

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 24th January 2022 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Simon Kennedy	SK	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Community Association
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Nicky Nicholls	NN	Transition Exmouth

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 22 November 2021 were approved.

3. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

None

4. Street Scene update

SK advised that although there was not a lot to report at this time. He confirmed the toilet cleaning has been reduced to the normal cleaning routine of 1-2 times per day. He added they anticipated a very busy year with events including the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

GS queried if the budget would affect Street Scene and SK confirmed that they were expecting the full quota of staff including seasonal workers and therefore it was business as usual.

TS raised concerns as to why the wreaths were removed by Street Scene without consulting with the local RBL and added that they were usually kept in place until May with RBL maintaining them. SK thought that the local RBL were notified but TS

confirmed that only RBL in London were contacted. TS queried where the racks were being stored as he did not want them to get damaged. SK was not sure where they were currently being stored but will find out and provide an update to TS directly.

CJ queried if the festoon control boxes were being stored at the Street Scene depot as ETC will need them imminently for the seafront festoon lights. SK was not sure where they were at the depot but that someone had collected some equipment last week, although he could not confirm who collected them and will provide an update.

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

Town Council

DP informed members that a hybrid Town Council meeting was held with the minimum quorate of nine councillors in attendance face to face to vote. There is a legal requirement to hold a minimum of 4 Town Council meetings per year and to date three have been held already. A fourth is anticipated to be held in February.

DP told members that the Town Council had agreed its budget and the precept was slightly less than the previous year due to events such as Exmouth Festival not taking place.

Exmouth Transport Partnership

TD updated members that GWR and Stagecoach as mentioned in the December meeting are still not running at full capacity due to public transport staff shortages.

Waterfront WP

PS confirmed with members that they have seven beach wheelchairs in total with the last arriving next week. The wheelchairs will be available to the public from March 2022. The Facebook page has had over 40,000 views.

Hospital League of Friends

TS advised that one million is being spent on Exmouth Hospital which includes ¼ million raised by the Hospital League of Friends. Two wards are being re-furbished next month which includes the Geoffrey Willoughby ward that is used for minor operations. The modernisation will allow other treatments, hopefully including oncology, to take place locally. This ward will hopefully provide chemotherapy treatment which will mean that patients will not need to travel to Exeter for treatment. PS thanked the Hospital League of Friends for helping improve the hospital wards. TS asked if anyone was aware of opportunities to raise funds to let him know.

Community Resilience

CJ advised that members were keen to take part in another roadshow at the end of March to raise awareness about flood prevention. Councillors will have the opportunity to engage with people in the town centre and assist in helping people to take responsibility for protecting their properties.

TD advised members that flood prevention leaflets were distributed to residents a few years ago and the aim is to use these again.

CJ added that the Emergency Plan, which is available to view on the website, has been updated to include information on the emergency boxes and grit bins. The WP has helped by providing marshals in covid testing car parks and many of the volunteers have agreed to be added to the list of volunteers to call upon in the event of future emergencies.

Flooding & Land Drainage WP

Members discussed the recent surface flooding in the town centre. CJ confirmed that the Flooding & Land Drainage WP will be meeting with partners including the Environment Agency and Devon County Council to discuss this further. CJ added that the working party will also be discussing the actions being taken with developments such as Goodmores Farm to combat surface water concerns in the area.

CJ updated members that the Tidal Defence Scheme is nearly completed, and the Town Council was hoping to be able to re-install the festoon lights from the Octagon to Mamhead slipway.

DP advised that volunteers and Street Scene took part in a practice exercise in closing the new flood gates along the seafront. Various issues were raised with EA and an update is expected in the next meeting. Members raised concerns about the length of time the highway gates took to open and that the Camperdown gates were not tested on the day. CJ confirmed that another testing day will take place to resolve any previous concerns. DP queried if all the trees had been replaced and PS confirmed that all the landscape work both on Royal Avenue and around the Jubilee Clock Tower were completed.

Town Maintenance

CJ advised that road and traffic island weed cleaning is taking place in Exmouth town centre and Streetscene staff have also been out weed clearing on many of the major roads.

CJ updated members that the Town Council's Town Maintenance team have been cleaning the bus shelters and it has been agreed that some will be repainted over the next few months. TD confirmed that discussions took place with Fernbank in respect of replacing bus shelters in the parade during November 2021, but as yet, nothing has happened. DP thought the delay might be down to DCC telling Fernbank that they needed to apply for a licence to work on the road. PS mentioned the bus shelter near Halsdon nursing home which was hit by a car and damaged. CJ confirmed that DCC and ETC were aware of the accident and an operative had been out to survey the damage and make the area safe for pedestrians. Residents confirmed that the police had attended the incident and ETC was in the process of obtaining the crime reference number to make an insurance claim.

6. Queens Drive Update

DP advised members that as AB was not present at the meeting no update could be received. PS updated members that the Harbour View tenant has requested an extended tenancy agreement and the National Coastguard has said its building is not fit for purpose. However, what has been agreed was not known.

7. EDDC Local Plan development and subsequent Neighbourhood Plan revision

DP urged members to read the notes and take part in the presentation being held on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th January which will be open to the public. All links to the presentation can be found on the EDDC website. PS advised members that DALC is providing refresher courses and webcast training Neighbourhood Planning and hopes to share the slides with members when they become available.

TD confirmed he is a representative for DALC's County Committee, SG and LB represent the Larger Councils Group where issues relating to Exmouth are often raised through these channels.

TD also confirmed that BB is on the new Board of Directors.

8. Community Renewal Fund

CJ updated members that DCC had been successful on a number of bids as shown in the link provided on the agenda and DCC website. Bids are being prepared for the Shared Prosperity Fund as funding is no longer available from the EU. As yet Central Government has not supplied details of how this fund will be available. DP advised that although the bids in the Community Renewal Fund were good for Devon, Exmouth would not benefit from them.

PS queried if any money was available for Dinan Way and CJ confirmed the Levelling up Fund requested by DCC for Dinan Way was not successful in the last round but there may be an opportunity to try again.

9. EDDC Welcome Back Fund update for Exmouth

SK explained that the Welcome Back Fund is a grant from Central Government to provide amenities for local towns to raise the aesthetics. CJ confirmed that EDDC administered the Welcome Back Fund for towns and parishes and suggestions for acquiring street furniture had been discussed. ETC suggested that gazebos be purchased instead, to replace the old ones that are hired out to local community organisations. Street Scene has purchased eight gazebos which were delivered last week. The gazebos will be used for events and to hire out to local community groups. ETC are still working with Street Scene to look at other items that can be purchased.

10. Agenda items requested by ECO members

ECA

a) DCC's bid for a share of the Community Development Fund

GS advised that a transform research company is putting in a bid to provide live/work hubs which could be used in land allocated for employment. This company has agreed to provide a presentation to the ECA and any information when it becomes available will be brought to a future COLP meeting.

b) Concern over Seafront issues (Boy Racers)

GS confirmed this is a highway issue and that DCC should be taking enforcement action in incidents such as the one at Mamhead View on the 4th of January involving a car taking out the lamppost and hitting a lady. GS was concerned that the police were not taking the accident seriously. TD advised that the police have reduced resources but a representative from the Community Safety Group will raise this with the police as a concern. Members discussed concerns about this including why CCTV evidence is not being utilised and the long-standing issue Boy Racers have posed over the years. DP will raise this through the Transport Partnership WP as well.

c) Street Scene budget costs

GS raised concerns that although Street Scene were keeping the seafront clean the amount of people using this area may overwhelm them in future and this will pose more issues when public toilet facilities are removed. DP confirmed that the budget will be finalised soon and agreed that the public toilets are an issue.

Transition Exmouth

d) Transition Exmouth initiatives and the climate change officer

NN thanked CJ for the water bottle refilling stations recently installed. CJ hopes that more filling stations can be introduced in other areas of Exmouth. NN asked if water fountains were available by the public showers along the seafront and at Imperial Recreation ground. SK confirmed that the water provided currently at both places was not suitable as drinking water

NN informed members of the Our Place Our Planet webpage which ETC supports and asked members to promote this. FC thought a stand at the Exmouth Festival would be a good idea and advised NN to contact the Festival and Events officer. NN will share a link for "Library of Things" which includes the tree project (a guide to Phear Park trees which usually takes about 30 minutes to an hour to complete).

AT thanked everyone involved in the e-cargo bikes for which Carol Jay raised 13K to spend on the project. They are currently looking to buy three bikes and EDDC will supply lockable storage facilities for the bikes. Trials are available and anyone that would like to participate should contact AT to arrange this.

NN advised members that the active travel day is on the 30th of April and the event will include stalls and provide guidance and information.

Members discussed the role of the climate change officer and TD said he would discuss this with LB on her return from annual leave.

Churches Together

e) To receive an update on planned events

CJ updated members on the following events planned –

The Queens Jubilee Beacon Lighting will take place on the 2nd of June. The event will consist of a procession led by a piper, the Mayor and the Town Crier to the vantage point at the geo needle at Orcombe Point where the beacon will be lit. A grant is available for a community art project working with the youth service to create a legacy to celebrate the Jubilee.

This event will coincide with the Exmouth Festival that takes place between the 2nd and 5th of June and will be linked to the Queens Jubilee where possible.

TS asked if any grants would be available for the proposed work at the hospital, CJ advised she will investigate the funding criteria to see if the hospital is eligible.

A marketing trail to raise awareness on of the Jubilee celebrations is being prepared. The trail will start on the 30th of April and will consist of 7 QR code posters around

Exmouth which will include information on the 7 decades of the Queens reign and historical information specific to Exmouth.

TS informed members that it is the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands conflict this year and RBL will be marking the occasion by holding an event in the Strand.

PS confirmed that the Yard Bombers will be displaying their handicraft in shop windows to commemorate the Jubilee.

11. To discuss inviting potential community groups to broaden membership

Members engaged in conversation regarding different groups that could be invited which included various WI groups, sports associations, resident's associations such as TARA, young people and schools. AT and DP thought the best way to approach potential members was by writing a formal invitation. It was agreed that ETC write to the WI groups and TARA inviting them to send a representative to the COLP meetings.

12. Any other business

None

The next meeting will take place 21st February 2022 at 10am

The meeting concluded at 12.01pm