

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 19<sup>th</sup> April 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	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
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
Nick Christo	NC	East Devon District Council Street Scene
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together

### Apologies

Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council and Transition Exmouth Representative
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Rev. Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together

### 1. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

It was agreed to move the Street Scene contribution to the beginning of the meeting to allow NC to give his report before 11am.

### 2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved.

### 3. Matters Arising

Exmouth Beach Management Plan – EDDC Cabinet minutes 31/03/2021 refer (agenda item 16 and minute ref. 371)

East Devon District Council (EDDC) discussed at their Cabinet meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 Exmouth beach and the Beach Management Plan. This meeting recommended that an Exmouth Beach Management Plan Steering Group be set-up to work towards developing a new Beach Management Plan as well as identify any interim actions as required.

In addition, members were updated that the metal pipes that had surfaced on the beach, by the Lifeboat Station, and had caused safety concerns were removed.

**Action: NC to check that all dangerous pipes have been removed.**

#### NEA07 Interpretation Centre

AT confirmed that he had submitted his proposal document for Neighbourhood Plan action *NEA07 Interpretation Centre* to EDDC's Queen's Drive Delivery Group (QDDG). The document was forwarded to LB during the meeting to be circulated to COLP members after the meeting.

#### Levelling up Fund – EDDC Cabinet minutes 31/03/2021 refer (agenda item 21 and minute ref. 376)

EDDC plan to set up a Task and Finish Forum (TAFF) with East Devon's MP to discuss what funds are available to Exmouth.

A previous, unsuccessful bid for Axminster was applied for by EDDC through a different funding pot. EDDC minutes state that, '*...the potential for a bid or bids to be made to this Fund by the deadline for the first round of the 18 June 2021.*'

Therefore, there may be scope for putting in bids for multiple towns (criteria dependant).

EDDC Cabinet have recommended to set aside a budget of £100,000 to enable consultancy support to be commissioned.

#### Site of Redgate and Land at Tesco

DP thanked GS and FC for presenting their opposition to the Redgate and land at Tesco planning application at EDDC's Planning meeting.

EDDC upheld their refusal of the application, which is likely to go back to appeal.

### **4. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy update**

Specific updates were given on the following topics:

#### Action NEA5: The NP supports the mapping (and protection and maintenance) of Exmouth's Green corridors within the BUAB – Wild Exmouth Map to launch imminently

Wild Exmouth have created a map of Exmouth, including walks and cycle paths, which will be posted to each household in the town. LB confirmed that the Town Council have supplied funding to Wild Exmouth for various projects.

#### Action GAA3: For EDDC to deliver provision of electric charging points in all carparks where 20 or more spaces are provided - Plans to install 30 electric vehicle charging points to go before EDDC Full Council on April 21<sup>st</sup>

Members were updated that 30 charging points are to be installed by EDDC, with sites identified in the district. It is likely different price-points will be available to users of the service.

Action GA10: The NP supports the work of the joint Campervan TAFF to promote three designated sites for motorhomes - Changes to the rules for pay-and-display for campervans and motorhomes are set to be discussed by EDDC Full Council in a debate on April 8, which the public can watch online.

LB explained how a lot of misinformation has been circulating regarding the possible changes to pay and display charges for caravan and motorhome parking. Although the minutes of EDDC's Full Council meeting are yet to be published, LB confirmed that Andrew Ennis, Service Lead for Environmental Health and Car Parks at EDDC, would like to set-up a Campervan TAFF with the Town Council to discuss these matters.

**Action: LB to liaise with Andrew Ennis regarding setting up this meeting.**

NC added that Street Scene will be producing a leaflet of positive messaging for campervan and motorhome drivers around disposing of waste and looking after the area.

## **5. Master Plan Update**

DP thanked AT and GS for their representations at the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 QDDG meeting. Members were made aware that the QDDG meeting scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 was postponed due to the national mourning period for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Members once again raised concerns that the QDDG only focus on the Queen's Drive area and the previous Master Plan had a much broader remit, with Queens Drive being one of many areas included. EDDC are aware of this issue and there may be potential for some EDDC Officers to pick up work in the other Master Plan areas, but nothing has been confirmed.

PS raised concerns that the seafront has already had some busy days, with less car parking available as the temporary car park at the Queen's Drive Space is to be grassed over. There is a worry that as the year goes on into the summer it is only going to get busier.

AT then gave an overview of the presentation he presented to EDDC on the 11<sup>th</sup> March meeting. LB added that the plans for any interpretation centre would need to take into account how it would raise enough revenue to cover costs and gave Seaton Jurassic as an example of a visitor centre which has unfortunately had to close due to financial pressure.

Members queried when the lease for the amusement arcade at Queen's Drive is likely to expire. LB comments that she thought it had a few years left to run.

It was also reported that the temporary car park behind the old RNLI building, now Exmouth Rowing Club, will hopefully have its planning permission extended.

**6. To note that Exmouth Town Council is being asked to contribute towards cleaning costs of toilets (EDDC Cabinet minutes 31/03/2021 refer – agenda item 16 and minute ref. 371) will be put on Full Council agenda for discussion post-June (costs covered until June)**

Members noted that the Town Council is being asked to contribute towards cleaning costs of toilets by EDDC and this will be discussed at an upcoming Full Council meeting.

**7. To note the arrangements for Exmouth Town and Littleham ward, DCC County Councillor and the OPCC elections on May 6**

Members noted that there will be Exmouth Town and Littleham ward, Devon County Council (DCC) County Councillor and the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Additionally, members were asked to note that some Polling Stations have been changed due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

**8. To note that the Draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay has been published for consultation**

Members noted that the Draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay was discussed in depth at the Town Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Members at the Climate meeting felt that the strategy was unambitious in its targets i.e. EDDC have already hit the county-wide target for household recycling that DCC hope to achieve in the future.

**9. To note that the legislation which allows councils to meet virtually expires on May 6th 2021 and that arrangements for hosting future meetings remain unclear in light of the ongoing closure of the Town Hall and associated social distancing requirements. National mourning has pushed the Full Council meeting back due to publishing an agenda**

Legislation that allows councils to meet virtually expires on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 which would cause the Town Council an issue. Space constraints at the Town Hall mean that, to allow for adequate social distancing, only 7 of the 23 Councillors could attend face-to-face meetings. LB is awaiting the results of legal action raised against central government regarding their decision not to extend the legislation.

Due to the uncertainty of the legislation and the national mourning period, LB confirmed that it is likely the Annual Town Council would need to be moved forward before 6<sup>th</sup> May but confirmation should be received this week.

## 10. Street Scene update

NC gave the following Street Scene update:

- Planting on the seafront and EDDC owned spaces has started. NC explained how they are moving on to more sustainable planting with plant top-ups if needed. A positive response has been received from public so far.
- The Town Council have taken most of the ground maintenance sites in-house from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.
- Work at Manor Gardens has begun and well as wider grass-cutting in the district.
- Seasonal cleansing staff are now in place and working on additional evening bin runs until 8pm on busier days and working 7-days a week when required.
- There are more bins than ever along the seafront to help with the increase in visitors. Unfortunately, there has been one bin fire as a BBQ was put in a non-BBQ bin. Larger bins have been installed as Street Scene now have vans with side-tippers so that they can pick-up these larger bins. Members raised that there are less bins from Mamhead Slipway to Temple Steps. NC thought this was because the bins that were here had been removed due to the tidal defence works but confirmed he would investigate.  
**Action: NC to look at the bin provision in the Mamhead Slipway to Temple Steps area and install more if required.**  
NC confirmed Street Scene litter-pick the beach and an issue raised about glass on the sand will be investigated.
- Triple waste-stream recycling bins have been installed in the Magnolia Centre as a trial to help improve on-street recycling rates. Street Scene are undertaking monthly audits of these bins to see if they are making any difference to the recycling collected.
- Queens Drive Space is up and running with three events planned for the event space from May 2021 (permissions granted via EDDC's Events Team). The Space has been busy with the public and NC confirmed that overnight security covers the area during busy periods and CCTV cameras have been installed.
- The grass on the former car park site has been growing nicely.
- The enhanced toilet cleaning regime is ongoing with a contingency plan in place until the end of the year. Extra funding may be required from Exmouth Town Council to fund the train station toilets.  
Members raised the issues with the Orcombe Point toilet block still being closed as lots of people are using the area behind the block to relieve

themselves which will cause hygiene issues and a smell. NC explained how this toilet block is challenging to make Coronavirus-compliant which is why the block is still closed. Installing temporary toilets has been investigated but they are prone to vandalism and are less hygienic. If Street Scene were to reopen these toilets, it would be out of scope of what was agreed at EDDC Cabinet so funding would not be available. A report will be going to EDDC Cabinet in May which will include a wider toilet review.

- The electrification of vans and hand-held landscaping devices has been going well. Street Scene's smaller vans have been replaced with electric vans, but the larger vans are still fuel powered due to needing a towing capability. 29 landscaping devices should be arriving soon for Street Scene operatives to use.
- Four businesses in the Strand, with another in the pipeline, have taken up the offer of sitting out consents which were introduced during a relaxation of legislation for Coronavirus recovery. In time, these licences will be transferred to a lease which will allow businesses to leave items out overnight. The fee for a licence is £100, which was aligned with DCC's pavement licence costs.

**Action: NC to find out how much the lease fee will be and report back.**

- EDDC's Events Strategy and Policy were adopted by EDDC Cabinet to cover events in the district. Lots of event applications are now coming through due to the relaxation of Coronavirus restrictions.
- Members were still unclear where the name Blenny Bay came from which is written on EDDC's maps along the seafront.

**Action: NC to review previous correspondence and supply information as to where this name originated from.**

- BB congratulated NC on the tidiness of the Queens Drive Space. However, due to the increasing popularity of the area, he asked whether extra bins could be provided in the space itself as well as extra benches.  
**Action: NC to investigate what provisions are already here and action as required.**
- LB explained how the water bottle refilling stations project has been held up by DCC now wanting a lease rather than a licence for the space outside of the train station. LB added that the Deputy Town Clerk has been speaking to the head of Property at DCC who confirmed they will investigate this hold-up.
- TS asked for clarification on the maintenance responsibility of the Exmouth in Bloom sensory garden. NC confirmed that Exmouth in Bloom will take the lead on maintaining the sensory garden, with EDDC responsible for the rest of the area.

- PS raised her continued frustration that EDDC appear to be holding up providing a lease for the Beach Wheelchair Project. She explained how six wheelchairs have been brought/donated but currently there is nowhere to store them as the lease for the building has not been granted.

**Action: NC to raise this with EDDC's Legal Team.**

## **11. Update from Town Council working parties, outside body representatives and Town Maintenance**

LB reminded members that meeting notes of the Town Council's Working Parties and TAFFs are available to read on the Town Council's website.

### Waterfront Working Party

PS thanked Tom Buxton-Smith, EDDC Engineer, for his work on the Exmouth Beach Management Plan.

## **12. Agenda items requested by ECO members**

### Sea Front crowd management as lockdown eases

LB gave an update on a multi-agency meeting she attended with 12 different agencies including the Police, National Trust, Coastguard, EDDC and DCC.

Dave Whelan, EDDC's Community Safety Coordinator, led the meeting which focussed on the key restriction easing dates of the roadmap. Each agency explained what their plans are with regards to each pinch-point.

LB also spoke with Inspector Antonia Weeks with regards to the recent fights on the beach. Inspector Weeks explained how they view these fights as a new phenomenon due to the Coronavirus pandemic and a lack of things to do as most places have been closed. The Police plan proactively where past information has shown key dates for issues i.e. weekends with good weather increase the likelihood of fights happening. However, she explained how the Police will respond when situations arise as they cannot plan for random occurrences. She added that they cannot stop anyone coming into Exmouth, unless they have information that someone is dangerous or planning to partake in illegal activity. The Police have been monitoring the train station, but it is not always the case that if the beach is busy that the visitors have arrived by train.

A lack of open toilets and littering are side issues, but the relevant agencies are aware of these issues. Issues at Foxholes are also known about and the Police have been liaising with EDDC about this and other issues.

Extra funding has been provided to the Police by the OPCC for additional resources during the Coronavirus pandemic and Exmouth has been seen as a high priority area.

No coach parties have arrived yet or international students with Devon Cliffs also still closed.

It is hoped that when Coronavirus restrictions relax further things should get better.

Additionally, LB added that EDDC have been looking at the current Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which covers the prevention of consumption of alcohol in the Strand with plans to extend this to also cover the beach. The PSPO would help Police monitor and give them more authority to deal with issues due to alcohol consumption on the beach.

EDDC are also applying for funding for Covid-compliance Officers, similar to the Safer Summer Scheme of 2020, to help back-up Police in Coronavirus issues.

**Action: LB to find out how long the Officers would be in place for.**

LB also explained how the Town Council have taken on CCTV cover in Exmouth and have put in an order for 10 new CCTV cameras to be installed in fixed areas in the town but with the flexibility to redeploy them if necessary. Currently there is a CCTV camera at Orcombe Point as well as a Town Council funded camera at the Coastwatch building. The Town Council also have a mobile CCTV camera which LB hopes to install at the western end of beach once a suitable place has been found.

Members were also informed of a mobile app that Bournemouth use to show how busy the beach is. This app is under consideration for Exmouth to help with social distancing and general knowledge of the busier parts of the beach for visitors to be aware of.

Members were also reminded that university students that may visit the town could legally, under the current Coronavirus rules, meet up in large groups of potentially 30 people as university households are larger than residential.

### **13. Any Other Business**

#### Jubilee Clock Tower Clock

GS raised that it was good to see the Jubilee Clock Tower clock working again and the lamppost at Morton Crescent reinstalled.

#### Tim Mock

PS raised that a card from COLP should be sent to the family of Tim Mock, a long-standing member of the RNLI in Exmouth, who sadly passed away.

Members were also made aware that Suzanne Birkett, who used to work for the Town Council and was instrumental in establishing the Christmas Cracker, also passed away.

#### Inviting additional community organisations to the committee

Members discussed inviting additional community organisations to this meeting. LB explained how the Terms of Reference for the meeting would need to be changed to



reflect inviting different organisations. Therefore, if there was an appetite to invite additional organisations then the Terms of Reference can be reviewed at the Annual Town Council meeting.

TS put himself forward as the Royal British Legion representative.

BB put forward organisations such as the Police or Fire Service. However, LB explained how the Local Action Group (LAG) covers public services and reports as and when necessary to COLP.

#### **14. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The meeting ended at 11.53am.