

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Exmouth Transport Partnership

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 21st June 2022

Present

Cllr Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Cllr Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Dave Ovenden	DO	DCC Public Transport
Catherine Causley	CC	EDDC Car Parks
Ciaran Olford	CO	Stagecoach
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
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

Apologies

Cllr Eileen Beech	EB	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Wendy Slater	WS	Stagecoach
David Whiteway	DW	GWR
George Shorters	GS	Exmouth Taxis Association
John Colby	JC	ALRUG

1. To elect a chairperson

PS proposed TD, seconded by OD, that he be re-elected as Chair of this working party. No further nominations were received. Members were asked to vote, and TD was duly re-elected as Chair.

2. Welcome, introductions and apologies

TD welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

3. To approve the notes of the meeting of 15th of March 2022

PS proposed and CC seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 15th of March 2022. The meeting notes were approved.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

CC queried the concerned raised regarding congestion on the seafront in particular the shared path and discussion about removal of the dividing white line. JP advised that the advice from the main cycling organisation is that if in doubt remove the dividing lines and make pathways a free for all. CC thought that it was challenging enough especially when cycling with young children when pedestrians are in the cycling lane and did not think it was a good idea to remove any dividing lines.

DP requested an explanation in respect of the bus shelter at Tesco being moved, TD explained that it was a discussion on repositioning bus shelters to make them weatherproof.

PS asked if any update was available on the bike racks on the seafront as cyclists are continuing to chain bikes to the beach wheelchair ramp. JG advised that locations for racking along the seafront will be looked at in the next couple of weeks and a list of favourable areas will be sent to LB for landownership checks. CC confirmed that funding was awarded last year and invited JG to meet to identify spots on EDDC land where bike parking would be suitable. CC said that funding is also available through their Place and Assets team who were looking at bike parking near Queens Space Drive so will contact them to discuss this further.

5. Update on Bus Shelter improvements

TD confirmed that the shelter damaged in the car accident has been made safe, PS was disappointed with delays that have occurred although understood that the insurance factored into this. TD stated that Fernbank have had issues with DCC licences and hopes that DCC will take note of the Cornwall system as this is much slicker. CJ advised that the insurers have agreed to replace the shelter and Fernbank will carry out the work as soon as possible.

TD updated members that the new living roofs have been put on using succulents which are used to dry conditions, OD thought they looked good and were faring well.

JG queried why the shelter at the bottom of Pound Lane had been removed and asked if it would be replaced, CJ advised that this was raised in a Town Maintenance meeting, but no response has been received.

DP thought the Bradham Lane shelter should be replaced, CJ confirmed that 12 of the old metal shelters have been repainted by the Town Maintenance team, but the transparent plastic window sections have been cleaned of graffiti so many times they are no longer clear thus making them look unsightly.

6. Update on Levelling Up bid

TD updated members that he took part in a workshop where attendees were asked what improvements they would like in and around the station area. Councillors advised they have previously campaigned about improved transport interchanges. A skeleton bid has been submitted to include improved interchange facilities and the details will be discussed afterwards for which ETC will be involved. TD confirmed that EDDC and DCC have submitted the bid as a team this time, Hannah Clark from DCC and Tim Child from EDDC have been leading the bid. ETC have been asked to increase the match funding from 158K to 400K from CIL funds and will be added to the 1M from DCC and 400K from EDDC. PS stated that full council agreed to use the CIL money as it must be spent within 5 years or returned to the developers. TD advised that an outcome from central government should be received by the end of the calendar year.

DP requested that we keep an eye on the public transport side of the bid to get a satisfactory interchange. JP has looked at the documents submitted so far and although supports in principle he hopes members have an opportunity to input ideas when it comes to discussing interchange facilities in detail. PS confirmed that part of the match funding agreement was that ETC would be included in any decision making if the bid was successful.

7. GWR CCIF Bid Update

TD updated members that the CCIF grant bid process via GWR has been reopened, and Town Council is hoping to resubmit its bid of 50K which was last made in 2017 for station

and surrounding area improvements. TD has received a message from DW urging ETC to resubmit a skeleton bid based on the previous one as this would be successful, the closing date for bids is the 27th of June 2022. All members agreed to re-submit.

8. Stakeholder Reports

a) Stagecoach (CO)

CO reported that Stagecoach continues to be understaffed and have suffered with DVLA licence delays, they currently have 27 new recruits waiting for licences to be returned. A huge recruitment drive is currently in place.

Although the current timetables are out of date the new up to up-to-date timetables are currently with the printers and should be ready in the next month.

TD asked CO to investigate the issue with buses parking outside the LED illegally. PS queried why Torquay advertising is displayed and where all the 57 buses have gone as only yellow ones have been seen. CO confirmed the 57 buses are the same but have been repainted yellow and that advertising will be changed and hopes to remove all branded buses.

OD queried if the 57-bus service would re-instate the 15-20 minute service as it is currently running at 30 minutes and why single decker buses are running at busy periods rather than double decker buses. CO confirmed that frequency would be increased when more staff are recruited, the allocation of buses is down to availability at the time.

DP was concerned that the 57-bus frequency to Brixington was low with some buses not turning up at all. CO will investigate this but suspects it is down to staffing issues due to sickness and stress, staff are receiving frequent abuse from customers because of the lack of services being provided.

DP advised that passengers are not being made aware when buses are cancelled, TS confirmed that the Stagecoach App has issues. CO is aware of these issues, but it is out of their hands as head office update the App. CO confirmed that website and Twitter will show up to date bus times/cancellations.

OD and CO discussed the help and support drivers receive for dealing with difficult passengers.

b) DCC Public Transport (DO)

TD asked for an update on the bus service improvement as the government has slashed funding by half. DO confirmed that 14 million was received of which 8 will be spent on capital (mostly in Exeter, none in Exmouth) and 6 will be spent on reducing fares. The funding will be used from the autumn onwards although fuel prices may cause issues.

TS queried why Exmouth was not receiving any funding, DO confirmed that Exmouth will receive bus stop infrastructure improvements which will include better lighting and flag upgrading.

OD asked if any research had taken place into reducing fares to encourage people to use the service as some buses are empty. DO advised previous research has taken place and they are aware of this issue and are looking to reduce ticket prices for days out. DP confirmed that Cornwall are reducing fares, DO was aware of this and will request feedback from them.

DP advised that the levelling up bid will include more bus services but DO did not have any information on this matter. TD will speak to Hannah Clarke about service planning but does not think this has been discussed in detail.

PS thought that bus shelters should be included in the improvements but DO explained funding is not for bus shelters as Fernbank, DCC and ETC own the bus shelters.

c) EDDC Car/Cycle, Coach & Lorry Parks and Electric Vehicle Charging (CC)

CC confirmed that a workshop has been booked for the 11th of July to discuss motorhome and caravan issues which will be reported back to cabinet, ETC councillors have been invited.

Civil work on the Imperial Road car park will start on the 14th of July although CC does not have an exact date for when the charge point will be commissioned it is expected to be around September 2022. Other projects include looking at solar canopy structures to provide extra charging at the Imperial Road carpark.

The small strip of grass outside the LED near the substation will shortly be used as a temporary co-bike docking point for which the lease has already been signed. Whilst the EV groundworks are being completed in the Imperial Road car park CC hopes that an electricity supply can be put in for the e-cargo bikes and co-bikes as this will reduce costs by combining the work being completed. CC hopes to make the Imperial Road car park a permanent mobility hub to accommodate co-bikes, co-cars, EV charging for the public and a community-based transport facility which could then be rolled out in other car parks.

PS asked if there was any update on the 2 disabled spaces that were requested for the beach wheelchair storage unit, CC will contact the relevant team to chase this matter up.

d) Taxis (GS)

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

e) GWR (DW)

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

f) ALRUG (TJ)

TJ confirmed that the strike is going ahead but could not give a full fleet update as DW was not present at the meeting. TJ hopes to discuss stock with DW at the next meeting as issues have arisen with full fleets not being run. TD queried timekeeping, TJ advised timekeeping is currently not too bad and any delays would be down to stock or failures on the branch line which is shown in the train diagrams.

OD queried if extra room for cycles would be taken into consideration when stock is upgraded, TJ will look at the stock website but does not think anything has changed.

g) DCC Highways (SC)

SC updated members that the energy manager at DCC responsible for the rapid charging Devon project has confirmed that Gamma Energy are replacing units which will be monitored over a 6-month period.

The traffic team manager at DCC has confirmed that the residential parking is on course to deliver in summer 2023.

The previous request from EB for signage to be installed at Littleham cross has been turned down as this area has a 30mph limit and additional signage is often ignored by drivers.

SC confirmed that tree surgeons have trimmed the trees on double decker routes.

PS asked SC to mention the request for additional disabled spaces opposite the beach wheelchair unit to the relevant team.

OD was keen to implement a 20mph speed restriction throughout Exmouth, a crossing in Hulham Road for school children and more cycling lanes. SC explained that only the police can enforce speed restrictions and 20mph limits are in place in school areas, money is received from central government and as limited funding is available it may not be possible to implement these changes.

h) Active Travel & E-cargo Bike (OD, JG & JP)

JG confirmed that a meeting took place after the Active Travel Day to discuss any improvements that could be made as hopes to make this an annual event with the support from members. OD stated that footfall was low, but this could be down to the fact that the event was held on a bank holiday when people had made other arrangements.

OD was disappointed that cycle shops did not attend but will hopefully in the future. OD, JG and JP thanked everyone who supported the Active Travel Day, and all members were in support of making this an annual event.

The cargo bike has not taken off as well as hoped so JG will visit local shops to drum up some support.

9. Any Other Business

JP advised the community association raised the issue with DCC about seafront traffic problems, DCC replied that they would need widespread public support before anything will be done. JP asked ETC to raise the issue with DCC. TD confirmed he would consult with LB to send letters to DCC and Stagecoach.

PS queried why a 20mph limit had not been imposed on the seafront, CJ asked DCC to confirm what the process is to request this change. SC confirmed that this would need to go through the traffic team at DCC and ETC would need to either send a letter or petition to them. PS proposed, and OD seconded, to recommend the motion to reduce the speed limit to 20mph along the seafront at the next Town Council meeting. All members were in support of this motion.

10. Dates of 2022 Meetings:

20th September

13th December

The meeting closed at 12:16

