

**EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)**

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

**Present**

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey* (non-voting member)	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Pauline Stott*	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	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
Nick Christo	NC	East Devon District Council Street Scene
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together

\*arrived after the meeting had started.

**Apologies**

Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Rev. Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together
Dave Radford		

**1. Welcome and apologies**

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

**2. Election of Chair**

LB requested nominations for the election of the Chair. FC proposed DP, seconded by TD, that he be re-elected as Chair of this working party. No further nominations were received. Members were asked to vote, and DP was duly re-elected as Chair.

**3. To agree the notes of the previous meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were approved.

**4. Matters Arising**

Update on the origin of the name Blenny Bay

The query over the origin of the name 'Blenny Bay' was raised in 2019. The issue was investigated at the time and an email was sent from Pete Blyth, East Devon District Council's (EDDC) Beach Officer.

Prior to this meeting, NC forwarded this email from 2019 to Exmouth Town Council Reception.

**Action: LB to forward the information regarding the origin of the name Blenny Bay to members.**

#### Blue Flag and Seaside Award

EDDC have been awarded a Blue Flag and Seaside award for Exmouth seafront. The raising of the flag is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

FC questioned that the pollution warning board by the Lifeboat Station was showing that pollution at Exmouth was high and whether this was incongruous with the award. NC explained that the signage relating to water quality is an Environment Agency (EA) requirement and would not reflect badly on the Blue Flag status as pollution warning signs are within the Blue Flag parameters.

#### Beach Marshal update

Dave Whelan, EDDC Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Safety Coordinator, explained via email that he is planning the employment of Beach Marshals and will keep the Town Council up to date on this project.

#### Campervan Task and Finish Forum (TAFF) meeting

Exmouth Town Council held a Campervan TAFF meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and the notes of this meeting will be published on the Town Council's website soon.

### **10. Street Scene update**

*Due to NC having to leave the meeting early, this agenda item was moved forward.*

NC gave the following Street Scene update:

- NC is in the process of writing up job descriptions for summer Beach Marshals which will be in Exmouth and other high-profile locations, where required. The role of the Marshal will be light-touch enforcement for the Strand and beach areas to ensure motorhome users comply with the code of conduct when parked (leaflets are to be distributed to each vehicle) as well as ensuring beach users are behaving appropriately.
- The recent wet weather has had an impact on visitor numbers as well as on the summer planting.
- All seasonal staff are now in place and, amongst other jobs, are emptying the public bins until 8pm.
- Indoor facilities are being reopened today (17<sup>th</sup> May 2021) as part of the easing of Coronavirus restrictions. Therefore, it is anticipated that the town will start to get busier in the coming weeks.

- Public toilets are now open on the late opening times. NC thanked the Town Council for continuing to fund the EDDC toilets at the train station. A relaxation of an EDDC Cabinet condition regarding social distancing in public toilets has given Street Scene the opportunity to reopen another toilet in Exmouth.  
**Action: NC to talk to the Town Council with regards to which one will be reopened.**
- It is too early to see what impact the new split recycling bins in the Magnolia Centre have had on on-street recycling. However, NC is confident that it will improve the recycling rates. No audits are planned as yet but TD's offer of help would be greatly received once the Coronavirus restrictions ease further.
- TS raised concerns that the length vehicles that park along the seafront overhang the pavement and jut into the road.  
**Action: LB to circulate any information relating to vehicle length that was discussed at the Campervan TAFF.**
- PS updated members that the Town Council's Beach Wheelchair Project has finally been awarded a lease and 7 wheelchairs have been donated. PS is waiting for the EA's approval on the flood risk assessment before works can begin on the storage building.
- AB thanked NC for the ongoing maintenance at the Queens Drive Space.

**5. To note the results of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Devon County Councillor and Exmouth Town Councillor election results**

Members were made aware that the results of each election were published online.

TD thanked LB and all staff for their work on elections.

**6. To note the attached draft Traffic Orders and consultation deadline of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in relation to Queen's Drive and Maer Road**

LB explained that the draft Traffic Order, as circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting, related to an anomaly on Devon County Council (DCC) signage for the restriction of campervan parking. This consultation is to amend the signage to make sure the restrictions are consistent and clear.

Members discussed how enforcement can be challenging as the definition of a motorhome/campervan can differ. Although there is an official DVLA classification, some people may use an ordinary van with a mattress in the back to camp overnight which will not look like a campervan from the outside.

The consultation of these Traffic Orders will be published in the Exmouth Journal for public comment.

**7. To note that EDDC is proposing to add Sideshore Car Park to its Civil Enforcement Off-Street Parking Places Order and that half of all parking fees collected during 2021 will be donated to fund additional swimming lessons for local children who need extra support under Support the Learn to Swim initiative**

LB explained that it had been initially envisaged that the Sideshore watersports centre carpark would be run by Grenadier. However, EDDC have been asked to take it on and run it on the same terms as the other EDDC carparks. This means that the carparking order needs to be updated to include this site.

Notice of the consultation will be published in the Exmouth Journal for comment.

Members were also made aware that half of all parking fees collected at this carpark during 2021 would be donated to the Learn to Swim initiative to help children learn to swim.

**9. To note that EDDC's Cabinet agenda for May 12th 2021 included items relating to:**  
**- a public toilet review;**  
**- consideration of public consultation to enable variance of the Exmouth ASB Public Spaces Protection Order 2020 – 2023**

*Due to wanting to give as much time for discussion for item 8, item 9 was moved forward.*

Public toilet review

Members discussed the public toilet review, as debated at the EDDC Cabinet meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> May. The Cabinet meeting resolved the following:

1. Agree the 'Principles of Provision' as the basis for the toilet review to ensure we have 'the right toilet in the right place'.
2. Agree the importance of public conveniences to tourism and the local economy and endorse that the Council;
  - a) focusses on the provision and support for Category A public conveniences at our key locations on the basis of the Principles of Provision, and
  - b) seeks to provide opportunities for others to take on Category B sites, and
  - c) offers Category C sites to Town & Parish councils if they feel continued provision here is necessary.

NC confirmed that public toilets are a non-statutory duty for the District Council but are seen as a necessary service. He added that the current toilet stock needs to be invested in, but resources have not been available for this purpose in the past.

NC then went on to explain which toilets in Exmouth are being considered within the review:

The category A toilets in Exmouth are:

Foxholes car park  
Magnolia Centre (London Inn carpark)  
Manor Gardens  
Phear Park  
Queen's Drive

The category B toilets in Exmouth are:

Imperial Recreation Ground  
Orcombe Point  
The Maer

Jarvis Close toilets are in category C.

Members questioned why the bus station toilets were not included in the lists. NC explained that it was due to walking distance to other facilities. He added that Great Western Railway were not willing to contribute to the bus station toilet refurbishment in the past as they felt they provide adequate facilities on their trains.

**Action: TD to take this information to the next Exmouth Transport Partnership meeting to link ideas of a transport interchange.**

Additionally, NC added that they have gathered data on each of the toilet sites e.g. water usage (taking into account seasonal opening hours) which would inform future decisions.

The key principles and further information are available in the report which can be viewed on EDDC's website. DP asked that if any COLP members would like to raise any ideas with EDDC, please copy the Town Council in.

PS asked if any temporary toilets are to be sited at the pedestrian area of Orcombe point as the toilets here are still closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. NC hopes to talk to the Town Council in due course regarding the reopening of this toilet block but confirmed that there were no plans to install additional, temporary toilets at the site at this time.

Members were advised that the deadline for consultation on the public toilet review is not far away.

**Action: LB to circulate any relevant information to members.**

#### Consideration of public consultation to enable variance of the Exmouth ASB Public Spaces Protection Order

There is a public consultation to extend the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to cover a wider area, including the seafront. The report is self-explanatory and can be found on EDDC's website.

The consultation is a light-touch consultation as it is an amendment to an existing order, with the deadline in 5 weeks' time. It is hoped that the PSPO can then be established by the Summer.

LB added that additional police officers are in place to help police the social distancing requirements in line with the roadmap to reduce social distancing restrictions.

Members noted that this PSPO does not take into account dogs on beaches.

#### **8. To note that Devon County Council are proposing an Electric Vehicle Recharging Point Parking & Car Club Vehicle Parking Amendment Order for specified lengths of Halsdon Road & St Andrews Road.**

Members discussed the DCC proposals for two new electric car charging points in the town, with the following points raised:

- LB explained that Town Councillors have debated this proposal via email focussing on the suitability of the two proposed sites for electric car charging points and have questioned how much the Exmouth DCC Councillors have been involved in the process.
- Members present agreed that the two proposed sites were not the best places and public car parks would be better.
- TD explained that many roads in Exmouth, including the two proposed, do not have off-street parking. Therefore, it appears that this proposal would be an experiment to see if it works in this type of area.
- TD added that he had tried to obtain information about this proposal before it went out to public consultation as part of the Exmouth Transport Partnership (ETP) meetings, but no response was given to his emails. Therefore, this proposal has somewhat appeared out of the blue.
- BB reported that he has spoken to DCC Councillor Scott regarding this proposal and was told that members of the public can contact him with suggestions of more appropriate places.
- Consultation will be publicised, with the deadline two days before the next ETP meeting. Therefore, this consultation will go on the ETP agenda for a formal comment to be submitted by the Town Council. DP added that if any COLP members comment on this consultation, to copy in the Town Council so that the comments can be considered at ETP.

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

Members were reminded that notes from the Town Council's working parties and TAFFs are available on their website.

### Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

FC reported that the Town Council are to lease three new vehicles for the Town Maintenance Team to use.

### WEB Health and Wellbeing Board

TS reported that:

- The WEB board are heavily supporting the Admiral Nurses and a new X-Ray machine, funded by Friends of Exmouth Hospital, will be installed soon at Exmouth Hospital. Press releases for both projects are scheduled to be published soon.
- The board is pushing for further uses at Exmouth Hospital although parking is an ongoing issue at this site.

### Royal British Legion (RBL)

TS also reported that the RBL have submitted an application to EDDC for permission to run a Remembrance Sunday event this year.

**Action: TS to talk to LB with regards to Town Council support for Remembrance Services moving forward.**

### Waterfront Working Party

The Beach Management Plan appears to be progressing well, and it is likely that the Town Council will be asked to put forward Town Council representatives to sit on the Beach Management Plan forum.

### Campervan TAFF

The Campervan TAFF met on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and discussed the proposed changes to the current arrangements for campervan parking along the seafront.

A suggestion was raised at the meeting of using the lorry park for campervans to park, once tidal defence works have finished, but this will be explored in further detail in the future.

The notes of this meeting are to be published on the Town Council's website soon.

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

### Update on the addition of the prohibition of dogs on beaches to include all land between mean water tide level (information attached)

Members were reminded that the PSPO for dogs on beaches was updated in 2019 under the Seashore Public Space Order to close any anomalies with regards to tide levels (information relating to the PSPO was circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting).

The lack of signage by the Lifeboat Station regarding taking dogs on the beach was raised.

**Action: LB to email Peter Blyth regarding this issue.**

### **13. Any other business**

#### Tree felling application

AT raised the upcoming tree application to fell a tree at Drakes Gardens.

LB confirmed that the application would be going to the Town Council's Planning Committee as the Town Council have delegated authority over tree applications.

Members make decisions with the help of an EDDC Tree Officer report.

If any members have comments with regards to this application, they can be emailed to the Town Council or to the ward Councillor.

#### Streetlights

The issue of some streetlights being turned off early or not going on at all was raised as a safety concern.

**Action: LB to contact DCC to raise this issue.**

#### COLP membership expansion

In order for the membership of COLP to be expanded and opened up to more organisations, the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the meeting would need to be amended at the next Full Council meeting.

The suggested amendment would be to remove the restriction that COLP is only open to organisations that are pan-Exmouth.

Once the ToR has been amended, a discussion can be held with regards to inviting new members to join this meeting.

#### Deputy Chair

Although no Deputy Chair is strictly necessary, members felt that it would be beneficial to have a Deputy in place.

AB proposed, seconded by DP, that PS be elected Deputy Chair of this meeting. No further nominations were received. Members were asked to vote, and PS was duly elected as Deputy Chair.

#### Littleham Youth Club

DP reported that it is unlikely that Littleham Youth Club will reopen before September 2021 due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

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

The next meeting will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

The meeting ended at 11.46am.