

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee Meeting

Notes of the meeting Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee held at 10:00am on Friday  
12 March 2021 Via Zoom.

### Present

Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Bruce De Saram	BDS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Fred Caygill	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Roy Pryke	RP	ECA
Keith Bungay	KB	
Mollie Carey	MC	Exmouth Town Council

### Apologies

Councillor Lynne Elson	LE	Exmouth Town Council
Ian Cann	IA	ECS

### 1. Election of Chairman

Councillor TD was elected as Chairman, proposed by DP and seconded by BDS. Councillor BDS was elected as Vice Chairman, proposed by TD and seconded by FC.

### 2. Apologies for absence

All apologies were recorded.

### 3. Declarations of interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations recorded from any of the members in attendance at the meeting.

### 4. To receive and approve the Annual Monitoring report for Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan (2019 – 2020)

The Annual Monitoring Report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

LB explained that traction on some of the community actions had been slow, particularly during the covid pandemic, and this was due mostly to redeployment of staff and the associated lack of capacity at EDDC/DCC. Also, it was recognised that some of the projects relied on collaboration with other stakeholders and this often presented an additional challenge.

One action which had been successfully brought to fruition had been the agreement with the Environment Agency for the use of flood volunteers to operate non-highway flood gates. Whilst this was a seemingly simple aspiration in the Plan, the associated Memorandum of Understanding had been quite time consuming and legally complicated but absolutely essential in terms of mitigating liabilities and risks etc.

A decision had also recently been taken to allocate £300,000 of S106 funding towards additional sports facilities at the Community College and in Brixington. This was in line with the aspiration in the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was noted that the Community Action appendix report gave an accurate status report on all community actions and was a working document which would be kept up to date.

TW provided an update on the use of land South of Redgate in the context of commentary in the report about employment land. EDDC's Planning Committee had again refused the application – against officer approval. However, it was anticipated that the application would again go to appeal.

KB commented that many of the things in the NP were aspirational and reiterated that in the context of Maer Valley, it was recognised that there were issues with land ownership, however it was hoped that the protection of green space might be a negotiation point in the future, should that land ever be considered for development.

TD commented that the new Local Plan would possibly open up the opportunity to use the Plan to contribute to the discussion about wider climate and ecological emergency issues, including green spaces.

TD paid tribute to LB for her report and members were in agreement that the report should be accepted and taken to Full Council.

**5. To receive and note relevant updates regarding community actions (not already covered in appendix 3 - Community Action implementation) from the Chairmen of the following working parties:**

- Flooding and Land Drainage

BDS Confirmed that there were no relevant updates regarding community actions that have not already been covered by LB report on the flood gates.

- Plastic Reduction/Climate and Ecological Emergency

TD Gave an update on the progress made by the Plastic Reduction WP. The Climate and EE WP was working in partnership with Transition Exmouth in meeting a joint 10-point plan and the work was being recognised Devon wide.

- Public Rights of Way

BDS/OD gave an update that they have welcomed a new officer on to the Rights of Way Working party and that steady progression is being made in terms of maintenance and improvements to the Public Rights of Way routes but no further updates were available.

- Exmouth Transport Partnership

TD gave an update on the desired ITI (Integrated Transport Interchange near the railway station), an aspiration within the Neighbourhood Plan, and included in the current Local Plan. Work is continuing but will depend on the involvement of other organisations and Councils.

- S106 & CIL

FC gave an update on the S106 & CIL and the planned S106 expenditure for 2021-2022 which is still to be ratified at the EDDC SMT meeting. This included the expenditure for the Exmouth Community projects which were voted for by the community. Any additional S106 monies accrued during the remaining period will be spent on the other projects involved in the community vote.

LB also gave an update on a potential CIL funded project for Bapton Valley that is currently being scoped out by the deputy town clerk, Chetna Jones, to improve the cycle and pedestrian route between Brixington and the Town.

## **6. To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk on the Status of the East Devon Local Plan and implications for any subsequent revision of the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan.**

LB explained that the ETC Planning Committee had met twice and compiled its response to the first round of consultation on the local plan. The Committee still needed to collate the comments from the last meeting to take forward for approval at the next Planning Committee meeting, then the responses would be submitted to EDDC. On the current timetable, it is expected that a new local plan could be adopted as early as 2024 and it was recognised that as the Local Plan emerges, so the more weight it will carry. We need to keep an eye on where there may be areas of conflict with the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan and the working party should be ready to take that into account in subsequent revisions to the Neighbourhood Plan.

EDDC is keen to engage specifically with neighbourhood plan groups across East Devon - especially ones that have adopted neighbourhood plans because they are mindful of all the work that has gone into the process and the extent that they need to work collaboratively going forward. LB has been told that once the initial round of consultation has been completed which is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, EDDC are thinking of setting up a forum specifically for the steering groups of local neighbourhood plans so that they can work together to ensure that neighbourhood plans retain their individual prominence in the planning process.

**Action point:** LB to keep members updated on any future associated meetings and consultation dates.

**Action Point:** The Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee to keep an eye on the emerging local plan and be ready to trigger a review of the Exmouth Neighbourhood plan, as necessary.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Health and Wellbeing HUB – CF2

DP gave an update from the latest meeting of the WEB board. The notes of the meetings are always circulated to councillors. Medical and social care professionals are all working well together to deliver an efficient service. It is an aspiration of the WEB board for Exmouth to have a HUB in Exmouth. They have worked hard with local doctors to set up and run the covid vaccination centre in Exmouth which has proved to be a successful partnership.

**Action Point:** This aspiration should be carried forward in the review of the Neighbourhood plan and should also incorporate the need for other medical facilities needed for Exmouth.

BDS raise the matter of EDDC appointing two place & prosperity officers and the scope for the Neighbourhood Plan to inform priorities and interventions in the Town. This was in the context of the officer roles being discussed at a recent meeting of the EDDC Queens Drive Delivery Group. It was mooted that the working party needed to consider a way to feed back to EDDC using the neighbourhood plan as evidence for priority interventions.

**Action Point:** The working party needs to consider how it can feed into the new officer roles at EDDC, will focus on the Town Centre revival.

**Action Point:** LB to organise a meeting of the Chairmen of the respective working parties to provide guidance on how the neighbourhood plan actions need to be kept at the forefront of any agendas. This will strengthen the process further.

TD thanked all for attending the meeting.

## **8. Dates of future meetings**

It was agreed that this Working Party will reconvene on a quarterly basis.

The next meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 10:00am and the dates for further meetings will be sent out separately.

The meeting finished at 3.39pm