

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Chairman's Report



Once again Covid-19 regulations have determined how Exmouth Town Council has undertaken working throughout 2020/21.

No face-to-face meetings and staff working from home, we continue to await the Government's roadmap out of Covid.

During the past year we have still been able to award grants and Service Level Agreements to organisations, clubs and charities. Our Committees and Working Parties help the Town Council to steer decisions which are vital for our town.

We have given our support to the Levelling Up Fund for Dinan Way and now await the Government's decision to see whether Exmouth has been successful in the first round of funding. This application also has the support of Devon County Council, East Devon District Council and our MP, Simon Jupp.

In addition, Exmouth Town Council has been working hard to finalise the erection of 10 new CCTV cameras (7 in town and 3 along the seafront).

The tidal defence work is still ongoing, but it is hoped that this will be finished by the end of July or early August 2021. Once this work is completed, many properties along the seafront should be protected from flooding.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 restrictions, Exmouth's renowned Exmouth Festival had to be cancelled this year. However, if all goes well it will return in 2022 and we look forward to seeing you all along with our visitors.

Our Tourist Information Service office on the Strand has been extremely busy this year and may I say a massive 'Thank You' to all our volunteers who give such a great service.

Exmouth Town Council still continues to have a good working relationship with our two higher tier councils, Devon County Council and East Devon District Council. Officers from these Councils attend our meetings to give Councillors an update on work and decisions.

It hasn't been easy to operate as a Council during the Coronavirus pandemic and I would like to place on record my sincere thanks and gratitude to all Councillors, staff and residents for their understanding during these past 18 months.

Councillor Steve Gazzard,
Chair/Mayor, Exmouth Town

Planning Committee

Exmouth Town Council's Planning Committee meets approximately every two weeks to consider applications in its capacity as a statutory consultee. The Committee also has delegated authority to determine tree and advertisement applications. The planning committee met (virtually) on 21 occasions and considered 335 applications for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Finance Committee

Our Finance Committee meets once a quarter and has delegated responsibility for managing the Council's budget. Exmouth Town Council is empowered to award grants under a specific section of the Local Government Act 1972, known simply as Section 137. In 2020/21 the Town Council awarded funding to the following organisations:

Organisation (1-year grant funding)	Amount £	Organisation 1 year Service Level Agreements	Amount £
National Coastwatch	2,000.00	Exmouth Musical Theatre	500.00
Samaritans	1,500.00	Citizens Advice Bureau	5500.00
Centre Stage	1,500.00	Exmouth Museum	1000.00
299 Exmouth Squadron Air	1,000.00		
Christmas Fund Distribution	5,675.13	Exmouth & District Community Transport	5218.40
Exmouth Youth Centre	1,500.00	Exmouth in Bloom	5400.00
Heron Home Support	1,000.00	Exmouth Swim & Lifesaving	800.00
Exeter City—River Exe Patrol Boat	10,000.00	Exmouth Beach Rescue	1500.00
		Exmouth Town FC	3500.00

New Exmouth bicycle reuse scheme, in collaboration with Ride On, Exeter

As part of the Town Council's ongoing commitment to their Climate Emergency declaration, from the 1 April 2021 the Town Council started to provide a free collection service for unwanted Exmouth bicycles that will be donated to Ride On.

Ride On, based at Haven Road on Exeter Quay, refurbishes donated bicycles, which are then sold on at affordable prices. This means that more people have access to the benefits of riding their own bicycle.

Sam from Ride On said, "We're really grateful to Exmouth Town Council for providing a collection for donated bikes and we look forward to working with them to get more people on bikes and tackle the climate emergency together."

Councillor Steve Gazzard, Chair of Exmouth Town Council, added, "Exmouth Town Council is always looking at ways to help make Exmouth greener and be more environmentally-conscious to help combat climate

change, so I am pleased to announce this initiative with Ride On.

This free service is a great way to encourage the recycling and reusing of bikes. I hope the residents of Exmouth will take full advantage of this initiative to help save bikes from going to waste.

Exmouth Town Council also works with partners, including prominent local environmental group Transition Exmouth, to help encourage changes that benefit the climate and the local environment."



Exmouth Town Council Budget

Exmouth Town Council Budget	2020/21 Gross Expenditure	2020/21 Income	2020/21 Net Expenditure	2019/20 Gross Expenditure	2019/20 Income	2019/20 Net Expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Staff & administration	396	0	396	419	0	419
Accommodation	83	0	83	67	0	67
Grants & Service Level Agreements	54	0	54	40	0	40
Town management & economic development	49	0	49	83	0	83
Elections & Civic activities	31	0	31	27	0	27
Town maintenance	120	0	120	139	0	139
Arts	116	0	116	87	0	87
Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neighbourhood plan	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
Other	7	(83)	(76)	6	(105)	(99)
Contribution to/ (from) reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council Tax Discount Grant					0	(0
Total	854	(83)	772	878	(105)	773

This represents Council Tax Band "D" of annual cost of £59.67 this is a **0.33 increase** from 2019/20.

Town and Ground Maintenance

Since the Town Council declared a climate emergency, focus has been on looking after our environment, providing plants to encourage wildlife and supporting Wild Exmouth to plant trees and create orchards.

Exmouth Town Council has continued expanding on the work and responsibilities of the supplementary street cleaning team. Although the pandemic affected some work, the team were able to continue providing a much broader service including clearing overgrown and unkept areas in well-used footpaths and back alleys and maintaining our many public realm assets such as flagpoles, bus shelters and finger post signs.

Road weed clearing in the outlying parts of Exmouth now takes place on a regular cycle with the help of a new weed ripping machine. This machine has helped reduce the need to weed spray and increase the speed at which the kerbsides are cleared. Inevitably, there are roads where the weed ripping machine cannot be used and for that reason, minimal weed spraying has been carried out using a reliable system that provides precise, targeted weed spraying reducing waste and harm to the environment.

Our contracts for providing plants for the flower towers throughout the year continued as well as some basic work on grounds maintenance and grass cutting and this work, equating to approximately £30,000 per annum, remained within budget.

Following a tender exercise in December, it was agreed to bring grounds maintenance work that was previously contracted back in-house. With more work devolving down to local parish and town councils, and the decision to deliver grounds maintenance work in-house, the Town Council took the decision to expand the Supplementary Town Maintenance team and welcomed Andrew Vinnicombe and Dene Gorfin to work alongside Tony Slinn and Stephen Greenway.

This coincided with Derek Parsons retiring. The Town Council acknowledges its thanks to Derek for his help especially during the early years of getting the supplementary street cleaning team up and running.

From 1st April 2021, Exmouth Town Council will be

taking on responsibility for a balanced and controlled grass cutting regime to supplement the work of both Devon County Council and East Devon district Council.

This is in addition to the provision and maintenance of roundabouts and flowerbeds in key locations around the town. New hanging baskets and troughs with built-in reservoirs to minimise water usage have been purchased for the Magnolia Centre and by the train station. By working with Exmouth in Bloom, the Town Council will be providing bright and colourful displays all year round.

The Town Council is also supported the work of the Ride On Scheme based in Exeter where unwanted bikes are recycled and refurbished to encourage users to use bikes as an alternative mode of transport. The supplementary street cleaning team is helping by picking up unwanted bikes from residents in Exmouth and delivering them to Exeter. The Town Council is grateful to Dene Gorfin for volunteering to take the bikes to Exeter.

In summary, the Town Council is working hard to reduce the environmental impact, starting with many small changes such as using environmentally friendly products, developing environmental policies and working closely with the community to deliver initiatives to promote Exmouth as an environmentally friendly clean, tidy and colourful place to live and visit.



Fantastic work in extreme heat

Recently, two gentlemen arrived in Trinfield Avenue from Exmouth Town Council with a fantastic machine which cleaned out all the gutters and the pavement along the front of the properties.

Amazing and efficient work by them in the extreme heat.
























The whole street looks great now.

Big thank you to them.

Denise Morris
Exmouth



EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCILLORS BY WARD

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Withycombe Raleigh	 Frank Cullis (LD) frank.cullis@exmouth.gov.uk	 Steve Gazzard (LD) steve.gazzard@exmouth.gov.uk	 Eileen Beech (LD) since October 2020 eileen.beech@exmouth.gov.uk			

COMMITTEES	WORKING PARTIES	OUTSIDE BODIES
Full Council Finance Planning <i>Please note the Annual General Meeting of the Council is held in May, when representation on all the committees, working parties and outside bodies is reviewed and agreed.</i> <i>Councillor appointments are listed on the Town Council's website.</i>	Appeal Hearing CCTV Christmas and Festoon Lights Community Organisation Liaison Panel Community Resilience Climate and Ecological Emergency Exmouth Transport Partnership Festival and Events Flooding and Land Drainage Gorfin Hall Management Committee Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee Plastic Reduction Public Rights of Way Quality Council Section 106 & CIL Town Maintenance Overview Town Team Trust Fund Waterfront	Age Concern Allotments Association East Devon Arts and Culture Forum Chamber of Trade and Commerce Citizens Advice Bureau DALC County and Larger Councils Committee Exe Estuary Partnership Exmouth Water Users Group Exmouth in Bloom Exmouth Local Nature Reserve Committee Exmouth Police Local Action Group Exmouth Welfare Trust Fair Trade Steering Group Pavilion Advisory Queens Drive Delivery Group Ring and Ride Sea Cadets Town Team & Tourism Forum Transition Town Exmouth Twinning Woodbury, Exmouth and Budleigh (WEB) Community Health and Wellbeing Board
	TASK AND FINISH FORUMS (TAFF) Campervan TAFF Tree TAFF	