

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 22nd August 2022 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Community Association
Tom Wood	TW	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)

Apologies

Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Nicky Nicholls	NN	Transition Exmouth
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society

1. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. To agree the notes of the previous meeting on the 27th of June 2022

BB proposed and TS seconded the accuracy of the notes of the meeting dated 27th of June 2022.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

TD advised members that the service discussed in the previous meeting was not a Civic Service but a service that Holy Trinity invited the mayor to attend. TS confirmed that a DCC Civic Service was held at Withycombe and the event at Holy Trinity was a celebration service for the Queen's Jubilee which the mayor attended. TS updated members that a Civic Service for the town will take place on the 8th of October and all councillors are invited. CJ was asked if she was aware if the invites had been sent and CJ confirmed she was unaware but will contact the mayor's secretary.

TD clarified that the levelling up bid item that LB mentioned as shovel ready is only for the Dinan Way extension as the transport interchange and area around the station is not

shovel ready. However ETC are involved with DCC and EDDC who are leading the bid to move things forward.

4. Update on the Developing Local Plan and to note that the interim findings for the development sites have been published

DP informed members of the process that EDDC must go through before approval can be agreed and only after this is completed can amend the Neighbourhood Plan start.

BB was concerned that the sewerage system would not be sufficient to cope with the number of houses that are being identified in the draft Local Plan .

TD stated that there does not seem to be a good rationale as to how the housing need has been calculated in East Devon and is keen to keep an eye on second best sites that have been proposed. TD raised concerns about public transport access to some of the remote sites being considered.

AT asked councillors if they were aware of any pressure from residents to build the 302 houses proposed. DP stated that Littleham residents do not want the houses built. Unfortunately as Central Government estimate the number of houses required if they are not included in the Local Plan the planning inspector will throw it out.

Members discussed the lack of affordable housing in Exmouth and other areas and that private property owners were evicting tenants to take possession of properties as re-sale values are much higher.

BB raised concerns about the number of empty properties in Exmouth and suggested that ETC contact EDDC for an explanation as to why these properties remain empty.

5. Update on the EDDC Public Toilet review

CJ updated members that ETC are collaborating with partners including Transition Exmouth to consider taking on the Imperial Rec public toilets to create an eco-hub and/or a community use building. It was agreed that ETC will not be taking on Jarvis Close public toilets as these were the least used. EDDC confirmed that only one complaint had been received since its closure.

Although there are no current plans to close the train station toilets, concerns were raised over the uncertainty of the future as this area is part of the levelling up bid. ETC are keen to keep these toilets open so have asked EDDC for clarification over the future of the train station toilets.

PS asked for an update on the Maer public toilets and TW confirmed that they were opened at the beginning of the summer.

AT thanked ETC on behalf of Transition Exmouth for being considered a partner in the Imperial Recreation public toilet and Hub project and hopes that a community facility can be created, CJ clarified with members that ETC will not be given the whole of the building as a tenant occupies part of the building and whatever is created within the building will need to include at least one public convenience and this form part of the lease agreement.

DP confirmed that Orcombe Point toilets are being marketed.

CJ confirmed that EDDC will only be proceeding with a 99-year lease and not any freehold arrangement.

6. Update on the outcome of a resolution by Exmouth Town Council regarding SWW

DP confirmed that a SWW representative will be attending the next full council meeting in which members of the public will have an opportunity to register to ask a question.

BB asked if ECA, TARA and ESCAPE could be invited to attend the meeting and take part in the debate. CJ clarified that Standing Orders will apply but it would be for the Chairman to agree as Standing Orders would need to be suspended. CJ will pass on the request to the Town Clerk.

BB advised members that he recently accepted an invitation from ECA to take part in a tour of SWW sewerage works at Maer Lane which he found informative.

7. Street Scene update

TW updated members that they have had an extremely busy summer due the heatwave and high visitor levels which has put a strain on litter levels.

A new area officer Peter Crofts replaces Debbie Carder for Exmouth District and has started last week.

TW confirmed that SWW are starting work today at the Phear Park pumping station to upgrade the sewage works in Exmouth which is due to complete in March 2023.

TW advised that they are looking at additional traffic calming measures on the Phear Park access road as issues have arisen with vehicles driving too fast, and that 10mph speed markers will be introduced to help alleviate the issues.

PS requested some help around the beach wheelchair storage unit to remove sand and cut back some vegetation to which TW confirmed that this could be arranged.

TS requested some additional cleaning in the walkway behind Wetherspoons. TW confirmed his team were responsible for the cleaning in this area so would pass on the request.

AB congratulated StreetScene on the excellent work over this summer.

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

ETC Staff Changes

CJ updated members that a new receptionist Samantha Dorman has started last week. Two Town Maintenance employees have been replaced, Peter Habgood started in June and Neil Burns started 2 weeks ago. A part time Climate Change officer Zoe Cooper will also be joining the team in Autumn.

PS wanted to pass on her thanks to the Town Maintenance Team for keeping the area so clean and keeping up with the watering at this challenging time.

CJ advised members that a lease has been signed to take on the compound area at Phear Park to be used as a depot for the Town Maintenance Team. Gates are currently being manufactured, flat packed storage containers are being delivered this week and water and electricity services will also be connected this week.

CJ confirmed that gazebos would be stored at the depot for community groups to hire.

Exmouth Transport Partnership

TD had not written any reports for the meeting but will distribute after the meeting via CJ.

BB asked if any update was available on the illegal parking of buses outside the swimming pool. TD confirmed that this has been brought up in previous meetings with Stagecoach representatives but as no response has been received the matter should be brought to the attention of County Councillors JT and RS to get involved. TD advised that it could also be reported to the highways officer at the next Exmouth Transport Partnership meeting.

TD hopes to have a response on the Levelling Up bid in the next couple of months.

Members discussed the issues with bus services being cancelled or delayed due to lack of drivers.

Placemaking in Exmouth Town and the Seafront Group (formerly named Queens Drive)

AB has attended all the workshops that Gerry Mills, EDDC project manager, held during June and July and although they were interesting AB was disappointed with the lack of public attendance. GM is holding a meeting on the 13th of September to discuss all matters brought up in the workshops.

AB confirmed that new bike racks have been installed at Queens Drive, Imperial Hotel and the seafront.

Hospital League of Friends

TS updated members that the work on the Geoffrey Willoughby ward is going ahead after an eight week delay due to patient relocation to the Doris Heard ward. The Hospital League of Friends will be holding a meeting in the next couple of weeks which will include a walk around the development. TS advised that a coffee morning will be held on the 7th of September to which all members are all invited.

Beach Wheelchair Project

PS confirmed that the project is in its fourth week and is extremely popular with people from all over the Southwest. Issues have arisen due to the service being free that sometimes people do not turn up to appointments and do not cancel which is not fair to the volunteers. PS suggested that a refundable booking charge may need to be applied if this issue continues.

Exmouth Community Association

GD advised that ECA have been getting involved in various projects such as the sewerage issues in Exmouth with other organisations. GD updated members that although they are not involved with the Douglas Garden proposals, they are interested in infrastructure issues that may be caused as a result.

GD confirmed that they will be focusing on the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan.

DP stated that he is not aware of any application being submitted for Douglas Gardens therefore this may be a publicity stunt to try and sell the idea for development. DP confirmed that this development was refused four years ago.

9. Any other business

No other business.

10. Next meeting 3rd October 2022

The meeting concluded at 12:01 pm