

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 22nd November 2021 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Bruce De Saram	BS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Nick Hookway	NH	East Devon Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Rev. Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Community Association
Jill Anderson (Guest)	JA	Cranford Sports & Fitness Club

Apologies

Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
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1. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 18th of October 2021 were approved.

4. Presentation from Jill Anderson of the Cranford Sports & Fitness Club regarding future plans

JA gave background information that the club was a community amateur sports club which is a non-profit club, this enables members of the community to access facilities at a modest cost. Although they are a not for profit club they are also a not for loss club, however this has been very difficult over the last 2 years due to covid which has led to 2/3's of lost income. JA gave an overview of all the facilities that the club provide and staff that are employed. More funding is needed to expand, improve and adapt the facilities for disabled children. JA stated that an IRF (Innovation Resilience Fund) bid is being put together to fund expansion and asked members if they could

email her with details of any groups that could benefit from the facilities they hope to provide in the future. JA asked members if they had any further questions.

A discussion took place regarding additional ways councillors could get involved and possible lottery funding.

3. Matters Arising

Remembrance Sunday

DP thanked the Royal British Legion, the Exmouth Town Council and East Devon District Council for providing a successful service.

E-Cargo Bikes

AT updated members that crown funding has raised £12,500 so far and that EDDC is trying to find locations for 2 lockable charging stations.

Skatepark

DP advised that the skate park was now open and would be officially opened in spring 2022.

Exmouth Transport Partnership

TD reported that the 57 bus service is running less frequently at half hourly intervals due to staffing shortage and the 157 Sunday service to Sidmouth has changed from a seasonal service to an all year round service. TD also advised members of the new rail link to Okehampton and a Sunday bus link from Okehampton to Gunnislake which now provides a link to Plymouth. BB expressed concern with the illegal parking of buses in front of the train station. TD advised that this would need to be taken up with Stagecoach again at the next Transport Partnership meeting.

Levelling-Up Bid

TD confirmed with members that the bid for improvements to the Dinan Way extension and town centre gateway did not receive government funding.

5. Update on the Public Toilet Review

DP advised that this is on the agenda and will be discussed in a meeting of East Devon District Council's Overview Committee on Thursday the 25th of November. BS asked LB to share the response from the Town Council meeting in September, LB agreed to share the response, subject to being able to source a copy from EDDC.

The matter will also be discussed by EDDC cabinet on 1st December 2021. Members were reminded to register as public speakers if they wished to voice concerns.

6. Update on the Beach Management Plan

TD reported that it had been a useful first meeting with EDDC engineers keen to make progress in relation to problems caused by sand movements and extreme weather. BS noted that the Environment Agency only has an obligation to protect property and lives, not beach management issues.

PS provided the following updates –

A capital bid is being made to fund a full consultation.

Replacement of exposed pipe will take place in Autumn 2022 by EDDC.

Steps have been replaced and repaired at Foxholes.

The lifeboat ramp work will hopefully start this week subject to licence and the sea wall work has already started.

Markers on the groins will be replaced.

7. Update on the Afghan families/bridging hotel

LB thanked everyone that got involved with co-ordinating the donations. Although no guarantee is given that they will be re-homed in the Devon area 900 of the 3500 Afghans have already been re-homed nationally. TS advised members that the Holy Trinity Church have been helping families by providing cooking and English lessons. SA added that Brixington Church have also provided clothes and cash. TD confirmed that the Muslim community have got involved by providing prayer and worship facilities. LB explained to members that Steve Gazzard welcomed the Afghan families when they arrived at the hotel and all members agreed that Exmouth have provided the families with a warm and positive welcome.

8. To note the draft minutes for the Exmouth Queen's Drive Delivery Group

AB provided an update on the recent meeting of the Delivery Group and it was confirmed that QDD members had discussed The National Coast Watch Institutions need for a new tower on the site, although no decisions have been made. Members agreed that there was a risk associated with piecemeal development of the site as it seems to lack a proper sense of direction, coherence and transparency. A discussion took place in respect of the delayed recruitment of 2 officers to oversee Queen's Drive and the Town, LB expressed that recruitment issues have prevented this from happening. An update will be given in the next meeting.

9. Update on the recent flood gate exercise held on 12th November 2021

TD told members that it was a productive exercise and that although some issues arose with the mechanisms these were rectified at the time, however some issues with the Premier Inn gate are still ongoing (sign in the way). Concerns were raised about the mechanisms not being tested prior to the exercise and it was decided that the scope for another test run should be established at the next Flooding and Land Drainage meeting

10. Update on the Winter Festival being held on 4th December 2021

LB gave members the schedule for the Town Council's Winter Festival and advised that local businesses have been asked to stay open late as no Christmas market will take place this year. The Holy Trinity Church will host the children's tree festival on the 3rd of December and on the 6th a special service will take place for all people that have lost a loved one due to Covid. PS informed members that a Christmas Market will be held on the 14th of December, however PS did not know who was organising the event.

11. Update on motorhome parking in Exmouth

This item had been requested by ECA and LB had contacted Andrew Ennis at EDDC (officer in charge) but had not received an update from him. LB advised that the Imperial Recreation ground was withdrawn from the trial after residents complained but alternative sites were now being considered, including the Estuary car park. TS expressed concern regarding motorhomes parked on Pound Lane illegally and in reply to this LB gave an explanation of the difference between legally and illegally parked motorhomes and caravans on the highway. LB will chase an update from Andrew Ennis.

12. To respond to informal consultation by EDDC regarding the bollards at the Clock Tower

Members were asked if they had any strong objections to the bollards being removed by EDDC due to health and safety issues. PS thought the removal of the bollards was a shame and suggested they could be re-painted. Although no one objected questions were asked as to what health and safety issues the bollards posed. On closer inspection of the photos provided by LB the bollards which have chains broken off have exposed shards of metal which pose a danger.

13. AOB

TS thanked ETC for the Remembrance Day Service and also gave some background information on the Hospital League of Friends as they need more members. LB agreed to include a weblink in the next bulletin to help promote this.

Members spoke about when doctors will go back to more face to face appointments however due to Covid the health authority have a back log which is having an adverse effect on this service. TS will bring this up again in the next Health and Social Care meeting.

AT asked if further to the expansion of the terms of reference, the group could be extended to include the Women's Institute, this will be added to the next agenda as a separate item for any suggestions of other groups/organisations that may like to join.

The next meeting will take place on 24th January 2022 at 10am.

The meeting concluded at 12pm.