

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 3pm on Tuesday 9th February 2021 held remotely via Zoom

Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Toyne	AT	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
(Ex-officio)		
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council Officer
Jennifer Wellington	JW	Exmouth Town Council Notetaker
Nicky Nicholls	NN	Transition Exmouth Chair

Apologies

None.

1. Welcome and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and explained how the previously scheduled meeting was cancelled as there were no further updates.

2. Approval of previous meeting notes and matters arising

The notes of the previous meeting held on the 24th November 2020 were approved.

Electric car charging points

OD updated members that it was proposed at a meeting with Co-Cars and Andrew Ennis, East Devon District Council (EDDC), to trial a Co-Cars space in one of EDDC's car parks. Since that meeting, Co-Cars are considering linking this space with the project in Exeter meaning that the space can be for a fully electric car, not a

hybrid. This space will come at no cost to EDDC as it will be an extension of the Exeter scheme.

FC explained how Exeter has the highest number of electric vehicles (which could be linked to the Co-Cars scheme) and this could be used as evidence to improve the provisions in Exmouth due to the closeness of the town and city and residents commuting to and from each place.

LB explained how she has not yet drafted a letter to Simon Jupp MP to highlight safety concerns related to electric cars. However, members believed that there may be some information on this already in the public domain.

Action: TD to research any information regarding the safety of electric cars.

In Exeter/Exeter Cycling Campaign webinar workshop for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Although OD was not able to attend the webinar for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, he was able to look at the slides and reported that it probably would not be worth investigating further as it would require approval from Devon County Council (DCC) and there appears to be no aspiration to pursue this in Exmouth at the present time.

RideOn

LB confirmed that collecting bikes and donating them to RideOn could be established in principle. However, the future of the depot space which Exmouth Town Council's (ETC) Town Maintenance Team currently occupy in Phear Park is unclear and the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic has caused more restrictions to be implemented. Nevertheless, the aim is to pick this project up after the current lockdown with the proposal to offer a bike pick-up service on an ad-hoc basis. Once the chosen storage facility is full, the Town Maintenance Team can donate the bikes to RideOn.

3. To agree a response to the respond to the Interim Carbon plan on behalf of the Town Council

The Devon Climate Emergency's Interim Carbon Plan consultation is currently open and there are two questionnaires on the website for the public to complete, one is 10 minutes, the other 45 minutes. Some members explained how they had already completed the 10-minute questionnaire but found that the questions were limited and uninspiring, without any space for further input to be included.

SG went on to explain how at one of EDDC's cabinet meetings it was noted that DCC are looking to achieve their carbon-neutral policies by 2050, with EDDC planning for 2040 (with the possibility that DCC may adopt EDDC's policy). EDDC's John Golding produced a document which was endorsed by EDDC cabinet, but questions were raised about how the actions contained within it would be funded. EDDC could fund some of the actions but would have to look for more funding from central Government in the future.

Members agreed that it is not up to Councils alone but that every individual needs to do what they can to make the policies work and that ETC needs to be promoting what it is doing at a local level, for example building on the 'Our Place, Our Planet' (OPOP) website and engaging the community.

Members then completed the 10-minute questionnaire in the meeting.

As it appeared that this shorter questionnaire was asking for more broad thoughts, members who raised the following more specific points would need to complete their own questionnaire or hold onto those ideas for a future meeting:

- BB raised the idea of asking EDDC to investigate running EDDC's refuse vehicles with Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)
- MR raised the idea of linking in with food banks and allotments to reallocate excess food and reduce food waste

The main concern arising from this questionnaire was a lack of current legislation to back-up the climate actions as well as the lack of authority ETC has i.e. through the Planning Committee, decisions are governed by national policy and this Committee has no authority to enforce any further actions.

In addition, as Town and Parish Councils differ so much i.e. budgets, area size, population and amount of councillors, it would be beneficial to know if the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) would be responding to this consultation on behalf of the sector.

Action: TD to raise this question at the next DALC meeting.

4. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth

NN provided the following update on behalf of Transition Exmouth:

- Transition Exmouth have spent the winter months getting their house in order, restructuring using Microsoft Teams, working on the Transition Exmouth website (which should be live in next few weeks) and working with the 3 new committee members.
- In addition, lots of work on two new projects has been undertaken:
 - The Library of Things – working in partnership with Littlemead Methodist Church, a Library of Things will be set-up in their double garage to allow members of the public to share items such as power tools. There has been lots of positive engagement on social media and 20 people have volunteered to help
 - eCargo bike delivery service – this is a service which will allow businesses within Exmouth to have their products delivered throughout the town. It is hoped this service will mean there will be less reliance on ordering products online from larger, less local businesses. Exmouth Cycles have supplied a bike, over 20 businesses are keen to be involved and volunteers are coming forward to be delivery riders.
 - NN added that the other committees are also working hard in their project areas, for example wildlife and nature.
- The issue of the seafront congestion on the multi user path was also raised to which LB clarified that DCC is the responsible authority and that some of the ideas proposed by various community groups to reduce congestion could not easily be progressed due to legislation and the fact that DCC, as Highways Authority, has the final say. Longer-term solutions - i.e. those needing traffic orders, are more complex.
- LB also explained that Exmouth had not been eligible for the government's Reallocating Road Space funding as the seafront is not a commuter route and did not meet the criteria. However, LB was trying to establish a meeting, with DCC Officers and Exmouth's County Councillors, to establish if any ideas can

be progressed to alleviate current concerns about congestion and safety. Also, to identify if any longer-term aspirations relating to access strategy for the Town could be progressed to the point of having a 'shovel-ready' plan in place so that if any future funding opportunities arise, ETC will be ready.

- OD highlighted the need for all branches of DCC, including Highways, to work with local councils to implement suitable change.
- NN then explained how when the OPOP website was launched in 2020, it was hoped that a promotion would be carried out in the Spring of 2021 with the aim of getting the information into resident's homes i.e. sending bookmarks or flyers.
- LB explained shared experience of the Exmouth Neighbourhood plan consultation and confirmed that there are 16,000 households in Exmouth so door to door delivery of printed collateral could be a costly exercise, however the Royal Mail offers a service that can deliver flyers to each household with the general post if all the flyers are the same and not personalised to each household. Another option could be school bookbags. However, it is unclear whether schools would be amenable in the current climate, how many households this will cover, which households will have received the information and there may be duplicates i.e. with siblings or multiple children living in the same household.

LB added that she has submitted an article to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) Clerk's magazine which is delivered to all the Clerks across the country. The article focusses on the partnership element of the OPOP website and will be published in the March edition of the magazine.

Action: NN to come up with some ideas of what could be used to promote the website and how to distribute this information.

- It was confirmed that a £5,000 budget has been allocated for partnership working with Transition Exmouth for the next financial year from the Town Council plus any unspent budget from this year will also be available.
- Post-Coronavirus pandemic, pursuing a 'Bags with no owners' project may also be investigated.

5. To receive an update on other relevant matters from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives

Plastic Reduction Working Party

The water bottle filling stations project is yet to be completed due to the EDDC Estates Team not processing the final stages of the application.

Gorfin Hall Management Committee

FC updated members that the electricity contract at Gorfin Hall is due for renewal. The Committee hopes to procure a more environmentally friendly electricity contract and to generate some income via the feed-in tariff associated with the solar panels.

Tree Task and Finish Forum (TAFF)

The new Tree TAFF met for the first time on the 4th February 2021, with Tim Dafforn (EDDC Wild Exmouth and Countryside Team), Alistair Jeans (EDDC Arboricultural Officer) and Simon Pardoe (Exmouth Tree Warden) in attendance.

Members present at the TAFF discussed how to move forward with the implementation of tree actions within the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan and how to plant more trees around the town.

This TAFF will meet monthly for a duration of 6-months working closely with EDDC and other relevant organisations. There may be potential to integrate the TAFF into the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party or for the TAFF to carry on as an independent group. Any future plans for this TAFF will be investigated towards the end of the 6-month period.

6. Any other business

Small Grants Programme

An Officer at EDDC had forwarded some information to the Town Clerk regarding a small grants programme which may be of interest to Transition Exmouth.

Action: LB to forward the information to TD and NN.

7. Date of future meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the 9th March, 2021 at 3pm via Zoom.

The meeting finished at 16.40pm.