

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 18th October 2021 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Nick Christo	NC	East Devon District Council
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association

Apologies

Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	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 23rd August 2021 were approved.

3. Matters arising

DP reported that the planning application for the redevelopment of the Devoncourt site had been considered by the Town Council's planning committee and the committee had recommended refusal on the basis of several planning policies. The response from local residents has also been overwhelmingly against the proposals.

It was noted that the vaccination centre is up and running again at LED and that Living and Lifestyle Mobility at Brixington had again loaned several wheelchairs for the use of attendees. DP commented that this generosity and the willingness of the volunteers to assist with the programme was a good example of the community working well together.

PS provided an update that the beach wheelchair project is progressing with six wheelchairs now available for hire when the unit opens. The ramp is being installed on Nov 1st and the roller door on Nov 2nd. The opening will however now be delayed until Spring 2022.

TS and LB also provided a brief update on progressing plans for Remembrance Sunday, which will include a full parade.

4. Street Scene update

NC reported that the Streetscene team is now on winter hours – 8-3pm. Toilets are closing at 7pm but still being cleaned three times a day – morning, noon and evening. Orcombe Point toilet is closed. The public toilet consultation has now concluded and the team at EDDC is busy analysing results but is pleased with level of responses.

TS thanked NC for cleaning the noticeboards in Manor Gardens and it was noted that posters can be dropped off at Streetscene's Camperdown Depot whilst the Town Hall is closed to the public.

GS queried whether the build-up of sand on the pavement by the new Sideshore development would be swept and NC confirmed that this would be addressed imminently.

It was reported that the traders on Queens Drive Space will move off site at the end of October. The Queens Drive Delivery Group are discussing options for next year but normal tender processes will apply. It has been suggested that more consistency is required from the traders in terms of opening hours etc. next year. Also, the event space at the rear is being reviewed and the Delivery Group will be providing a steer on what is needed so that the space can be managed effectively by the Streetscene events team.

The programme of in-filling with sustainable plants in the flower beds along the seafront is ongoing but the intention is to provide a natural burst of colour through the use of perennial planting which is good for wildlife. It is envisaged that the appearance of the beds will improve as the plants establish themselves. Exmouth in Bloom and the Town Council will continue to providing balanced alternative planting with the limited use of annual plants.

NC confirmed that 25% of EDDC's fleet is now electric with five or six different vehicles being used out of Camperdown Depot plus 30+ electric handheld tools.

The War memorial will be cleaned before Remembrance Sunday.

Sandboards along the seafront will be in place after October half terms and a dry run of the new flood gate deployment is planned in advance of the winter season. Streetscene is responsible for the deployment of the Highways gates on an exceptional basis and it is envisaged that this will be less frequent than the slipway gates etc. Volunteers will be responsible for closing the non-highway gates but Streetscene will do a sweep of all the flood defence gates to ensure that all have been deployed. Alerts are generated 48 hours in advance by the EA and the EA Duty Officer will decide the length of closure.

It was noted that NC's last working day is 21/10/2021. He is locating to Colchester Borough Council to take up a similar role. DP expressed thanks for

NC's support of COLP over the years and PS thanked him specifically for his support of the beach wheelchair project. Tom Wood is taking over NC's role on a six-month temporary basis whilst ongoing needs are assessed.

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

- S106 skatepark – it was reported that the official opening of the skatepark, which was supported financially by the Town Council, was on 30th October
- CEE – The Town Council had financially supported Transition Exmouth's successful Crowdfunder appeal for two e-cargo bikes.
- Exmouth Transport Partnership – an update had been provided by DCC in respect of the emerging bus strategy for the County and it was noted that the Okehampton railway line will reopen later this year.

6. Agenda items requested by ECO members:

- **Queens Drive - meeting notes of the last meeting can be found here:**

<https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=237&MIId=1741&Ver=4>

It was highlighted that QDD meetings are now public. There is no significant progress regarding the future of the wider site but the project does appear to be picking up momentum. There was lots of emphasis at the last meeting on the need for the land to be included in the emerging Local Plan and it was noted that the current temporary uses planning permission expires in February with some uncertainty whether the permission will be renewed.

- **EDDC Local Plan development and subsequent Neighbourhood Plan revision – progress reports are included in EDDC's Strategic Planning Committee minutes here:**

<https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=154>

LB updated members that various papers have been presented to the Strategic Planning Committee in the last two months which explore the relationship between neighbourhood planning and the emerging Local Plan. A communications plan has been established for engagement with neighbourhood planning groups and a database of made plans and associated policies has been established. The Strategic Planning Committee is looking at an early draft of the Local Plan being made available before the end of the year with potential policy approaches to Town centres, biodiversity

net gain and landscape protection being a high priority. Links to meetings held on Sept 7th and October 5th can be found on EDDC's You Tube Channel and a webinar is proposed for Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups for mid-November. DP suggested that interested Members should keep a list of policy conflicts or ideas for inclusion in any refreshed Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan.

- **Levelling-Up bid**

There was no update available from DCC regarding the status of the bid but it was noted that concerns had been raised at ETP about the impact on Dinan Way of additional traffic and the need for a related cycle access strategy.

7. Scope to broaden membership of COLP as a result of the Terms of Reference being relaxed at the last Full Council meeting.

It was confirmed that Terms of reference have been relaxed to allow area specific resident associations to be involved with COLP. GS asked about the related process for joining and DP confirmed that organisations will be invited upon referral.

8. AOB

It was confirmed that ETC has lost two members of staff from the administration team but two new members are joining imminently and that Tim Clatworthy would be retiring in mid-November.

Town Council meetings are still being held virtually but will possibly move to physical meetings in the near future. This is subject to the necessary covid risk assessments and other logistical considerations relating to the Town Hall being closed.

TS enquired about Xmas plans and it was reported by LB that the Town Council is organising a school's lantern parade to coincide with the switch on of the Christmas tree lights in The Strand and that the event would feature live music and walkabout acts, but *no* market. It was not known whether the Big Sing organised for the doorstep in 2020 will be going ahead but TS/ LB will investigate.

DP reminded members that kerbside recycling capacity continues to be adversely affected by staff shortages at SUEZ; however the EDDC phone app sends out updates on the status of the collections.

Finally, it was noted that there is a Beach Management Plan meeting scheduled by EDDC for 26th October and the meeting will seemingly be broadcast on EDDC's You Tibe channel for all interested parties.

The meeting concluded at 10:58am.