

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 25th January 2021 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
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
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Rev. Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together

* arrived after the meeting had started

Apologies

Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society

1. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 30th November 2020 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Flood Defence works

DP updated members that the flood defence work along the seafront had re-commenced and although advertised to complete at the end of the year it was likely to be earlier.

The Beach Wheelchair Project

PS updated members that the planning application for the beach wheelchair storage building has been submitted to East Devon District Council and will hopefully be validated this week.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy update

An Implementation Progress Report document was circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting. This working document gives a snapshot overview of each action point within the Neighbourhood Plan action and will be updated on a regular basis as work progresses.

COLP members were given an opportunity to discuss the document:

- 1) GS asked whether a press release could be published in the local press so members of the public can be made aware of the progress of the actions points mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan.
CJ confirmed that the previous version of this document is already on the Town Council's website, and a more updated version will be published once the Town Council has had an opportunity to review it.
- 2) AT asked for further updates on the following actions:
 - *ACTION NEA3: The Neighbourhood Plan supports the work of EDDC Countryside Team and Tree Preservation Order officers in keeping the Tree survey and TPO's up to date in Exmouth*
Exmouth Town Council (ETC) has set-up a Tree Task and Finish Forum (TAFF). The first official meeting of the TAFF is scheduled for Thursday 4th February 2021. A preliminary meeting was held on the 27th November 2020 and the notes of this meeting were available on the Town Council's website.
This TAFF will work closely with East Devon District Council (EDDC) through Tim Dafforn (Wild Exmouth, EDDC) and Alistair Jeans (EDDC Tree Officer). In addition, Exmouth Tree Warden, Simon Pardoe, will also be in attendance.
The Terms of Reference of this Task and Finish Forum, and subsequent meeting notes, will be available on the Town Council website.
 - *ACTION NEA4A: For extension and enhancement of the Valley Parks, and for public movement to and within them to be an ETC strategic infrastructure priority project*
CJ updated members that EDDC Engineers have commissioned a contract to a commercial organisation to provide a costing for the Bapton Valley Park project. Once the costing has been completed, EDDC Engineer (Tom Buxton-Smith) and CJ will jointly provide a report for consideration by EDDC and the Town Council. A maintenance provision will be considered as part of this work.
Action: CJ to find out if there is any time limit to spend CIL funding.

- *ACTION GAA8: The Neighbourhood Plan supports and endorses the completion of Dinan Way*
ETC and Devon County Council (DCC) have committed a sum of money for the extension of Dinan Way project. However, this project is awaiting funding from Central Government to proceed.
- *ACTION NEA1: For Exmouth Town Council (ETC) to identify open spaces within the parish of high community value with a view to designating them as Local Green Space in the next update of the Neighbourhood Plan*
EDDC has no designated local green spaces. However, the Maer, Cricket and Bowling Club could be options.
DP suggested that these ideas could link to East Devon Local Plan Up Consultation.
Actions: COLP members to raise any ideas of Local Green Spaces via the East Devon Local Plan consultation and copy the Town Council of any comments submitted.
ETC to be asked to consider adding this in as part of its consultation response to the Local Plan consultation.
- *ACTION NEA7: For the Neighbourhood Plan to support organisations in assessing the need, viability and most effective siting of an Interpretation Information Centre and ask the EDDC Countryside Team and relevant voluntary bodies to address the need for a more comprehensive approach to environmental education/public awareness*
Members thought that the Queen's Drive area of the seafront would be the perfect place for an Interpretation Centre.
Actions: Any ideas with regards to an Interpretation Centre should be sent to the EDDC Queen's Drive Delivery Group for consideration.
CJ to also investigate if any proposals for the Centre have been received by the Town Council.
- *ACTION NEA8: The Neighbourhood Plan supports the promotion and development of Exmouth as a sustainable holiday destination*
Work has started on creating a Visitor's Guide for 2021/22.
- *ACTION NEA10: The Neighbourhood Plan supports the work of relevant agencies and involved trained volunteers, in the gully and watercourse cleaning and flood storage maintenance*
ETC takes Town Maintenance seriously and has recently taken on two new members of staff (bringing the Town Maintenance Team up to four people). These employees have received Chapter 8 training and are aware of issues and the need to be vigilant in issues such as blocked drains and dog mess.

In addition, ETC will be taking on the Grounds Maintenance from April 2021 onwards.

ETC's Town Maintenance Team will continue to clear drains when out weeding.

Actions: CJ to find out the DCC gully and drain cleaning cycle currently in place in Exmouth and investigate if there are any differences in cleaning cycles with other East Devon towns.

Members were asked to bring to DCC's attention, via their Report IT system, any gully and drainage issues as problems.

- Additionally, members were reminded that any flooding or drainage issues were discussed with DCC through the Town Council's Flooding and Land Drainage Working party meetings.

CJ also highlighted that road sweeping has been cut-back in outer parts of Exmouth resulting in more leaves collecting and blocking drains. Road sweeping frequency would be something to consider reviewing and trying to increase in the future.

- *ACTION EBA2: For ETC in partnership with local groups to work to deliver a register of historic and architectural features for the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan Area*

Action: CJ was not aware of the progress on this action and will arrange for an update to be provided.

- *ACTION GAA3: For EDDC to deliver provision of public electric charging points in all car parks where 20 or more spaces are provided*
TD updated members that there is a county-wide plan to install electric car charging points and that EDDC would be involved as the authority responsible for public car parks.

Unfortunately, there was no further update available, but this matter is regularly discussed at ETC's Exmouth Transport Partnership Working Party.

Actions: Members were reminded that the DCC Interim Carbon Plan consultation period is currently running so any concerns on this matter should be addressed through the consultation.

- *ACTION GA12: For the improvement of the cycle and footway network across the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan Area to be an ETC strategic infrastructure priority project*

Jan Gannaway's survey and mapping of the cycle and footpath network is nearing completion. Once complete, it will be sent to the Town Clerk for review. There are limitations to which websites a .gov webpage can share so this will need to be looked at.

As the Neighbourhood Plan and the East Devon Local Plan were linked closely together it was agreed to bring forward agenda item 6.

5. East Devon Local Plan Update

East Devon Plan Consultation

An EDDC press release regarding the upcoming Local Plan consultation was circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting.

Members were reminded to request that their organisations copy the Town Council to any responses to the Local Plan consultation, so that they can also be considered as part of the Town Council's response.

6. Master Plan update

The Queen's Drive Delivery Group's meeting, which was being held at the same time as this COLP meeting, were discussing ideas for Phase 3 of the Queen's Drive redevelopment.

An update from this meeting will be shared with the Town Council and COLP members.

7. Streetscene update

No member of Streetscene was present to provide an update.

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

S106 and CIL Working Party

FCa confirmed that an EDDC press release was published recently with the results of the public vote for S106 sports funding. Out of the 5000 random households contacted, over 1000 responded.

The top two winning projects were:

- 1) Exmouth Community College's bid to resurface their all-weather astro turf pitch.
- 2) To improve the Brixington Playing Field with a sports pitch and multi-use area along with path resurfacing.

Developers are specifically asked to contribute S106 funding specifically for Sports and Play as part of any development site.

CIL money is also paid by developers and is primarily used for infrastructure to help mitigate the pressures arising from the new development i.e. road improvements.

Members were asked to note that the funding allocated to the skatepark was through capital funding.

Currently, Brixington Field is not being used as an emergency landing site for the Air Ambulance yet. However, if the lighting issues are ironed out this could be a possibility for the future.

Applying for Section 106 or CIL funding can be a complicated process so an easy to read/use application document would be beneficial for those organisations eligible to apply for this funding. TD suggested that there may be plans to restructure the CIL requirements via the Government's Planning White Paper.

Action: FCa to investigate if EDDC already have a document available.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party have agreed to set-up a Tree Task and Finish Forum (TAFF) to allow a dedicated group to work on tree matters. The Terms of Reference have been written and were available to view on the Town Council's website.

Community Resilience Working Party

This working party had agreed that emergency boxes should be created and distributed to key locations around the town for use in emergency situations. These boxes have been put together and will be distributed once the current Coronavirus lockdown restrictions lift.

FCa explained how members of the community are doing a fantastic job of helping at the Coronavirus vaccination centres and are helping their communities.

Action: Members were asked to let DP or CJ know if they knew of anyone who would like to volunteer to help with car marshalling at the vaccination centres also.

Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party

The Town Council has agreed to a tri-party partnership to assist with the closing of the new tidal defence flood gates. Volunteers through Exmouth Town Council will assist with closing of only non-highway gates. Responsibility of closing other gates will be with EDDC.

An initial volunteers meeting is to be held on the 28th January 2021 with those wishing to volunteer to help with closing the non-highways floodgates at Morton Crescent. Many residents of Morton Crescent have come forward to volunteer. The first focus will be on Morton Crescent to start with and this will be followed with volunteers for other areas and may include local businesses and the sailing club.

Action: CJ to flag up that the floodgate at Camperdown Terrace needs to be closed more often, waiting on the MET Office warnings is not enough.

GS raised concern that Camperdown residents had not been contacted and would like to see residents receive a letter informing them of the status.

Action: Camperdown residents can contact CJ via email for information on becoming a volunteer and attending the floodgate volunteer's meeting.

AT suggested a public dress-rehearsal take place when all infrastructure is completed.

Action: CJ to raise this idea with EDDC and the Environment Agency (EA) at a future tri-party meeting.

Waterfront Working Party

The next Waterfront Working Party meeting is scheduled for the 2nd February 2021.

PS updated members that the lifeboat is currently at sea as the lifeboat crew cannot launch the boat from the ramp due to the stormy weather displacing a lot of sand. She added that it is likely the RNLI will be applying for permission to extend the ramp in the future.

South West Water have also been advised that the pipe that runs across the beach is exposed and is being undermined due to the lack of sand.

Exmouth Transport Partnership

TD updated members that the previous meeting in December 2020 was a useful one, with Great Western Railway providing an update on their service changes due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Currently the trains are running one per hour. However, in the future there will be a new regular service from Exmouth to Paignton.

Additionally, a new depot has opened at Exeter St. David's station and new train stock will be coming down from Bristol shortly.

Unfortunately, there were no representatives from Stagecoach present again which meant no update could be provided on the ongoing issues of buses double-parking and driving down Featherbed Lane. TD plans to chase Stagecoach for an update on these issues. However, if he cannot get through then it was suggested that he contact Councillor Stuart Hughes, Cabinet Member for Highways Management at DCC, to raise these issues.

CCTV

FCa updated members that EDDC will be ending the current Town CCTV service on 31st March 2021. It is ETC's intention to provide a new Town CCTV in the future. EDDC will need to remove their old infrastructure so new posts can be installed to create a new, more flexible system whereby cameras can be moved to where needed. FCa explained how he has been identifying areas where cameras already existed or will be needed and positioning them to enable less cameras to be used overall.

Although this system will not be monitored initially there will be the option to build on this at a later stage.

9. Agenda items requested by ECO members:

When will the review of the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan commence?

It was agreed that consideration should be given to the East Devon Local Plan prior to re-visiting the Neighbourhood Plan.

Seafront Congestion - How safe is our promenade?

Currently, the seafront has been very busy and congested and GS asked whether better planning is needed along the Promenade to help with this.

Action: Issues regarding the seafront can be given to PS to be raised at the Waterfront Working Party meeting.

In addition, FCa asked how much desire there is from the community to increase safe and controlled cycling opportunities. GS confirmed that ECA were in agreement that there was a desire for safe cycling opportunities.

PS asked members to note that DCC had confirmed that it was not possible to implement the suggestions raised by Jan Gannaway for the seafront.

Action: Members to raise any ideas or issues relating to transport, including cycling, to TD to raise at the Exmouth Transport Partnership Working Party.

10. Information for members

Precept for 2021/2022

A press release on the Town Council budget and precept request had been circulated to all members. ETC Councillors and Officers had worked hard to keep costs down which has meant that the amount is slightly less than last year. This is mainly due to the knock-on effect of the Coronavirus pandemic cancelling events which has meant funds previously allocated to these events will be transferred into earmarked reserves for future events.

BB thanked ETC staff for their hard work on this.

Section 106 Sports Funding results

Please see agenda item 8.

Census 2021 – Sunday 21st March

Information regarding the upcoming census was circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting.

Devon Carbon Plan Consultation

Members were reminded that the Devon Carbon Interim Plan consultation was open.

11. AOB

None.

The next meeting will be held on the 8th March 2021.

The meeting ended at 12pm.