

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Public Rights of Way Working Party

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 5.00pm on Wednesday 9th February 2022

Present

Bruce de Saram	BdS	ETC & EDDC Councillor, Chair
Olly Davy	OD	ETC & EDDC Councillor
Eileen Beech	EB	ETC Councillor
Andrew Teye	AT	ETC Councillor
Heath Nickels	HN	P3 Co-Ordinator
Ross Hussey	RH	Footpaths Volunteer
Jan Gannaway	JG	Active Travel Exmouth & Sustrans
John Petty	JP	Active Travel Exmouth & Exmouth Community Association
Sam Jeffcoat	SJ	DCC PROW Warden for Exmouth
Chetna Jones	CJ	ETC Deputy Town Clerk
Lisa Greenway	LG	ETC Note-taker

Apologies

Emma de Saram

1. Welcome and Apologies

Bds updated members that Helen Bennett (footpath volunteer) has resigned as a footpath volunteer and thanked her for her dedication to ensuring she regularly inspected the footpaths and highlighted issues.

2. To confirm and approve the notes of the meeting on 15th September 2021

OD proposed, EB seconded, and it was agreed to approve of the notes for the meeting on the 15th of September.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

a) Footpath 6

Following the previous meeting it was resolved that Clinton Devon Estates should be approached to ask whether they would like to formally consider creating an alternative route to a section of footpath 6. The process involves a legal agreement with DCC. Also, Clinton Devon to be approached to facilitate signage at the entrances to Green Farm re Neospora Caninum parasite and dogs being on leads.

- CDE have responded and are intending to apply for formal diversion in the long term.
- CDE have installed new signage.

b) Other Footpaths - Footpath 1

SJ updated members that work was conducted on a short section of the footpath that ran along the edge of an unfenced sheer cliff face which has now been blocked off and new signs have been put up near the café seating area to alleviate any confusion for walkers. Anti-slip re-surfacing work has also been conducted on the steep tarmac path at the holiday park.

c) Eroding Cliff edges

HN voiced concerns about erosion at Devon Cliffs where they have already diverted the path and wanted members to keep this in mind as an ongoing issue.

d) Magnolia Walk/Pavilion pond

Previously EB warned that there was no safety barrier (fencing, hedge etc) between Magnolia Walk and the pond in Pavilion gardens. EB confirmed that photos were sent to EDDC to pass onto Streetscene in Spring last year however no reply has been received.

➤ **Action: CJ to contact EDDC/Streetscene for an update**

e) Active Travel

Previously JP explained how Active Travel came into being, in part following a suggestion from DCC Cllr Stuart Hughes, and how requests for help and advice to several authorities in DCC on the considerable work he and JG have been doing since then have received no reply.

➤ JP has sent copies of the correspondence to CJ who has emailed them to DC Cllrs inviting them to attend the next meeting to address Active Travel's concerns.

4. Update on Bapton Valley cycle path project (CJ) (previously item 5 on agenda)

CJ updated members that the project proposal has not been reviewed by the S106/CIL working party to secure funding to create the pathway because since that date all S106/CIL meetings have been cancelled. CJ advised that it was still on the agenda and as soon as the next S106/CIL meeting takes place funding will be discussed and was unable to give a definitive answer as to whether funding would be agreed.

JP was frustrated and worried that £175K was a high figure and queried if the price could be reduced by reducing the width of the pathway. CJ advised that since the last quote price increases are likely, and it would be better to seek funds for the best case. CJ added that most of the cost was due to diverting the path away from the tree roots and not to do with the width. JG confirmed that the original Neighbourhood Plan action identified the need for a multi-use path by cyclists and walkers and a 3-metre path with a white line down the middle causes more issues.

BdS hopes this could be an award-winning project.

5. To review items for submission for P3 Scheme including update from P3 Co-ordinator on the annual survey (HN) (previously item 4 on the agenda)

HN had nothing additional to add other than the annual survey had been completed and issues previously identified have been resolved.

EB thanked SJ for clearing barbwire from the Budleigh footpath that leads down to Frogmore Lane.

OD asked if re-surfacing/gritting could be considered on footpath 9 at the end of Maristow Avenue leading to Exeter Road which gets very overgrown and muddy. SJ raised concerns about accessing the footpath as lorries would need to tip the re-cycled road-stone and if this took place DCC would become liable for future repairs.

CJ confirmed that the video produced by RH was sent to DCC as part of a grant bid for funding, but this was not successful. However, ETC has money in the budget for footpath work that could be used. CJ proposed that the Town Maintenance Team could complete the work at ETC expense if DCC agrees to this, which SJ thought would not be a problem. CJ will consult with SJ regarding materials.

- **EB proposed, AT seconded, approval for ETC maintenance team to conduct the re-surfacing work on footpath 9 and noted the annual P3 submission documentation**
- **Action: SJ will look at footpath 9 to see what improvements can be made and what materials will be needed**
- **Action: CJ and SJ will discuss the logistics on how to implement the work**

RH raised concerns about footpath 11 by the Estuary and Carter Avenue that may need re-surfacing. HN confirmed that Kier would be liable for that footpath as part of the Tidal Defence work.

- **Action: CJ will contact Rob Butler (EA) to consult with Kier about re-surfacing**
- **Action: RH will forward photos of footpath 11 to CJ to pass onto EA**

6. Update from the P3 Co-ordinator on the current state of footpaths (HN)

HN had no further updates to report.

7. Update from DCC Public Rights of Way warden (SJ)

BdS asked if members had any questions to put forward:

EB queried the missing “No Horse” sign on the bridge at the Budleigh footpath. SJ confirmed that he is aware of the missing sign but will double check if the bridge can withstand the weight of a horse and if it cannot, will arrange for the sign to be put back.

8. Any other business

None

9. Next meeting

28th of September 2022

The meeting closed at 17:53