

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 30th November 2020 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey (ex officio)	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FCu	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Fred Caygill	FCa	Exmouth Town Council (Guest)
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council and Transition Exmouth Representative
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Jennifer Wellington	JW	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Keith Bungay*	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Nick Christo	NC	East Devon District Council StreetScene

* arrived after the meeting had started

Apologies

Rev. Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Rev. Steve Jones	SJ	Churches Together

1. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted. He thanked PS for stepping in as Vice Chair for the last COLP meeting in his absence.

2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 26 October 2020 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Remembrance Sunday Service

DP thanked the Royal British Legion (RBL) for organising a well-planned event in such strange times.

Members were advised that all foundation work was done by the RBL, but due to Coronavirus guidelines, East Devon District Council (EDDC) had to take overall responsibility as the local authority. In the anticipated that going forward, Exmouth

Town Council (ETC) will be taking a more active role with RBL to organise future Remembrance Sunday Services as civic events.

Members expressed concerns and disappointment that EDDC may be allowing Christmas events for the public to go ahead, and yet the Remembrance Service was restricted in terms of who could attend. NC explained that the reason why the Remembrance Service was restricted was because of the Coronavirus restrictions at the time (and the national lockdown measures). However, EDDC have rejected permission for the planned Christmas Fair to go ahead and will follow Central Government guidelines as well as will see what other authorities are doing with regards to any other pending events.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy update

The Town Clerk is currently creating a spreadsheet of the actions within the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan which will help inform and guide the Continuity Committee. The draft spreadsheet is almost complete, with the Town Clerk awaiting some Planning Committee reports which are to be included. The Committee will meet to review the Neighbourhood Plan on an annual basis.

Rather than going through all the actions within the Neighbourhood Plan at each COLP meeting, members were asked to contact the Deputy Town Clerk with what actions they would like an update on and they will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Members were asked to note that due to limited resources (staffing, time and working through a pandemic) as well as having to rely on other authorities, not all actions have been started yet or can be actioned by ETC alone. An example of where ETC cannot achieve an action alone is the Dinan Way road extension. This action is reliant on Devon County Council (DCC) and Central Government providing funding and approving the road plans.

FCu added that a meeting was held on the 27th November 2020 to discuss the scope of setting up an ETC Tree Task and Finish Forum (TAFF). This TAFF would take responsibility for working towards the tree survey action in the Neighbourhood Plan, amongst other potential tree related projects.

Members were asked to note that a review of the EDDC Local Plan is on the horizon which would have a knock-on effect to the actions of Exmouth's Neighbourhood Plan.

5. Master Plan update

Queen's Drive

AB updated members that the EDDC Queen's Drive Delivery Group held a meeting on the 17th November 2020. At that meeting it was confirmed that the temporary car park will not open again and will revert to leisure use within the Queen's Drive development space. Although the Coronavirus pandemic has put plans on hold,

ideas are being collated for what to use this space for. An example AB had was to extend the existing dinosaur park for older children. Ideas will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Queen's Drive Delivery Group will be going to EDDC Scrutiny to clarify to members of the public how the money has been spent on Queens Drive project, including the cost of the road realignment. However, there is no date for this meeting yet. Once this information has been scrutinised, Phase 3 of the Queen's Drive development will continue.

There are less car parking spaces at the Sideshore Watersports Centre than what the planning application agreed. AB explained that there is allegedly going to be more spaces created in this area. However, it is important to ensure that the current empty areas are used for leisure and recreation and not more car parking spaces.

TD asked what kinds of provisions for public transport and safe walking/cycling the Delivery Group are planning to implement to help the seafront be more sustainable as well as reduce the need for more car parking spaces.

After the Coronavirus pandemic and upcoming scrutiny meeting, the Delivery Group can then look towards these types of provisions.

Action: AB to investigate provisions for cycling.

KB wished to pass his congratulations for the success of the Sideshore development.

Action: Members were made aware that they can contact CJ or DP with any thoughts or ideas for the next phase of development which can be passed to the Queen's Drive Delivery Group.

Liverton Business Park Junction Improvements

Members noted that a meeting is to be held on the 1st December 2020 to discuss improvements to the Liverton Business Park junction to help ease traffic congestion in this area. Plans include widening the junction mouth to provide an extended area for exit lanes and separate left-turn and right-turn lanes.

6. StreetScene update

NC provided an update as follows:

- StreetScene have carried out a beach pull back and installed sandboards at the top of most of the steps leading from the Esplanade/Queen's Drive to the beach. This should help stop as much sand from blowing onto the road over the winter.
Some openings have been left without sandboards so the public can use the steps safely. However, it is impractical to keep removing and reinstalling the sandboards with the weather conditions.

- The spring planting is almost complete.
- Services, such as grassroots playing fields, outdoor gyms and beach huts, will be reopening on the 2nd December 2020, in line with national Coronavirus guidelines.
EDDC have tried to interpret Central Government's guidelines with regards to what has been closed over the second lockdown, however some contradictions occurred i.e. playparks open but outdoor gyms and skateparks closed.
The reason why beach huts were closed for renting as it was seen as a recreational activity and not in keeping with the stay at home message.
- BB thanked NC for sorting out a safety issue at the dinosaur park at the Queen's Drive Space.
- The works to the wall at Gunfield Gardens has been completed.
- NC is hoping to have the recycling bin trial in the Magnolia Centre in place by the Christmas break.
Action: NC to provide an update which will be circulated.
- EDDC are continuing to help support local groups with litter picking i.e. Plastic-Free Exmouth, with their ethos moving towards becoming more environmentally friendly and sustainable.
- It is looking likely that no events will be granted permission until the New Year.
- BB asked if the beach cleaning device, that is pulled by tractor, was still in use to help rake the sand and collect litter. NC confirmed that this device is still available for StreetScene to use by they cannot use it currently due to staff cleaning the public toilets on a more frequent basis due to the Coronavirus. However, it would be something they would be looking to use again in the future.

7. Update on Tidal Defence Scheme

Works are currently on hold but will be continuing in January 2021, for around 6 months, with the aim for completion by the summer holidays.

The area around The Grove pub, Alexandra Terrace, the Esplanade area around The Premier Inn were due to be closed when necessary to complete the works. However, no details as to what roads/areas will be shut and when have been received yet.

There has been no update on the camber of the road.

It appears that the Imperial Recreation area that had been left in an unacceptable state has started to be tidied up. The Estuary lorry park area has been restricted due to Herons nesting there earlier in the year, but work is likely to resume shortly.

An occasion when Mamhead slipway gates were not shut earlier in the month when water had come up over the road had caused concern with some members of the public. NC confirmed that as EDDC had not received an alert from the MET Office to close gate, and the situation did not meet EDDC's threshold, it was deemed as not necessary to close them.

NC confirmed that the triggers/threshold for EDDC to close the gates are:

- A request from the Environment Agency (EA)
- An amber wind/coastal wave overtopping alert
- A yellow wind/coastal wave overtopping/south west wind alert

The new floodgate closing threshold is to be discussed with ETC and the EA.

The current state of the Estuary lorry park had caused concern as a Public Right of Way (PROW) footpath, number 11, runs alongside it. The path itself has been affected by the works and the issues have been raised with DCC's PROW team. DCC and ETC have been putting pressure on the EA to ensure this path is left in an acceptable state.

8. Update on Section 106 (S106) Sports funding

FCa, Chair of the S106 Working Party, updated members that 7 projects were put to a public vote for S106 sports funding. The results had been collected but the EDDC Officer had been redeployed to EDDC's Coronavirus Response team so the results meeting had been postponed.

Action: FCa to ask the Town Clerk for an update as to when the meeting will be reconvened.

9. Update from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives

CCTV

FCa, Chair of the CCTV Working Party, updated members that the group had met recently and reported to the Town Council regarding a new CCTV project. A trial of a new camera was first in place at the end of Alexandra Terrace and then moved to the Parade outside of Tempest/Café Nero directed towards the Magnolia Centre. The camera was then moved to the corner of Franklins, next to old EDDC camera, on the Strand to see if this area could be covered with two CCTV cameras, rather than the previous four.

A survey is due to be undertaken to see if the older 20 camera system could be reviewed to take away unnecessary cameras and relocate the existing ones on a 'less is more' basis.

CCTV technology has moved on considerably from when the original system was put in place. This means that the new CCTV cameras will be 'future proof'; 5G compatible and connected via WiFi so there would be no need for lots of wires, and no costs associated with that.

Talks between the CCTV Working Party, DCC and Devon Police are ongoing with the hope to have another meeting before Christmas.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Transition Exmouth have been busy and ETC have been working in partnership with them where applicable, mainly with the 'Our Place, Our Planet' (OPOP) website. TD and Councillor Mike Rosser are on the Umbrella Group.

A suggestion from the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party was to set up a Tree TAFF to focus on tree replanted projects. The result of preliminary Tree TAFF meeting, held on the 27th November 2020, was that a proposal be taken to ETC Full Council meeting to approve the formation of this TAFF. The tree survey action from the Neighbourhood Plan will then be taken up by the new Tree TAFF, if agreed by Full Council.

Quality Council

No further update.

Exmouth Transport Partnership (ETP)

No further update but a meeting is planned for two weeks' time.

The buses that were parked in train station car park, when they were used as rail replacement buses while railway works were ongoing, showed a vision of the future if an integrated transport interchange were to be introduced.

TD updated members that a change in Stagecoach management at a local level had taken place before the Coronavirus pandemic. The new management will be attending the next meeting and the suggestion for an integrated transport interchange will be raised again.

Waterfront

PS asked NC if there had been any update from the EDDC Beach Officer with regards to relocating the Beach Gardens flagpole.

Action: NC to ask his colleague for an update.

The Blue Flag will be taking down ahead of the winter storms.

Town Maintenance Contracts TAFF

The deadline for contractors to apply for the town maintenance contract has been extended to give them extra time to submit their tenders over lockdown.

The contractor's tender applications will then be taken to the December Full Council meeting for discussion.

S106 meeting

As above.

Transition Exmouth

AT gave the following update:

- The OPOP website launch in October 2020 was a success.
- Local businesses are being contacted and asked whether they would like to publicise their sustainable practices on the OPOP website.
- There has been a lot of interest from other localities for the 'Add your Town' part of the OPOP website.
- Green Drinks on Zoom, scheduled for the 3rd December 2020, will have Plover Rovers talking about their 'Talking the Coast' project. Anyone can join by contacting Transition Exmouth via email for the Zoom link.
- Transition Exmouth's AGM is scheduled to be on the 10th December 2020 on Zoom. During the AGM, the new faces who hope to get onto the Umbrella group will be decided.

Beach Wheelchair project

ETC are hoping to put a planning application in for the building which the beach wheelchairs will be stored in. However, a lease for the land is required from EDDC, which PS has been waiting to receive since February 2020.

The leasing process sits with EDDC's Property Team, however NC confirmed that some of the concessions this team process with regards to activities on EDDC land

will soon sit with his team.

Action: PS to talk to the Exmouth District Councillors to try and obtain the lease from EDDC.

10. Agenda items requested by ECO members:

Update on repair of Gunfield Gardens Wall

Previously discussed within agenda item 6, StreetScene update.

11. AOB

Isolation blanket and knitted paperchain

PS made members aware that she, and over 100 other local women, had been working on an isolation blanket which is to be displayed in Ocean.

The group have also been working on a knitted paperchain and wondered if this could be displayed somewhere in the town.

Action: PS to discuss available options with NC and CJ.

Age Concern

TS made members aware that the Age Concern office in Exmouth had closed quickly but that some of the previous employees had set-up Heron Help to continue the vital work Age Concern previously provided.

Exmouth Mutual Aid is also still in operation and available to help with shopping, prescription pick-ups and providing a listening ear service.

Dates of future meetings

The meetings for all the Town Council's working parties and committees for the whole of 2021 are currently being planned and will be circulated once agreed.

Members to note that there is to be no meeting for December 2020.

The meeting ended at 11.52am.