

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 23rd August 2021 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
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
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Simon Kennedy	SK	East Devon District Council
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association

Apologies

Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society

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 28 June 2021 were approved.

3. To note that an appeal has been registered by the developer in respect of the application for Redgate, Salterton Road

DP asked if this agenda item could be discussed earlier before Matters Arising.

DP gave an update on the appeal which had been registered by the developer (McCarthy and Stone) in respect of an age-restricted (retirement) housing development application for Redgate, Salterton Road that was circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting.

He explained that Exmouth Town Council's (ETC) Planning Committee met last week and agreed to submit a response against the appeal.

Members discussed the history of the site, the failed outcome of the previous appeal by McCarthy Stone and reiterated the need for employment land to be protected in the context of the appellant's arguments regarding the marketing challenges for the site.

LB made members aware that Buckerell Lodge, Exeter has been brought by McCarthy and Stone for redevelopment. Criticism of the plans has already been received, which includes the issue of a lack of affordable housing in Exeter which this site would not provide.

Action: A copy of ETC's representation letter will be circulated to COLP members.

COLP members were reminded that they can make their views known to the Planning Inspector and were asked to copy ETC into any correspondence.

4. Matters Arising

Beach Wheelchair Project

The main storage building that will house the beach wheelchairs has been built and fitting out is nearly complete (including solar panels and water harvesting). However, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has caused delays to other aspects of the project.

The main outstanding work is installing a ramp, which is still in the quotation stage. Once the ramp has been installed, the terms of hire and a booking system will be launched.

The Deaf Academy has expressed interest in volunteering for the project in order to provide some of their older students the opportunity to gain work experience.

AT and TS raised the possibility that some local military charities or the military itself may be able to help with the ramp.

Action: LB to contact the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM) in Lymstone to investigate any opportunities, if required.

So far, two wheelchairs have been acquired; one for a child which has been donated and one adult chair which ETC have purchased. More wheelchairs are on order.

Further negotiation with EDDC is now necessary to secure a full, permanent lease of the site.

Levelling Up Fund

The Levelling-Up Fund bid has been submitted by Devon County Council and is awaiting Central Government's response. It is estimated that their response should be received by October 2021.

TD explained how he hoped to be able to get a clearer picture from Devon County Council regarding its vision for the Exmouth Gateway and how this fits in with the community aspirations for a Transport Interchange and that he would provide an update at a future Exmouth Transport Partnership meeting.

Public Toilets

Members were made aware that EDDC's Public Toilet Consultation has opened, and this was discussed in more detail under agenda item 7.

Beach Management Plan

No update on the establishment of a Beach Management Plan Working Party could be provided.

LB updated members that the Environment Agency (EA) are conducting a post scheme review of the Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme, highlighting issues arising from this scheme plus failures of apparatus i.e. geotubes.

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership Group had provided evidence to the EA of the wider issues of sedimentation and beach levels etc. in the mouth of the Exe Estuary and were asking for the scope of the review to include impacts on the wider Estuary area.

Action: LB to check if there is a public release date for the Dawlish Warren Review which will be circulated with any other relevant information.

PS added that the Lifeboat Station's application to extend their ramp by 10m has been approved and will be constructed by the end of October 2021.

Tree Task and Finish Forum (TAFF)

The Tree TAFF's final report has been drafted and will be reported to the next Full Council meeting (scheduled for September 2021). The report recognises the limitations the Town Council has, e.g. lack of land ownership, but also its strengths e.g. Planning Committee consultations and delegated authority for tree consent applications.

COLP members were updated on the progress of the two vacant Officer posts at the Town Council:

- The job descriptions have been written and are awaiting evaluation;
 - Projects Officer – focus on projects and Neighbourhood Plan actions (full-time)
 - Climate Officer – focussed on supporting the Town Council's climate agenda and supporting outside organisations (part-time).
- The Tree TAFF report highlighted work that could be incorporated within the Climate Officer role, including working with outside organisations such as Transition Exmouth, EDDC and Devon County Council (DCC).

TD added that Catherine Causley, the new Climate Officer at EDDC, has left her role within the Transition Exmouth Umbrella Group to allow more time to focus on her new EDDC role.

Once in post the new Officers will be introduced to COLP.

Phear Park Skatepark

Members were made aware that improvement works at Phear Park Skatepark are underway. These improvements have been partially funded by the Town Council.

Remembrance Sunday

LB to discuss with the Royal British Legion with regards to how ETC can support the annual Remembrance Sunday Service moving forward.

5. To receive an update on the commissioning of a new CCTV system for the Town Centre

LB updated members on the new CCTV system that ETC have commissioned, which has cost £76,000.

Eight digital CCTV cameras have been installed so far, mostly using EDDC's existing camera poles. Seven of the cameras are located in the Town Centre, and one has been installed on the exterior wall of Exmouth Pavilion. Two more cameras are planned for installation by the new Lifeboat Station and one at the Alexandra Terrace / Esplanade junction.

The cameras are re-deployable and work on mobile technology over a secure VPN. Although the cameras will be recording 24/7 on a 30 day cycle, they are not currently monitored but can be used reactively to identify perpetrators of crime if a situation arises.

LB explained that there may be scope to proactively monitor the cameras under an outsourced, centralised monitoring contract in the future. This was in line with the original aspiration of the Police and Crime Commissioner and, indeed, one of the stipulations for accessing OPCC funding. However, the promised hub at Exeter City Council had not materialised and the Town Council will therefore potentially need to procure an independent monitoring solution, if deemed necessary.

Carpark CCTV will continue to be covered by EDDC.

6. Street Scene update

SK gave the following update from Street Scene:

- EDDC have taken delivery of 10 new waste bins which will be located along the seafront to increase the number of bins available for use over the summer. SK explained that there are now more bins on the seafront than ever before and they are emptied seven days a week, 7am – 8pm.
- Exmouth has not been as busy with visitors as anticipated.
- Street Scene's staffing level is still low, with SK explaining that his team has been two seasonal staff down all summer. However, EDDC have recruited

seasonal staff to clean the toilets and empty the bins in Budleigh Salterton and a Grounds Team Leader has also been employed.

- GS highlighted that the Pavilion Gardens and Beach Gardens, opposite Ocean, are looking good and well kept.
- SK was not aware why the heras fencing was still up around Side Shore.
Action: PS to raise why this fencing was still up via the Waterfront Working Party and ask the Deputy Town Clerk to check with the manager of Side Shore.
- There may be potential for a link between EDDC and Side Shore with regards to the new reusable beach item shed (located at Side Shore).
- SK confirmed that the trees that were removed by M&S for the Tidal Defence works should be replanted in October 2021.

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

Plastic Reduction Working Party

An update was provided on the water bottle refilling stations project:

- The lease for use of the forecourt outside of M&S, by the train station, has now been finalised and signed with DCC.
- The Deputy Town Clerk is still in negotiation with EDDC's lawyers with regards to the areas identified as EDDC land.
- Side Shore have been in contact with the Town Council and are keen to have a station installed on their forecourt. Therefore, one of the stations that was planned for EDDC land will be superseded by this station.

S106 and CIL Working Party

EDDC plans to consult with the public to help allocate money for three play area projects.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party (CEE)

The frequency of the CEE meetings will be reduced from monthly to bi-monthly (1 meeting every two months). This is due to the lack of time in between meetings to complete any work arising from the meetings.

The original 10-point plan, jointly set by Transition Exmouth via a community event held in 2019, will be reviewed and rewritten due to the Council achieving most of the points and some points no longer being relevant.

There will be a focus given to the upcoming COP26 conference.

Waterfront Working Party

The last meeting of the Waterfront Working Party was in June 2021. At that meeting, it was noted that the Campervan Task and Finish Forum (TAFF) has met again to discuss ongoing parking issues and that the Abode of Love had been subject to graffiti. The latter has proved difficult to remove but Street Scene have been on the case.

Campervan TAFF

This meeting has not met since April 2021 due to EDDC Officers needing to work up new proposals with regards to campervan parking on EDDC owned land.

Some issues with Echelon parking bays have arisen and enforcement has been difficult due to a lack of Traffic Enforcement Officers on the part of EDDC and DCC.

SK explained how he has been working on getting more posts installed to reduce the instances of cars and vans gaining access to park on the Imperial Recreation Ground. There are also plans to install more heras fencing at the top end of the site to prevent unauthorised entry and parking. This work is being scoped by EDDC Engineers currently.

Festival and Events Working Party

Members were advised that maternity cover is now in place to cover the Arts Manager's role until she returns in a year's time.

The temporary staff member will be picking up the organisation of the 2022 Exmouth Festival which is scheduled to run over the Queen's Jubilee Weekend.

Her role will also include working on projects that cover arts more broadly in the town.

The next meeting is scheduled for the end of September 2021.

PS thanked the Arts Manager for booking the Sea Gals as she felt they have been a brilliant addition to the summer's event scheduling.

8. Agenda items requested by ECO members:

Public Toilet Review – to seek feedback from COLP members in advance of the Council debate on this matter

ECO members expressed concern about the loss of any toilets in the town, especially as the proposals would result in up to 50% reduction and commented that there was too much emphasis in the consultation on the commercial scope of category B toilets. It was noted that the Community Toilet scheme had failed in recent years and members wondered whether there was a willingness and/or financial resources for the Town Council to take on any toilets. LB explained that the extra costs would necessitate an increase in the Council's precept demand, with a resultant increase the Council Tax bill for residents and that every additional £12,500

that ETC incurs in costs equates to £1 extra on each Council Tax bill for a Band D property. It was also strongly felt that Orcombe Point toilets should be retained.

GS raised the possibility using a Tourist Tax to raise funds. LB explained that a Tourist Tax cannot be implemented by ETC and would be subject to national legislation.

Although the Manor Gardens toilets are now back open to full capacity, concerns were raised regarding the EDDC toilets at the train station. Members felt there should be public toilets available at the station as a lack of toilets on the trains, and any issues with those toilets, would mean the public would have a long walk to the nearest toilet (either on the Imperial Recreation Ground or in the centre of town).

Action: TD to raise the train station toilet issue with Officers at DCC and EDDC to establish if they form part of any plans for Exmouth Gateway.

9. Any other business

Katie McCabe – Sailing

Councillor Steve Gazzard, Mayor and Chair of ETC, plans to congratulate Topsham teenager Katie McCabe, who recently finished sailing single-handedly around Britain, at the next Full Council meeting.

Trees removed by M&S

GS commented that the overhanging trees recently removed within the wooden triangle area by M&S have made that area easier to use and look tidier.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 20th September 2021.

The meeting ended at 11.20am.