

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Exmouth Transport Partnership

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 15th March 2022

### Present

Cllr Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Eileen Beech	EB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Fred Caygill	FC	Exmouth Town Council
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
Stuart Coles	SC	DCC Highways
David Whiteway	DW	GWR
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

### Apologies

Cllr David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Dave Ovenden	DO	DCC Public Transport
George Shorters	GS	Exmouth Taxis Association
John Colby	JC	ALRUG
Lewis Ward	LW	GWR

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### 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies (TD)

TD welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

### 2. To approve the notes of previous meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

EB proposed and PS seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. The meeting notes were approved.

### 3. Matters arising from previous meeting

TD asked OD as the EDDC vice chairman of the strategic planning committee if any relevant updates were available on the new Local Plan. OD confirmed that it is still in the consultation period as the draft that suggested certain sites around the edge of Exmouth has raised concerns with residents. It has gone through pre-draft and the policies have not been discussed yet due to the timetable slipping. FC queried if a transport strategy has been taken into consideration for any developments in East Devon towns and the whole of Exmouth, OD confirmed that a transport strategy has not been factored in, but it would have to be a 3-way conversation between DCC, EDDC and ETC and will bring it up at the next strategic planning meeting. TD suggested that there needed to be revisions and expansion

made in the Transport chapter of the Neighbourhood Plan relating to transport strategy in and around town. LB will circulate the link to the chapter in the Local Plan about sustainable travel and transport including draft policies. TD confirmed that there is also a chapter in the Local Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **4. Update on Bus Shelter improvements**

LB updated members that we have been trying to replace the shelters for some time and back in 2018/2019 the council piggybacked an agreement that DCC had with Fernbank to replace the shelters over a 3-year rolling schedule. Work was delayed with covid and one of the main bus shelter providers going into liquidation, however Fernbank are now producing their own shelters. Fernbank will install shelters at their own cost and use the advertising revenue to offset the capital cost of the shelters. Two shelters located on the parade outside Iceland have been constructed, the paperwork was submitted last week to DCC for the licences and LB has spoken to Councillor Jeff Trail in the hope that the process can be speeded up. The shelter that was damaged in the car accident is still being pursued through the insurance and the driver's details have been obtained from the police, Fernbank have provided a quote for the replacement shelter and once approved by the insurance providers the shelter can be replaced. LB advised members that some of the shelters will have living roofs and the 12 old metal shelters have recently been painted Exmouth blue by the Town Maintenance team.

OD was concerned that the bus shelters are still advertising the old timetables and queried who should be made aware of this, TD confirmed Stagecoach would need to update the timetables.

EB thought that all the new bus shelters should be weatherproof and protected from road spray, LB advised that pavement width denotes whether it is possible to erect a 3-sided shelter. PS queried if the shelters could be moved slightly to facilitate this, and FC mentioned the shelter outside Tesco which he believes is in the wrong place and has damaged seats which need replacing, LB confirmed that this was raised in 2019 and Fernbank confirmed this shelter could be moved.

#### **5. Stakeholder Reports**

##### **a) Stagecoach (WS)**

There was no Stagecoach representative at this meeting and no report.

##### **b) DCC Public Transport (DO)**

There was no DCC Public Transport representative at this meeting and no report.

##### **c) GWR (DW)**

DW introduced himself and advised that a new growth team has been implemented at GWR for which a power point presentation was given to members.

Members discussed the possibility of trains being used to carry freight to Exmouth for which DW explained that the Exmouth train is a passenger train and any future plans for this would

be dictated through parcel companies and freight train operators. DW advised that GWR are looking into trials that are taking place in other areas using booked train seats to transport packages.

A conversation took place between members in respect of lowering the carbon footprint by using electric trains instead of the current diesel trains that are in operation. DW advised that fully electric trains would be best but there are no plans for this in the southwest, however battery trains maybe introduced in the future, but he does not see this being implemented for another 10 years after trials have taken place. JG raised concerns about the lack of cycle racks at stations and not enough space on trains for bikes. DW explained that the new trains are designed to utilise space for as many commuters as possible to maximise profits which unfortunately does reduce space available for bikes, however more cycle parking facilities will be introduced.

#### **d) ALRUG (TJ)**

TJ informed members that service reliability is good which may be down to the new depot in Exeter playing its part. Additional rolling stock will be required from May 2022 as follows –

- 1 additional unit for the hourly Okehampton services
- At least 1 additional unit for the St Ives Services
- 1 additional unit for the Bedwyn Newbury shuttle services

They are currently struggling to have what they are supposed to have on a daily basis, TJ asked DW if he had any thoughts about rolling stock going forward from May. DW confirmed that additional units would be available for these services on loan from other regions. TJ and DW discussed rolling stock and maintenance of turbo and flex trains.

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

AE confirmed that a climate action plan is in place at EDDC, they are looking for opportunities to support the reduction in the carbon footprint by introducing more cycle parking and introducing a co bikes hub in Exmouth.

Coach and lorry parking has been paused as the car parks TAFF that last met in March 2021 made recommendations that have not been considered by East Devon but will come back to East Devon's cabinet in the foreseeable future. Once EDDC have a framework for the coach/lorry parking it will be discussed further with Exmouth members. AE updated members that the lorry park has re-opened after being closed for 2 years due to the land being used as a compound for the new sea wall works. An EDDC decision will need to be made shortly as to whether to bring it back as a lorry park or possibly incorporate campervans. BB expressed his concern about plans to close the public toilets at the station as they would be needed to facilitate lorries/campervans. LB confirmed that these toilets are classed as category C designated for closure and EDDC have sent a letter confirming that they will be closed next year unless ETC will contribute to keep them open. LB advised that this matter would need to be added to a council agenda and would need to tie in with the strategy for campervans because if there is scope to put campervans in that area, toilets would be required. Income from campervans could offset some of the running costs of the toilets. LB is expecting further engagement from EDDC before closure next year.

Electric vehicle charging has taken some time however the leases have been signed to install 12 electric charging bays in the Imperial Road carpark around Easter/Spring bank holiday. AE updated members that they are in discussions with charging operators to install

a canopy structure at the Imperial Road carpark subject to planning consent and consultation.

PS advised that more cycle racks are required near Foxholes as cyclists are currently chaining bikes to the lifeboat centre railings. Members discussed locations where additional bike racks are required and LB asked JG to send a list of cycle rack locations as funding is available on DCC land and LB has access to the land registry details so can distribute the list to the relevant council that owns the land.

PS asked AE when the disabled spaces would be installed outside the beach wheelchair storage unit, AE will investigate this further and provide an update.

AE informed members that although co bikes is not quite there at the moment co cars will shortly have a 6-month trial and will be located at one of the Imperial Road carpark charge points, funded by DCC.

AE advised members that this will be his last meeting as he is retiring in May 2022. TD thanked AE for his longstanding, informed and positive contribution to the partnership and wished him well for the future.

#### **f) DCC Highways – (SC)**

SC provided the following reports to members -

- **Exmouth Residents Parking** - Keep an eye on the DCC website for information on the Exmouth residents parking, SC will send a link to LB to distribute to members.
- **Car charging points on the highway** - Rapid car charging points have run into technical issues as the manufacturer does not have enough units but will have more of an update in early April.
- **Standing water at crossing points** – No drainage budget is available for next year but will know if funding is available in April. BB queried if more gully sucking could take place. SC advised that this is a policy agreed by County Councillors to carry out work on minor roads every 3 years and primary networks every 12 months. Any change of policy would have to go through County Councillors as they voted the policy in. Members emphasised the problems for those with buggies and wheelchairs at crossing points making it difficult and inconvenient to cross.

EB advised that elderly residents that live near Littleham Cross are having difficulties crossing the busy road and wondered if some signage could be installed to alert drivers that elderly people maybe crossing the road, SC confirmed that he would pass on this request to the relevant colleague.

#### **g) Active Travel & E-cargo bike (JG & OD)**

JG ran through the Active Travel Day which will take place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 and confirmed the stalls that would be there on the day. Volunteers are still needed at the beginning and end of the day to marshal the event, JG urged members to contact David Buller directly who will be organising the volunteers, JG provided members with contact details. JG was disappointed that previous attempts to contact representatives from Public Transport to request attendance had been ignored and asked DW if he could pass this on to the relevant department. DW confirmed he would speak to the community's team to see if they could attend the event on behalf of GWR. Everything is in place for the event including risk assessments, insurance and hiring of the gazebos from ETC.

OD had a meeting about the E-cargo bikes yesterday as needs to finalise the order with only 2 weeks left to spend the remaining funding. They are still deciding which bikes to purchase with the remaining 12k and Exmouth cycles have confirmed that they will store, maintain and deal with the letting out as part of their normal hire service. Another meeting will take place on Friday to discuss how the remaining funding will be spent. OD has trialled the bikes in Exeter and hopes the scheme will be up and running soon.

JP advised that the community association are concerned about congestion on the seafront in particular the shared paths with the white dividing line which is causing issues. JP had a meeting with DCC who agreed that a shared use path should not have a dividing line. Although DCC did not object to the line being removed nothing has happened.

#### **h) Taxis (GS)**

There was no taxi representative at the meeting however TD provided an update from GS to advise that EDDC have agreed on a tariff increase by 10%. The shortage of taxi drivers is still ongoing with less presence on the Strand as more taxis are being ordered by phone/APP.

#### **5. Any other business**

No other business was raised

#### **6. Dates of 2022 meeting:**

21<sup>st</sup> June

20<sup>th</sup> September

13<sup>th</sup> December

The meeting closed at 12:25