

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 8th March 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 Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council and Transition Exmouth Representative
Lisa Bowman*	LB	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

*LB has replaced CJ as Officer at this meeting.

Apologies

Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
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1. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 25th January 2021 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

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

AT explained how Jan Gannaway has done all she could with regards to the survey and mapping of the cycle and footpath network.

S106 and CIL Working Party

Some members felt that the previous COLP notes did not reflect the discussion that was had with regards to what S106 money could be spent on.

LB explained that Exmouth Town Council (ETC) is only consulted over use of S106 funds for sport and play under East Devon District Council's (EDDC) strict rules and policies. However, members were asked to note that S106 money can be used by EDDC for other purposes i.e. improving pathways (Liverton to Dinan Way).

Action: JW/LB to amend the previous COLP notes to reflect the scope of the S106 discussion.

Devon County Council (DCC) gully cleaning cycles

FC spoke to DCC Councillor Scott regarding the gully cleaning cycles in East Devon and it appeared that Exmouth is on a different cycle to other towns, with these towns on a more 'as and when needed' cycle as opposed to Exmouth's more structured 3-yearly cycle.

Members were asked to note that the DCC gully teams have been in Exmouth within the last month.

Action: LB to find out if the Deputy Clerk has had any further information regarding the gully cleaning in Exmouth.

Local Plan

As part of ETC's Planning Committee meetings, the Committee have discussed and agreed a formal response to EDDC's Issues and Options Consultation in respect of the emerging Local Plan. The Town Council's response will be submitted to EDDC Planning and the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting at which the response has been agreed will be uploaded to the Town Council's website for COLP members to read..

ETC staffing levels

At the 22nd February 2021 Full Council meeting it was agreed that ETC employ two new members of staff; one full-time and one part-time.

The full-time position will be for a Community Projects Officer working on a range of ETC projects, including some of the aspirations of the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan.

The part-time position will focus on the climate and ecological emergency as well as community resilience.

Both positions will be on a 12-month fixed term basis initially, with the job specifications currently being written to be approved by the HR group.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy update

LB explained how many of the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan actions involve land that is not owned by ETC, therefore working in collaboration with the landowners, mainly EDDC, is necessary. However, as a lot of EDDC's staff have been redeployed for EDDC's Coronavirus response this has delayed some of the ongoing projects that ETC are pursuing with EDDC, for example progressing the Beach Wheelchair project. Almost two years after the initial crowdfunding, ETC are still awaiting confirmation of a lease of EDDC land to site a storage building for the beach wheelchairs, although PS has submitted the planning application for this project to EDDC to help reduce any further delays.

In addition, other delays, such as formal legal agreements being a prerequisite for the use of EDDC land, have delayed the installation of water bottle filling stations, an action of the Plastic Reduction Working Party.

Members were advised that the Neighbourhood Plan would be reviewed after the EDDC Local Plan had been updated as it would need to conform with the Local Plan. Therefore, members were encouraged to raise any ideas or comments on the Local Plan via the public consultation.

LB highlighted that despite the difficulty in progressing the Community Actions, ETC's Planning Committee scrutinises all planning applications against the Neighbourhood Plan's policies and that the policies are enforceable.

Additionally, the seemingly 'easy' projects that are suggested in the Plan sometimes turn out to be bigger than anticipated, for example improvements at Bapton Valley have had to be scoped by engineers and formal permission will need to be sought from both EDDC and DCC as it is their land.

Action: AT to submit his proposal document for Neighbourhood Plan action NEA07 Interpretation Centre to EDDC's Queen's Drive Delivery Group (QDDG) and will copy LB into the correspondence.

5. Master Plan

LB explained how the EDDC Master Plan would possibly be reviewed as part of the Local Plan review.

Members raised concerns that the Master Plan focus has been mainly on Queen's Drive and not the whole of the town. It was noted that after the Regeneration Board Forum was disbanded, it was replaced by EDDC's QDDG whose Terms of Reference only cover Queen's Drive meaning this group can only discuss matters relating to this area.

AB, as the Town Council's representative on the QDDG, updated members on the outcomes of the recent QDDG meeting for which minutes are available on the EDDC website.

6. StreetScene update

No member of StreetScene was present to provide an update. However, LB updated members that EDDC will be relinquishing the grounds maintenance contract for flowerbed maintenance around the town and ETC will be picking this work up in house from April 2021.

Members wished to raise the following concerns with StreetScene, which will be raised via the Waterfront Working Party:

- A patch of grass at beach gardens, where the Exmouth Wheel was situated, has not recovered and is patchy.

- Due to the increase in visitors to the seafront, more bins are needed.

Action: LB to ask StreetScene if a representative can be sent on a regular basis to relevant ETC Working Party meetings, such as COLP.

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

Town Maintenance Overview Working Party (previously Town Maintenance Contracts Task and Finish Forum)

FC updated members that a huge amount of work has been undertaken by the Deputy Town Clerk with regards to taking some of the ground maintenance work in-house.

One of the main issues arising from this meeting has been a need for a depot space that ETC can use exclusively.

Action: If members have any ideas, please let Councillor Ian Kirvan, Chair of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party, and the Deputy Town Clerk know.

Exmouth Transport Partnership (ETP)

The issue of seafront congestion on the multi-user path has been raised at multiple Working Party meetings, including ETP.

Following these concerns, LB and TD have met with Jan Gannaway, DCC Exmouth Councillors and DCC's Highways Officer to discuss the matter as well as ideas to mitigate the risks of bicycle use on the multi-user path and the scope for introducing one-way schemes around neighbouring roads to help ease congestion on Queen's Drive and the Esplanade.

A lot of the ideas raised were not deemed appropriate by DCC:

- Directing traffic in a one-way system around the Deaf Academy would be inappropriate.
- There is a moratorium on setting up new 20mph zones as a trial in Newton Abbot is ongoing.

However, DCC felt that road user education and signage could be helpful with addressing these issues. LB explained how there are DCC plans to run a media campaign around shared use paths in Exmouth and re-enforce the message through signage.

The environmental health issues, including social-distancing due to Coronavirus and overcrowding, are on the radar of the DCC Public Health team. There is a plan to redeploy some of the Covid Officers to help reinforce the social distancing message.

TD raised his concern that shared space is not always the way forward.

Festival and Events Working Party

Unfortunately, the 2021 Exmouth Festival has had to be cancelled due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Postponing the event to later in the year was not possible due to guest availability and uncertainty of when restrictions would be likely to lift.

However, there is a plan to organise smaller events this year, dependant on the Coronavirus restrictions and EDDC permission.

It was confirmed that EDDC used to share a list of events that have been granted permission on EDDC owned land, but this list has not been made available in recent months as permissions for events have stopped due to Coronavirus.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

A new PROW Warden has taken over responsibility for Exmouth at DCC and at the last PROW meeting, he reported on maintenance improvements to the PROWs in Exmouth.

LB explained how ETC has delegated authority for looking after the public rights of way in Exmouth as per the P3 agreement with DCC and receives an amount per mile of PROW paths maintained,

AT asked whether ETC could become a member of the Open Spaces Society.

Action: LB to investigate ETC becoming a member of the Open Spaces Society.

Members were advised that ETC does not have delegated authority over the Exe Estuary Trail, only the numbered PROW footpaths.

Quality Council

ETC's application for the next level of Quality Council status has been submitted.

CCTV

LB updated members that ETC are out to quote for new cameras. Once a contractor has been decided, it is hoped that the cameras will be installed by April 2021.

Waterfront Working Party

ETC, via the Waterfront Working Party, wrote to EDDC with regards to the lack of action on the Beach Management Plan.

Additionally, two pipes have been exposed on the beach due to sand displacement and hole in the pavement appeared by the Lifeboat Station. EDDC seem to be investigating these issues but no progress seems to have been made yet.

Sand displacement has also created a problem for the Lifeboat Station ramp as it is now too high off the ground at the end to launch the lifeboats from.

PS explained how no funding can be given from the Environment Agency (EA) to help with these issues as the criteria for funding is that there must be a risk of flooding to households, and there are no residential properties at this part of the beach.

8. Agenda items requested by ECO members:

Levelling-up and UK shared prosperity funds - What are Town Council priorities for these funds and how is it intended to support EDDC in achieving funding?

GS had requested this agenda item and explained that it was pursuant to a question being raised by Simon Jupp MP in Parliament to Robert Jennick MP regarding potential funding for Exmouth.

However, since the COLP agenda had been published, the Levelling Up Fund prospectus had been published, with guidance on how local areas can submit bids. Exmouth is listed as a lower priority town and the prospectus makes it clear that there can only be one bid per MP area and that bids have to be submitted by an eligible local authority, which in our case would be EDDC.

It was noted that a previous high street funding bid was put forward for Axminster by EDDC, but it was unsuccessful.

Action: LB to circulate any information regarding town funding with members if/when received.

9. AOB

Redgates planning application

Prior to this meeting, information regarding the Redgates planning application for extra care/assisted living accommodation was circulated to members.

Update on new floodgates

A meeting was held on the 28th January 2021 between the EA and Morton Crescent residents. This meeting was to discuss the need and requirement of volunteers to shut the floodgates at Morton Crescent.

All highway floodgates are to be closed by the EA and/or EDDC and are due for completion by the end of July 2021.

Those floodgates on privately owned land are to be closed by volunteers in collaboration with ETC.

Kier send updates via email so if members would like to receive updates in this way they would need to contact Kier.

Woodbury, Exmouth and Budleigh (WEB) Health and Wellbeing Board

TS updated members that Exmouth Hospital is due to get a new X-Ray unit.

Members were made aware that the WEB Board minutes form part of the Full Council agenda and minutes.

Reopening of the Town Hall

The Exmouth Town Hall has been closed to the public during the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

The reopening of the Town Hall is dependent on EDDC as the owners of the building.

New community organisations

AT raised the need to encourage additional organisations to join COLP. As per the COLP Terms of Reference:

A community organisation shall qualify to apply to Exmouth Town Council for membership of COLP by virtue of having:

i. constitutional objectives that are acceptable to Exmouth Town Council

ii. membership open to all residents of Exmouth

iii. activities that are not restricted to specific parts of the parish

iv. a conventional form of governance that includes elected officers and audited accounts available for inspection alongside the constitution

Action: Members to let DP know of any organisations who they think would qualify for COLP membership.

Orcombe Point

A licence extension of the shipping container, currently being used by Bumble and Sea for a food and drink take-away, was debated at ETC Planning.

As it appears to be a lucrative business, members thought a more permanent building should be constructed rather than using a temporary shipping container. Questions were also raised about how many times a temporary licence can be extended.

Although not universally supported by all Councillors present, the licence did get approval for a 5-year extension.

Exmouth Ladies in Isolation

PS updated members that the Exmouth Ladies in Isolation group have been knitting flowers and other items and have plans to create a display in the old Thomas Tucker building windows. Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, this had been pushed back to the Bank Holiday at the end of May.

Additional thoughts on the Master plan

KB suggested that a re-run of the Master Plan consultation process could be beneficial with regards to the Local Plan consultation.

TD reiterated that at the two most recent meetings of ETC's planning committee, Members have discussed and responded to the Local Plan consultation.

Action: Planning minutes to be circulated to members so that the Local Plan comments can be read.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 12th April 2021.

The meeting ended at 11.50am.