan for the lorry park would be for campervans. However, this is yet to be discussed by the Campervan TAFF.

Action: CJ to provide an update once the Campervan TAFF has met to discuss any issues arising from this.

FC updated members that he had spoken with Tom Buxton-Smith, EDDC Engineer, regarding access issues of a gate by the Estuary for wheelchair users. Tom Buxton-Smith will revisit this to ensure that this area is as accessible as possible.

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.

Devon County Council (DCC) Highways have not yet finalised the details needed to complete the Alexandra Terrace junction work. When this has been agreed, the Environment Agency (EA) will be able to provide a timeline to complete this work.

TD felt that DCC should be more actively involved throughout all stages of the flood defence work.

FC updated members that he had been speaking with Andy Ware at DCC regarding installing CCTV on lamp standards on the seafront.

5. Update on Jubilee Clock Tower

The Jubilee Clock Tower work has gone out to tender with specific contractors in mind. As the quote for the clock itself was on the high side, Exmouth Town Council's (ETC) Architect is searching for an alternative supplier. It is hoped work will start in Spring 2021.

6. Update on flagpoles

ETC has serviced their flagpoles and taken down the one opposite Exmouth Pavilion as it was structurally unsafe. It was thought the damage was likely caused by someone driving into it.

It was previously agreed this flagpole would be used to fly EDDC's Seaside Award flag. However, EDDC had not taken up this offer as the flag was too big to fly on this flagpole and would likely get tangled in the festoon lights.

If the flagpole were to be moved, the Seaside Award flag could be flown in an alternative location.

Waterfront members discussed the options of whether to replace the flagpole or not. Members decided that, if it were to be replaced, a new location should be sought so that the Seaside Award flag would be more visible.

Action: PB to consult with Simon Kennedy and Nick Christo regarding suitable locations for the relocation of the flagpole and to report back to the Waterfront Working Party for consideration.

FC raised concerns that vehicles were parked on the Beach Gardens during the Bradley's 10K event.

PB reminded members that permission can be granted for vehicles to drive on the Beach Gardens for events if deemed necessary, but conditions would be applied to ensure the grass is left as it was found and any costs for damages paid.

Action: PB to raise the issue of the Bradley's 10K event organisers parking on the Beach Gardens with EDDC's Events team.

Members raised concerns about the need for red 'DANGER' flags to be flown at the no swimming zones by the new Watersports Centre.

The RNLI are currently writing a risk assessment for Exmouth beach and this will be reviewed by the Beach Safety Group to determine any safety measures.

It is hoped that this will identify the need for red 'DANGER' flags and safety signs and how many are needed.

Action: PB to invite a representative from the Town Council to this Beach Safety Group.

The RNLI's risk assessment report is due to be completed by next year and PB will share this with the Waterfront Working Party.

CJ explained how two years ago, ETC replaced all Town Council owned flagpoles with fibreglass ones. PB added that all EDDC flagpoles are also fibreglass now.

7. Update on Adobe of Love

This area is looking much better since it had been temporarily painted as part of the community art project, but some graffiti had been spotted on the ceiling of the shelters.

PB explained how resources only allow for removal of offensive graffiti and that EDDC has repainted the blank areas twice already.

Action: PB to relay the ceiling graffiti issue back to EDDC StreetScene.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, the full art project is on hold and there have been no further progress reports.

Members thanked those who have been involved in this project.

8. Update on the condition of the beach

Two metres of sand had been lost due to stormy weather, natural erosion and tides which has left the area by the new Lifeboat Station particularly dangerous as it has exposed metalwork and pipes.

PB was asked if EDDC are working with the EA to reclaim the sand. No artificial recharge or other structural work was planned as more thought was needed to be given as to how the sand would be retained, for example through structural retention i.e. groynes. Central Government/EA funding would be required due to cost. However, Tom Buxton-Smith, EDDC Engineer, would be best to explain this as it would form part of the Beach Action Plan.

Exmouth's Beach Management Plan was written in 2015 and is available to download from the EDDC website.

Action: PB to talk to Tom Buxton-Smith for an update on Exmouth beach and to report back to the Waterfront Working Party.

9. Update on Christmas Tree planting on seafront

PB and Nick Christo discussed Christmas Tree planting prior to the meeting but they felt it would not be beneficial as it is more suitable for dune management, which Exmouth does not have anymore. It would also not help to stop sand getting onto the road as the trees would be too low. However, if a beach recharge was conducted, tree planting can be considered afterwards.

10. Update on Queen's Drive and Watersports Centre

EDDC has agreed to take on the street sweeping and cleaning around the Sideshore Watersports Centre as a separate paid contract.

Edge Watersports has opened and work to Michael Caines' restaurant is ongoing.

The Queen's Drive Space is likely to open again next year in the same way as it did this year.

11.AOB

Car parking enforcement

Concerns were raised over the number of vehicles that appeared to be parking on pavements and the lack of enforcement.

PB explained that this is something that Andrew Ennis, EDDC's Car Parking team, is aware of and is talking to DCC enforcement about this issue.

In addition, a letter was sent from ETC's Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP) regarding this issue and TD stated that he would make sure there was an item regarding this on the next ETC's Exmouth Transport Partnership (ETP) meeting agenda.

The Campervan TAFF trial was extended and, due to issues raised above, this will be reviewed.

Action: CJ/TD to arrange a Campervan TAFF meeting.

Steps by new Lifeboat Station

PB was asked if the steps by the new Lifeboat Station will be replaced after they were damaged by a storm.

EDDC intend to replace them with a more substantial structure, as there was no point installing more wooden steps that could be damaged again. EDDC Engineers have submitted a capital budget request to install concrete steps. If agreed, work is likely to take place in the next financial year.

PS asked that the damaged steps be removed entirely to reduce any trip hazard or injury risks, especially with them being so close to the Lifeboat Station.

Action: PB to check the damaged steps have been removed entirely and to check the chrome handrails on the existing concrete steps, from the pavement to the beach near the Lifeboat Station, as they are wobbly.

Highway drainage

PB update members that they were working with DCC to get the issue of the visible highway drainage structures on the beach resolved.

Although not much can be done about the fact that they are there and visible, due to beach lowering, the gravel and other trip hazards are what EDDC are pursuing DCC about to make the area safer.

Although DCC are proving resistant to do anything about this, EDDC are following this up.

12.Dates of next meetings:

Dates to be set for 2021 to be agreed and will be circulated once agreed by the Town Council.

Meeting concluded at 11:20am