

Campervan Task and Finish Forum
Notes of Meeting, Monday 27 January 2020, 1300
Exmouth Town Council Meeting Room

Attendees

AE	Andrew Ennis	Officer	East Devon District Council
LC	Lee Crammer	Officer	East Devon District Council
BB	Brian Bailey	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
BD	Bruce De Saram	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
FCA	Fred Caygill	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
FCU	Frank Cullis	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
SG	Steve Gazzard	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
TD	Tim Dumper	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
JT	Jeff Trail BEM	Councillor	Devon County Council
CC	Christine Channon	Councillor	Devon County Council
LB	Lisa Bowman	Town Clerk	Exmouth Town Council
MC	Mollie Carey	Notetaker	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

RS	Richard Scott	Councillor	Devon County Council
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1. Election of Chairman

JT proposed, BB seconded and it was agreed that Councillor Bruce De Saram should chair the Campervan TAFF.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received.

3. To receive an update from Andrew Ennis (EDDC) & Lee Cranmer (DCC) regarding the outcome of the trial traffic and parking orders relating to parking of Motorhomes in Exmouth

LB explained that AE had requested this meeting in order to comply with the TAFF's commitment that it would review the trial arrangements after two years. AE and LC also want to share feedback from the District Council and County Council's perspective and discuss possible changes to the scheme. There is additional pressure to look at this due to the car parking TAFF which has been convened at EDDC to consider proposed increases to car parking tariffs across the District. AE and LC gave an update on the outcome of the trial traffic and parking orders relating to parking of motorhomes and campervans in Exmouth. It was felt that the trial period of two years had provided enough time to establish the impact of the restrictions which had been put in place by DCC and EDDC in problematic areas and key points raised were as follows:

- Queen's Drive: enforcement between the hours of 2000 – 0800 has been successful with minor enforcement needed. LC proposed continuation of this restriction.
 - Maer Road: due to the late completion of work to the car park entrance, the car park has been poorly used by motorhomes and campervans. The works are now finished and the car park will be promoted as a car park which can be used by campervans and motorhomes at all times throughout the year.
 - Imperial Recreation Ground: this area has proved the most contentious and caused conflict between motorhome / campervan owners and water sports users. The resulting lack of parking bays for day visitors has led to an increase in complaints regarding access and availability of spaces throughout the year. As a result, AE proposes that the site reverts to one which prohibits overnight parking of motorhomes and campervans.
 - Queen's Drive Echelon: this has proved popular with smaller vans and AE is proposing to continue to allow use for smaller motorhomes and campervans for overnight parking. JT suggested allocating the full 30 pitches which were promised during the initial review for the exclusive use of motorhomes and campervans in order to be able to deliver what was originally proposed by EDDC but it was felt that the additional availability of spaces at Maer Road car park should alleviate some of the pressure.
 - Lorry Park: once the Environment Agency's contractors have finished using the site, AE suggested the lorry park could be a potential alternative to the Imperial Recreation Ground for overnight parking of motorhomes and campervans. It was noted that this was only a suggestion but worth looking into in 2021 when work for the flood defence scheme is complete.
 - There have been reports of motorhome owners emptying their toilet cassettes in East Devon District Car parks / toilets and this is deemed to be offensive.
- 4. To receive an update on the feasibility of offering services at any / all of the three designated EDDC car parks (Queen's Drive, Imperial Recreation Ground, Maer Road) including: drinking water, waste-water disposal and sewage disposal and sufficient refuse and recycling facilities.**

Financial implications relating to the installation of services, including waste-water disposal and electric hook ups, had been identified within the related report submitted to EDDC Cabinet back in 2018 and no suitable funding had been identified.

AE had subsequently submitted a bid to the Coastal Community Fund for a pilot project to improve water and sewage facilities but unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful.

AE summarized TAFF members' views and agreed that provision should ideally be made for wastewater disposal, sewage disposal and drinking water facilities in the Maer Road car park, Queen's Drive Echelon and eventually the Lorry Park. TAFF members agreed that AE would need an additional year to be able to plan and budget accordingly. All TAFF members agreed that it would be beneficial if the trial period was extended for an additional year for AE to aim to have facilities in place for 2021.

5. To discuss potential displacement issues and consider any associated actions.

CC queried with LC whether the traffic order proposed for Maer Road had been implemented. The area is a hotspot for parking and has become an area of concern. LC confirmed that the order has not been put in place due to works being carried out in Maer Road car park. Members agreed that DCC need to action this in order to prevent future complaints.

It was noted that all EDDC car parks welcome motorhomes during the day, with any overnight restrictions being displayed on the information boards for each respective car park. DCC signage also makes clear what is permissible in terms of overnight camping. JT made a point that these restrictions are aimed at overnight camping and do not represent a total ban on motorhomes and campervans.

Members were advised that parking on residential roads of motorhomes and campervans is permitted in line with other taxed and insured vehicles. Issues arise when the vehicles are being used for overnight camping.

It was also noted that whilst Foxholes Hill does have yellow line restrictions, motorhomes are taking advantage of an unrestricted area beside the green and overnight camping is causing distress for some nearby residents. All Councils have been made aware of this. It was proposed that a ban on overnight parking of campervans and motorhomes is introduced in this area.

It was proposed by JT, seconded by FC and recommended for approval by Full Council that LB should write a formal letter on behalf of Exmouth Town Council to both District and County Councils requesting that they consider extending the length of the trial period for an additional year and amend their respective trial restrictions as follows:

East Devon District Council:

- That the Imperial Recreation Ground should revert to its original parking enforcement conditions of no overnight parking between the hours of 2000 and 0800.
- That EDDC continues to provide designated overnight parking bays at the Queen's Drive Echelon car park and Maer Road car park for motorhomes and campervans.
- That officers be permitted to work up a proposal to offer waste disposal and associated services at its car parks where overnight parking is permitted.
- That following completion of the Environment Agency work, the lorry park at Estuaryside is considered as an additional site for overnight parking of motorhomes and campervans.

Devon County Council:

- That the parking of motorhomes and campervans continues to be prohibited between the hours of 2000 and 0800 on the section of Queen's Drive between the lifeboat station and Orcombe Point.
- That the parking of motorhomes and campervans remains prohibited at any time along the "sand dunes" section of Queen's Drive. This coincides with EDDC providing enough parking facilities at the Echelon car park on the other side of the road for motorhomes and campervans
- That DCC prohibits the parking of motorcaravans between the hours of 2000 and 0800 on the Esplanade section of Queen's Drive between Morton Crescent and the Premier Inn.
- That the Traffic Order for Maer Road is implemented ASAP.

It was also agreed that Christine Channon would speak to the County Solicitor regarding the potential to introduce associated byelaws or PSPOs to tackle anti-social behaviour associated with overnight camping in residential areas.

To agree date of next meeting

Next meeting to be held in 2021

Updates will be circulated by LB if LC or AE have any information that needs to be address by the TAFF members.

The meeting finished at 14:40.