

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Exmouth Transport Partnership

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 14th December 2021

Present

Cllr Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Eileen Beech	EB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Dave Ovenden	DO	DCC Public Transport
Andrew Ennis	AE	EDDC Car Parks
Tony Jackson	TJ	ALRUG (Avocet Line Rail Users Group)
Jan Gannaway	JG	Active Travel Exmouth, & Sustrans
John Petty	JP	Active Travel Exmouth, & Exmouth Community Association
Wendy Slater	WS	Operations Manager, Stagecoach South West
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

Apologies

Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Stuart Coles	SC	DCC Highways
George Shorters	GS	Exmouth Taxis Association
John Colby	JC	ALRUG
Lewis Ward	LW	GWR
David Whiteway	DW	GWR

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies (TD)

TD welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. To approve the notes of previous meeting of 12th October 2021

TD advised members of the adjusted wording in the previous meeting notes which have now been updated. The meeting notes were approved.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

EB asked for an update on The Parade Bus Shelter improvements which were due for installation by mid November but have not started. LB reported to members that planning permission is not required but DCC have requested that the contractors Fernbank have all the licences in place to carry out the work, which has caused delays. DP confirmed that the contractors will be working on the edge of the kerb so they need cones placed on the road which is authorised by DCC. DP contacted DCC Cllr Jeff Trail and Cllr Richard Scott to help move this forward and LB also stepped in to try and speed things up. The licences should be in place for the work to start this week. LB advised members that licences come under the Highways act and are processed locally by DCC. TD thanked DP for the help provided.

LB confirmed that the Local Plan applies to development on new housing estates and will not address the need for cycle paths on the highway. Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan risks being undermined by the Local Plan therefore the Neighbourhood Plan may need policies tightened. Public consultation will take place in summer 2022. TD advised that OD would give us an update in the next meeting. TD asked LB if Highway and Transport, EDDC and DCC would be involving each other and LB stated that DCC will probably be asked to look at the broader infrastructure needs in relation to CIL spending monies across the district.

4. Stakeholder Reports

a) Stagecoach (WS)

WS confirmed to members that Stagecoach is currently suffering from staffing shortages due to employees isolating and delays in recruiting as it takes 3 months to get employees fully trained. TD asked WS when the 57 bus service which is still at a reduced service to every 30 minutes would be increased. WS advised TD that Stagecoach will not look into increasing services until February/March 2022. TD was concerned that the Pound Lane base buses were returning via Featherbed Lane and that buses were also parking outside the LED. PS also raised the issue that double decker buses were using the Featherbed Lane shortcut at weekends between 11.30 and midnight which is against weight restrictions. WS confirmed that Featherbed Lane should not be used as a shortcut by buses and that inspectors were being deployed to monitor this and report any drivers breaking the rules in all areas where complaints had been made. WS reassured members that all drivers have been made aware of the routes they should take and any rule breaking may result in disciplinary procedures.

b) DCC Public Transport (DO)

DO updated members that they are waiting to find out what funding is available from BSIP and advised they are setting up a partnership in conjunction with bus operators and are currently in a 28 day objection period (for bus operators) which will end mid January 2022. After that they can put out to consultation for 6 weeks and once approved by cabinet they will go live in April 2022. TD said that ETP would get involved in the consultation period. EB queried why delayed/cancelled buses were not shown in real time on the APP. DO confirmed that they were aware that the APP took a while to update but additional funding will provide improved software and better links to Exmouth. WS informed members that any delays or cancellations to the reduced 57 bus service would be noted on Twitter. BB wanted to know if the bus improvement plan included the introduction of hydrogen powered buses. DO confirmed that this may be considered depending on funding received as he is aware that Devon has no electric powered buses in use.

c) EDDC Car/Cycle, Coach & Lorry Parks, Electric Vehicle Charging – (AE)

AE confirmed that work will start in the New Year to install 12 electric charging bays in the Imperial Rec Car Park with an aim to be in operation by Easter 2022. AE also advised members that 48 bays will be installed in total over the district and more can be added as money becomes available. When chargers are being used by the public they do not have to pay to use the carpark only for the electric they are purchasing. As soon as they have charged the vehicle it must be moved. EB queried if clear signage would be displayed near the charging points and AE confirmed that signs would be prominent and publicity will be used to promote the service.

AE advised members that 2 systems were being operated providing 10 bays with a 50Kw rapid charging facility which take between 20-30 minutes to fully charge and 2 bays providing a 22Kw fast charging facility which take about 2 hours to fully charge. BB queried if the seafront pedestrian and cycling dual use was going to be changed as they are too close together especially near sideshore. AE advised he was not involved in this but is aware of the shared pathway and will discuss this with Streetscene. The carparking strategy on coach, lorries and cars will be looked at in the new year with a group of members and is still open for debate. JG queried if more funding was available for cycle parking and AE advised that more cycle parking is being created in Queens Drive. PS asked about disabled parking outside the Beach Wheelchair Hut for which LB confirmed that Mollie Carey and Jackie Collins have been looking into this as 2 blue badge spaces would take up 3 car park spaces due to the larger size. This would have a monetary impact on EDDC however AE confirmed that disabled spaces would have priority over any monetary impact. AE and DP had a discussion regarding the Devoncourt Hotel planning application in respect of using part of the Maer Road car park for hotel parking. DP advised that the application was withdrawn due to resident objection, however a new application will be submitted.

d) DCC Highways – (SC)

There was no DCC representative at this meeting

e) Active Travel & E-cargo bike (JG)

JG reported that money has been raised to purchase either 2 E-cargo bikes or 1 E-cargo bike and a bike with a trailer. Crowd funding money needs to be used by March 2022 and JG will share the purchase decision at the next meeting on the 15th of March 2022. TD confirmed that ETC have contributed £1000 towards this project. JG updated members re the Goodmore's Active Travel Plan which has been passed to OD to put something in place before residents move in. The Goodmore's to Brixington cycling lane needs to be advertised and Summer Lane needs to be looked at re the narrowness. JG said that the Active Travel Day was planned originally for 2 years ago but has not so far taken place because of covid. She is hopeful it will take place on April 30th 2022. 5 local bike shop businesses will be invited as well as Bikeability, The Ramblers, Walking for Health, Co-Bikes, Ride-on and the Transition Group. Hopefully Cycle Devon, Stagecoach, GWR, ALRUG and Paul Ives (New bike shop owner opening in Withycombe) will be attending. The event will give people insight into bike buying and contact details for dealers. JG advised that they would need volunteers to marshal and ETC promotion of this event would be welcomed. JP queried if Devon County Councillors wanted to help Exmouth as he requested a meeting with them to discuss a Seafront speed limit and a cycle path on the road but DCC refused to meet. TD reported to members that LB, JG and himself had a meeting with DCC about seafront congestion but it had not been productive. DP queried if the East Devon Local Plan could be used to prioritise the seafront. LB stated that the EDDC Local Plan is not directly concerned with transport and travel, but with new building developments. Highways and active travel are a Devon County Council matter. EB voiced her concern that it might take an accident to happen on the cycle path before this issue would be looked into. PS and TD discussed other areas in Exmouth where shared space causes issues and BB asked members if they could contact DCC or the press to express their concern. TD confirmed to BB that this was not appropriate and LB confirmed that the group cannot contact the press but could make a recommendation to Full Council.

f) GWR – (DW)

There was no GWR representative at this meeting however LB has stakeholder updates re a new timetable and works plan starting in the New Year which has been circulated to members via email.

g) ALRUG – (TJ)

TJ was disappointed that no GWR representative was present at the meeting as wanted to discuss the staffing and elderly fleet issues. TJ reported that the Avocet line fares better than Cornwall with 18 coaches running today but this is still not at full capacity (25). TJ will raise in the next meeting that GWR have no new trains and no driver training for fast trains. TJ has shared the annual report to members via email.

h) Taxis – (GS)

There was no Taxi representative at this meeting and no report

5. Any other business

No other business was raised

6. Dates of 2022 meeting:

15th March

21st June

20th September

13th December

The meeting closed at 11:44