

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 21st February 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
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Community Association
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society

Apologies

Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Rev Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together
Simon Kennedy	SK	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Nicky Nicholls	NN	Transition Exmouth
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Tom Wood	TW	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)

1. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 24 January 2022 were approved after amendments were discussed and approved for update.

3. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

- a) TS confirmed that the missing RBL wreath/racks were recovered from Streetscene and they are now aware of procedures so that this does not happen in the future.
- b) PS asked for an update on the bus shelter that was damaged near Halsdon Nursing Home. LB confirmed that a handwritten letter has been sent to the Civil Litigation team at Plymouth Police Station to request the driver's details so that a claim can be progressed through the insurance.
- c) FC requested an update on the festoon lights and LB confirmed that one control box has been located at the Camperdown Depot but unfortunately, the remaining boxes have

been mislaid. CJ is in touch with TW to resolve the matter and the EA will hopefully reimburse the installation cost of £1000. A Section 171 license will be required from DCC to use the cherry picker on the highway.

4. To note that East Devon District Council is reviewing its councillor's code of conduct and asking residents for their views

LB advised that the consultation is ongoing and urged members to circulate the weblink attached to the agenda to community organisations to increase participation. LB confirmed that Town Council usually adopt the District Council's code of conduct so any changes made will be adopted by Exmouth Town Council.

5. To note that the Town Council has agreed its budget and a precept of £773,025 (Band D equivalent of £56 per annum)

LB updated members that EDDC are proposing a £5 increase and DCC are proposing a £56 increase on a Band D property. The Town Council element has decreased as reserves were utilised to cover costs. LB also mentioned that of all the towns in East Devon Exmouth has the lowest Band D council tax charge.

6. To note that East Devon District Council's Cabinet has agreed to adopt a £2.00 an hour charge for a number of car parks within Category 1: Exmouth Queens Drive, Exmouth Queen's Drive Echelon, Exmouth Beach Gardens; and adopt a £1.50 an hour charge for all other Category 1 car parks from April 2022

DP asked members if they had any comments – LB advised that the proposal had been through EDDC Cabinet but was still to be debated at EDDC Full Council there was still time for representation if people feel strongly about this. PS confirmed that Full Council was imminent (February 21st) so probably not enough time and that EDDC's Extraordinary General Meeting was being held on Wednesday February the 23rd at Ocean.

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

Waterfront WP

PS confirmed that a meeting of the Waterfront WP had been held the previous week and a representative from Prattshayes (John Morgan) had attended with a view to being involved with the working party on a more permanent basis. John Morgan had reported that some owners were not cleaning up after the dogs had fouled and this was potentially a health risk to the children he teaches and that some dogs were urinating over the pupils' bags which had been left on the beach. He intends to write to The Town Council and the District Council to raise the matter.

There was a general and wide discussion regarding the problem of dogs on the beach because it was felt that more enforcement of the existing regulations was needed but it was noted that currently there was no enforcement officer available.

LB has had an email from Sally Webster, the Principle Environmental Health Officer at EDDC, who forwarded an article that she produced for Parish Councils which relates to responsible dog ownership. LB will share the article with members.

AT suggested that all 3 local authorities should lobby our local MP to see if national legislation could be used to better enforce the beach dog issue.

The next EDDC Beach Management meeting is scheduled for March the 1st 2022

It had been confirmed that the Bristol Youth Camp will convene this summer, contrary to press reports that it is being closed.

The tenant at Harbourview has had their licence renewed, although LB advised that she believed this was a temporary licence.

The next working party meeting will be a walk-about inspection of the seafront on the 5th of April.

Climate and Ecological Emergency WP

TD updated members that Plastic Free Exmouth has gained significant traction and looks forward to Exmouth being credited as a plastic free community soon.

TD confirmed that a policy on special verges was also agreed in the last meeting with emphasis on the Dinan Way verge. The aim is to develop the DCC special verge policy to protect rare species.

FC and TD visited Coombe Farm in Lypstone Parish as the Woodland Trust are negotiating to buy the land to protect trees, hedgerows and general ecology. FC advised that the Woodland Trust have raised 1.5 million and need another 1 million to complete the purchase.

PS raised concerns about the extensive destruction at Goodmores Farm as most of the trees have been cut down and all the hedges have been removed. LB and TD advised that this may be authorised as planting plans were incorporated into the planning application and it may have been conditioned for some trees/shrubs to be re-instated. TD confirmed that when the removal began it was queried with EDDC who confirmed the work carried out was within the agreed planning consent, but he offered to raise the matter with EDDC enforcement again.

TS reported that he had recently returned from holiday in Portugal and was impressed with how the Portuguese dealt with plastics – a cage in the shape of a fish with an open mouth was situated on the beach for plastics to be deposited. This encouraged children to place plastic in the cage mouth. TD advised that when the Plastic Reduction WP was formed, a similar idea had been suggested but it was deemed too difficult after research was completed. Plastic Free Exmouth have been looking into how waste plastic can be collected and Sideshore have provided a cage for collection.

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.

The next meeting will be held on the 15th of March 2022.

Active Travel Day is on the 30th of April 2022.

Fairtrade Fortnight started on the 21st of February and a Pancake Tea Party will be held on the 1st of March 2022 at All Saints Church Hall between 5pm and 6pm although there will be no Fairtrade producers attending from overseas this year.

TD hopes that the 2 Twinning visits planned this year will go ahead.

Flood and Landing Drainage WP

TS reported that he had received concerns from one of the officers at the Sea Cadets as they did not think it would be possible to close the flood gate adjacent to them. DP confirmed that a test was carried out a couple of months ago and future plans include a repeat test. LB confirmed that Streetscene closed some gates on Friday but will confirm with TW via email if the gate at Camperdown was deployed.

TD advised members that the Camperdown gates were not tested on the testing day only the seafront gates.

DP felt it would be appropriate for the Flood and Land Drainage WP to look at the effects of the recent Storm and the issues raised regarding the flood gates.

DP also raised concerns that a number of trees had been lost during the recent storms and asked about the scope to have them replaced. LB advised that the trees are not on our land but that she would seek an update from EDDC.

Queens Drive

AB updated members that EDDC have recently appointed a project manager to oversee regeneration projects at Queen's Drive, the town centre and the Estuary. Tenders have gone out to traders and AB has suggested that opening times should be extended this season.

PS queried what would happen with the coastguard watch tower now that the Harbourview lease has been extended as the tower is not fit for purpose. LB advised that she believed that the lease was only temporary and therefore will not undermine any plans going forward for the tower and that the new officer will be looking into this. AB will email the project manager to request an update.

Town Team

It was noted that the Town Team will be hosting a Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Talk at 7pm on the 17th of March 2022 at The Estuary Suite, Ocean.

8. Street Scene Update

Apologies were received from SK and TW as they were dealing with the clear up following the recent storm.

TS advised that the AA signs directing people to the covid centre at the tennis club on Withycombe Road have still not been removed. LB agreed to contact the DCC highways officer to make them aware and request removal. TD was concerned that a blue town council finger post in Marine Way has been turned around the wrong way, LB will ask the Town Maintenance team to correct this.

9. To note the proposed changes to the New Local Plan making timetable and that formal public engagement is likely to be deferred until Autumn 2022. EDDC Local Plan progress reports are included in the Strategic Planning Committee minutes - linked on the agenda

DP reminded members to look at the documents linked attached to the agenda.

LB advised that the EDDC YouTube site has recordings of the presentations from various landowners in respect of possible development sites put forward to accommodate housing, this includes 2 sites put forward by Clinton Devon. LB also informed members that EDDC is keeping ETC updated with matters arising from the Strategic Planning Committee, but it was not yet clear how this will affect the Neighbourhood Plan. KB advised that landowners are being asked if they will make their land available to provide housing.

10. Agenda Items requested by ECO members:

ECA

a) To receive an update on the Motorhome WP/TAFF

LB confirmed that no update is available from this working party as it was actually set up as a Task and Finish Forum - not a longstanding working party and does not therefore meet on a regular basis. The banning of overnight parking of campervans in certain areas of Exmouth was initially introduced for a 3-year trial period but the anticipated end of trial review had been affected by COVID and EDDC's own car parking review. Andrew Ennis was looking into the scope for accommodating overnight campervan parking at the Estuaryside carpark, but it was not clear how this aspiration will be affected by the proposed toilet closure at the station and she had not received any further updates. The TAFF will potentially need to reconvene when EDDC have developed out its plans. LB also confirmed that there is different legislation for campervans/motorhomes that park on the highways and carparks as the latter is private land and that this complicates enforcement.

11. Any other business

LB updated members that she had had a recent meeting with Tim Childs (Service Lead – Place, Assets & Commercialisation for East Devon District Council) and Jerry Mills (new project officer) who confirmed that there will be a second bidding round for the levelling up fund. EDDC have been provided with feedback which suggests that the inclusion of Dinan Way in the first bid had possibly weakened the bid as the fund is directed at town centre regeneration. LB and TD will reach out to DCC for an update.

AT requested an update on the proposal to invite community groups to broaden the membership. DP expressed concern that this may over burden the working party by adding additional groups. AT was keen to expand the working party to include members that wish to push matters forward in their areas. LB advised that if the group was widened, the risks could be mitigated by removing AOB and sticking strictly to the items on the agenda. LB also reported that she has a meeting scheduled at the beginning of March with Ellie Barnes from East Devon Voluntary Services who has been informed about COLP and wants to find out more. 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 and LB confirmed that invitations could be sent out to external groups.

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.

LB updated members that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will start on the 2nd of June with the lighting of the beacon at Orcombe Point and will carry on over the Exmouth Festival weekend. A jubilee trail will also commence on the 30th of April and EDDC are gifting a tree for the Queens Green Canopy for which another ceremony will be arranged. FC confirmed that the tree will be of a substantial size and the preference was for the tree to be planted in Phear Park.

TD confirmed that Exmouth Covid Mutual Aid has been wound up and thanked LB for the levelling up feedback as lots of work still needs to be completed in Exmouth town centre.

LB advised that during the DALC Larger Councils Committee meeting a policy officer from DCC presented a report on urban renewal in coastal and market towns that mentioned Exmouth. LB will circulate the report to members if it is in the public domain.

DR confirmed that the Sea Scouts have been granted planning permission for re-development on the Camperdown site.

The next meeting will take place 25th April 2022 at 10am

The meeting concluded at 11.42am