

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

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

**Present**

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Brian Bailey (non-voting member)	BB	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
Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together

**Apologies**

Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Rev. Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association

**1. Welcome and apologies**

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

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

The notes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved.

**3. Matters Arising**

Members were reminded that, due to the government legislation that allowed virtual meetings to take place expiring and ongoing social distancing guidelines, the Town Council is unable to hold face-to-face Full Council, Finance and Planning meetings.

Luckily, nothing urgent has come up in recent weeks but LB explained that she does have delegated authority for Council business, planning and finance items. The in-person rule does not apply to Working Parties or Task and Finish Forums as these are not decision-making meetings.

TD thanked LB and all Town Council staff that had the foresight to ensure all items that needed face-to-face contact were arranged while virtual meetings were still allowed.

### Beach Wheelchair Project

PS updated members that planning permission had been granted for the beach wheelchair storage building on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and that construction would start imminently.

Members were also alerted to the fact that the toilet at Orcombe Point has been reopened by Street Scene. As it is not 100% Covid-secure, it is open at the user's own risk.

PS thanked Street Scene for their work.

#### **4. To receive an update on the Levelling Up bid for Dinan Way and the Train Station**

Councillor David Poor explained the background and status of the County Council's recent bid to the Levelling Up Fund and that it covers two aspects: the Dinan Way extension and proposals to improve the Exmouth Gateway area by the railway station.

Queries were raised regarding the timescale for the bid process in the context of the Town Council's match funding contribution from its CIL receipts and this led to further discussion about the Town Council's CIL receipts and the timeframe in which they have to be spent.

It was also noted that the Exmouth Transport Partnership had received a presentation from the County Council officer responsible for the bid and had sought (and received) assurances that the Partnership will be involved in discussions relating to the Gateway proposals at the appropriate time.

#### **5. To receive an update on the zebra crossing outside of Aby's**

Members queried the reasoning behind the relocation of the zebra crossing on the Esplanade from outside of Premier Inn to outside of Aby's.

LB shared an email sent from Kier and the Environment Agency (EA) explaining that the reason behind this move was due to the ongoing Tidal Defence Works.

In addition, PS queried when the Town Council would be able to reinstall the festoon lights that had to be taken down from Mamhead slipway to Premier Inn for the Tidal Defence works. LB confirmed that 3 or 4 of the lamp columns by Morton Crescent had to be changed due to the electrical entry points being situated below the water line. However, the Town Council are due to put the lights back up once the works have been completed, scheduled for July 2021. The costs for the reinstallation of the lights will be reimbursed by Kier.

In addition, the Town Council are in talks with Kier with regards to installing CCTV cameras on some of the lampposts along the seafront.

Some members highlighted how pleasant the seafront area could be if the section of road currently closed was closed indefinitely to allow for more pedestrianised areas.

## **6. Street Scene update**

No member of Street Scene was present at the meeting to give an update. However, some members were able to report on the following:

- The Public Toilet Review is currently being prepared for the Town Council to review but nothing formal has been received yet.
- In relation to reports about refuse bins overflowing on the seafront, Members were alerted to the fact that there is a staff shortage at East Devon District Council (EDDC) and that due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, Street Scene Operatives are having to clean areas more frequently throughout the day i.e. toilets are cleaned 4 times a day. Both issues are having an impact on the output of the service, which could explain why the bins along the seafront appear to be overflowing more regularly.

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

### Exmouth Transport Partnership (ETP)

Councillor Dumper reported that the Levelling Up Fund bid had featured heavily at the recent meeting of the Transport Partnership and that the action point to follow up the status of the toilet facilities at the Partnership had not been pursued specifically as the bid would potentially cover that.

Additionally, he explained that he thought that the areas chosen for the Devon County Council (DCC) electric car charging trial at Halsdon Road and St Andrew's Road were chosen because of their relatively wide pavements and the fact that there are no houses behind them. The Transport Partnership has confirmed its broad support for the scheme as part of the formal consultation process.

### S106 and CIL Working Party

PS explained that the Town Council has committed £60,000 to the Phear Park Skatepark improvement scheme from its CIL receipts to enable an Olympic-standard Skatepark to be built - the only one of its kind in the UK.

### Waterfront Working Party

The Waterfront Working Party is scheduled to meet tomorrow (29<sup>th</sup> June 2021).

PS and TD added that they have been invited to sit on EDDC's Beach Management Plan Working Group and LB added that she is involved with the Environment Agency's post-scheme review of Dawlish Warren's Beach Management Scheme which is set to investigate the knock-on effects of this scheme on the wider Exe Estuary area, through the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

### CCTV Working Party

Work continues behind the scenes to apply for the necessary permissions and licences to install 10 new CCTV cameras: 7 cameras are to be installed in the town centre on existing columns and 3 cameras along the seafront.

### Festival and Events Working Party

The Town Council's Arts Manager will be going on maternity at the end of August so the Town Council is looking to recruit maternity cover for the year. The proposed dates for Exmouth Festival 2022 will coincide with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

The Arts Manager has supported several initiatives in recent weeks:

- Art murals have started to be installed on various walls in the Town Centre, mainly around Queen's Street on the sides of the buildings and shops.
- The Town Council sponsored the new Pride bench in Manor Gardens.
- The Summer Lift Off town centre recovery project, due to take place over the summer holidays, will include walkabout acts using the Magnolia Kiosk as a mini hub. The project will hope to link Bath Road/Seafront and the town centre together. Marketing for this project will start next week.

### Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Members were updated that the EDDC Climate Officer role has now been filled by Catherine Causley. The officer has a good link to the Town Council through attending previous Town Council Climate meetings.

Members were reminded that two new officers are to be employed at the Town Council: one full-time Project Officer and one part-time Climate Officer, with the latter having specific responsibility for climate issues.

### Tree Task and Finish Forum (TAFF)

The Tree TAFF is in the process of writing its final report to present to Full Council. A final meeting in July 2021 has been scheduled to wrap up the TAFF and finalise the report.

## **8. Agenda items requested by ECO members:**

### Progress on Eco-Hub and Interpretation Centre

AT explained how Transition Exmouth, and other organisations, have been working on separate proposals for an Eco-Hub and Interpretation Centre. He reminded members that he had already made a presentation to EDDC's Queen's Drive Delivery Group to ask Members to consider incorporating an Interpretation Centre into their future plans for this area.

In terms of the Eco-Hub, unfortunately, Transition Exmouth's bid to the Lottery Fund to carry out a feasibility study for an Eco-Hub was unsuccessful.

The three main objectives of an Eco-Hub were described as:

1. To encourage residents, businesses and the community to work together on sustainability issues
2. To provide or host a range of activities which can be used to enhance the well-being of the community
3. To provide a place for a range of people to meet and exchange ideas

Therefore, AT asked what scope there would be to apply to the Town Council for S106/CIL funding and confirmation of the process in the context of the need for the Council to spend CIL receipts with five years. LB explained that the Town Council had agreed that it would use the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan to inform spending projects and that the Council's accrued S106/CIL funds does not represent a funding pot to which organisations can apply. It was noted that the Eco-Hub would not be currently eligible as it does not feature in the Neighbourhood Plan but could be included in any future review of the Plan.

Members discussed the Eco-Hub project idea and the issues and risks which may impact on the project, such as lack of available land or buildings to rent, ownership issues and the need to bring in a steady income to cover ongoing revenue costs. It was noted that the Town Council is committed to the Climate and Ecological Emergency and may be able to offer some financial support but not necessarily through CIL, and it was agreed that the first step would be to undertake a feasibility study, perhaps with a focus on renting premises for an Eco-Hub initially as this was considered to be a lower risk approach. It was agreed that TE will nominate somebody to work with LB to scope out next steps.

## **9. Any other business**

### Phear Park road resurfacing

TS reported concerns about the state of the road in Phear Park.

LB explained that Phear Park is undergoing a four-phase improvement scheme starting with Phase 1 providing a new, free carpark which should be completed by 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Phase 2 is to consist of resurfacing the road at top of the park, Phase 3 will resurface the rest of access road and Phase 4 will add speed bumps. It is hoped the whole scheme will be completed by the end of July 2021. Additionally, bollards and double-yellow lines are to be installed to stop cars parking half on the pavement and half on the road.

Members expressed concern about the potential for the carpark to be used by local residents as a result of it being free of charge.

**Action: Members to report any issues with this carpark moving forward to EDDC.**

### Remembrance Sunday

TS explained how the Royal British Legion has submitted their application to EDDC to use the Strand for the Annual Remembrance Service and is seeking Town council involvement in the planning process.

**Action: LB to talk with TS to discuss the Town Council's involvement in the Remembrance Sunday services moving forward.**

### Neighbourhood Plan

Members were updated on the status of the emerging local plan and the relevance for the Neighbourhood Plan in terms of potentially promoting a review. Various sites have been put forward as a result of the District Council's recent call for sites for the Local Plan in terms of potential redevelopment and that the list is available online. It was reiterated that the inclusion of a site on the list does not mean that all sites are deliverable.

As EDDC's Strategic and Local Plan takes precedence over Exmouth's Neighbourhood Plan, a review may need to be undertaken and an updated version written.

### **10. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The meeting ended at 12pm.