

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 30th May 2022 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Community Association
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Andrew Gordon Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)

Apologies

Rev Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together
Simon Kennedy	SK	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Nicky Nicholls	NN	Transition Exmouth
Tom Wood	TW	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society

1. To Elect a chair and a vice chair

LB requested nominations for the election of the chair. PS proposed DP, seconded by TD, that he be re-elected as Chair of this working party. No further nominations were received. Members were asked to vote, and DP was duly recommended as Chair. DP proposed PS as vice chair, seconded by AB.

2. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

3. To agree the notes of the previous meeting on the 25th of April 2022

TD proposed and PS seconded the accuracy of the notes from the 25th of April 2022 which were approved.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

TD updated members that the Active Travel Day was a success however he was disappointed with the lack of bicycle shops that turned up and no public transport representatives were present. TD stated that the organisers are looking into making this an annual event.

PS confirmed that the Skateboard Jam that took place at Phear Park skatepark was a success with lots of families turning up on the day.

DP confirmed that there are plans to use the Imperial public toilets as a hub, EDDC have come up with a plan to convert part of the lorry park into a place for campervans and they will convert the railway toilets into an area for electric power points, showers and toilets. LB stated that this will still need to go through a considerable decision process and a special cabinet meeting will take place as this car park was earmarked for closure.

LB confirmed that station and Jarvis Close car park are classed as category 3 toilets which ETC are being asked to fund. PS updated members that the lorry car park has to go through planning and Natural England, which will take a considerable length of time. TD thought the toilets were part of a wider debate that will be included in the 2nd round levelling up bid as one of the issues for the area is provision of accessible toilets. BB queried why ETC should be asked to take over the funding of the station toilets if EDDC are proposing to turn the area into a campervan park. DR expressed his concern over the lack of temporary toilets when large events are held at the Imperial Rec which causes members of the public to use the Sea Scouts and Rugby Club toilets.

5. Update on the developing Local Plan

PS asked if ETC have put anything into the local plan in respect of water/sewerage to supply all the new houses that are being proposed in Exmouth. LB updated members that ETC have not been formally consulted on the Neighbourhood Plan, but LB and RB have participated in some workshops hosted by the Strategic Development Team at EDDC and LB thinks that they will chunk the Local Development Plan down so that each working party that has an interest in each component can put together a response from the Town Council.

LB confirmed that the sewerage issue has been brought up in the workshops and concern has been expressed in other small villages which are worse off, data gathered in Littleham by the local lobby group ESCAPE could be used as evidence to put forward in the local plan consultation.

DP urged members to look at the Strategic Planning Committee's reports and if they wish to comment a bid can be put into the committee to make a presentation. LB confirmed that TD and LE are in touch with neighbouring Woodbury and Lypstone parish councils regarding shared boundary's, TD confirmed that an informal meeting took place to discuss preserving the rural gap between parishes and all attendees were in agreement with matters discussed. Members discussed SWW's lack of attendance at meetings due to them not using zoom.

6. To Receive an update on the second round bid to the Levelling up Fund

LB updated members that Hannah Clarke is giving a presentation tonight. Some of the community organisations were represented at the workshop run a month or so ago where people were asked to input ideas. The reason it will be put to full council tonight is because there is an expectation that the council will be asked to put some match funding in. ETC had agreed to put some funding for the Pinch Point Funding project but this was pulled due to covid, so the money was rolled over to the levelling-up first round bid. LB explained that there is an expectation that ETC will contribute to the second-round bid but was not sure how much ETC were expected to match fund. It is likely be higher than the original amount of 158K. The matter will be reviewed by full council on the 13th of June to ratify any funding request.

TD advised that the main reason a probable increase of funding will be requested is because when the CIL money was transferred from Pinch Point to the levelling up fund it was mainly for the Dinan Way extension but the levelling-up bid now includes the town centre.

7. Queens Drive Delivery Group meeting notes of the 3rd of May 2022

DP updated members that an informal meeting will take place in 2 weeks with the officer responsible for delivering the Queen's Drive project. He will be providing a presentation to the Town Council and notes of the meeting will be made available. AB advised she did not attend the last meeting but confirmed that the officer, Jerry Mills has been taken on as the new project manager, GS had a brief meeting with JM and he was impressed with what JM had said so far.

AB confirmed that new recyclable tables and benches have been installed and an artisan coffee outlet will open this year. AB hopes that a consultation will take place in the future to discuss new ideas to put forward.

FC queried what was happening with the grass area that was previously used as an extension to the carpark as he is worried that it will be used as a permanent carpark if the area is not utilised. AB confirmed that EDDC previously used this space as a temporary carpark however the space is designated for leisure although LED are currently not using the space because of equipment issues, AB was hoping to extend the dinosaur park into this area if it remains unused. LB advised that it would be highly unlikely that planning permission would be agreed to change the use of the space into a permanent carpark as it is designated for leisure.

8. New agenda items to note –

a) Report to EDDC cabinet dated 4th May 2022 relating to car park issues

No further comments were made by members.

b) That EDDC Cabinet will consider a policy for the use of EDDC carparks by campervans and motorhomes and future use of Exmouth Lorry Park (date to be confirmed)

BB stated that lorry parks should be prioritised over motorhomes as they need to park somewhere and if the space is limited it will force them to park in other areas of the town.

9. To note that SWW have been called to a series of meetings at EDDC to discuss –

a) Planning

b) Beach water quality

c) Update on rivers

PS updated members that SWW have placed markers on Seymour, Iona and Featherbed Lane for work to take place to improve the sewerage.

BB has been researching the release of raw sewerage into the sea at Exmouth and provided members with his findings.

DP raised concerns that SWW might be selling the use of the sewerage plant as he has noticed tankers from Severn Water using the plant. PS confirmed that 4 tankers were in the Imperial carpark waiting to fill up the other day, they fill up 2 at a time and operate 24 hours a day. DP hopes to raise this issue in the next scrutiny meeting and will report back to members.

10. Street Scene update

AGR introduced himself and updated members that additional cover has been provided for the jubilee weekend with extra staff drafted in for litter picking and additional bin runs. Grass cutting has been completed last week and all public toilets in Exmouth are operating apart from Jarvis Close which is currently being repaired but will open imminently. AGR stated that the Manor Garden toilets were vandalised and are currently going through insurance.

A project to replace all the timber bollards with reinforced composite bollards to prevent travellers from breaking through and settling down again is progressing. AT queried if the bollards being replaced at the Imperial Rec would be moved as this may cause issues at the slipway for people wanting to transport water sport equipment, AGR will investigate this and reply to AT by email.

New town sweepers have been ordered and should arrive in June to replace the sweeper that was burnt out at Christmas time. AB congratulated AGR on how clean and tidy Exmouth was looking.

AT raised concerns that EDDC recycling/refuse collections within the colonies area were leaving a trail of rubbish behind and suggested a clean-up should take place after collections, AGR said he would arrange for a litter picker to do a sweep of the area after collections to clean up any remaining rubbish.

AGR stated he has found 3 light transformer boxes that belong to the Town Council which will need to be collected from the Camperdown office, LB will arrange collection.

11. To note that Exmouth beach was awarded the blue flag

DP updated members.

12. Update from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives

Hospital League of Friends

TS was not present at the last WEB board meeting however he is aware that children's mental health is causing an issue and discussed this with Open Door who explained that they do not have enough funding to keep going. As trustees the Hospital League of Friends have agreed to provide funding to keep this service running. BB queried if Open Door would be eligible for a service level agreement and LB confirmed that they have applied and qualified previously so they could apply again. TD stated that funding was being arranged through The Twining Association and the German twinners that arrive in July will make their charity donation to Open Door.

TS was disappointed with attendance at the AGM with only 1 councillor turning up however it was an interesting meeting.

TS reminded members that on the 19th of June a commemorative service will take place in the strand for the Falkland's anniversary.

Churches Together

TS updated members that the Annual Civic Service will take place at The Holy Trinity this Saturday at 10:30 and expects lots of outside bodies to attend.

Waterfront WP

PS hopes to have the beach wheelchairs up and running soon but are still waiting for the website booking page to launch and volunteers to be trained. LB confirmed that an extensive microsite booking page will be available on the council website for people to book the wheelchairs.

LB advised that a lot of background work has taken place training volunteers, scheduling volunteer rotas and involving the solicitors to look at the terms and conditions in respect of public liabilities. LB asked members to get in contact if they know of any volunteers who would be willing to help.

BB queried if EDDC have arranged any designated parking spaces for beach wheelchair volunteers and LB confirmed that the space between the beach huts and beach wheelchair could be made into 2 parking spaces, but a parking order would be required which MC is investigating. PS updated members that the parking spaces opposite the beach wheelchair have been earmarked for 2 disabled spaces but unfortunately when the

cones were put out for the parking services team to mark the road, they were removed by campervan users and were not put back.

PS has applied to EDDC for some matting to be installed at the bottom of the slipway.

S106 & CIL WP

PS stated that the next meeting is on the 10th of June as was previously postponed due to members being ill with covid.

13. Any other business

DP raised the issue about graffiti on the beach, LB advised that CT has been talking to the curator of the Thelma Hulbert Gallery about a community art initiative in that area and will ask CT to contact DP to discuss this further.

GS confirmed that Exmouth Community Association are holding their AGM at the deaf academy on the 30th of June 2022 and all councillors are welcome to attend. LB will arrange for details to be published in the weekly bulletin.

GS updated members that they have been lobbying county councillors to recognise that there is a problem on the cycle track at busy times on the seafront but unfortunately, they have not got a positive response. A decision will be made at their committee meeting on Wednesday on how to proceed with this issue.

BB raised the issue of dogs on the beach, AGR confirmed that the Environmental Agency patrol Exmouth beach every other week. LB advised that the new environmental health officer is running a campaign to highlight responsible dog ownership and have been stepping up on enforcement. BB queried the lack of signage, AGR confirmed that signs are displayed all along the seafront but will forward his concern to the beach safety officer. Members discussed the positioning and size of the signage displayed and the colour of the stencils displayed on the paths.

14. Next meeting 27th June 2022

The meeting concluded at 11.44am