

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Exmouth Transport Partnership

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 27th September 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
Cllr Fred Caygill	FC	Exmouth Town Council
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 Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

Apologies

Cllr Eileen Beech	EB	Exmouth Town Council
George Shorters	GS	Exmouth Taxis Association
Dave Ovenden	DO	DCC Public Transport
John Colby	JC	ALRUG

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. To approve the notes of the meeting of 21st June 2022

TD requested a slight amendment to item 4 in the previous meeting notes in respect of the Tesco bus shelter, LG will amend the notes accordingly. PS proposed and OD seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 21st of June 2022. The meeting notes were approved.

PS confirmed more bike racks have been installed. JG will be looking at additional places, but the seafront and town centre will be prioritised as the first phase, JG will endeavour to put a list of favourable areas together and send to LB for landownership checks.

LB advised members that the motion to reduce the speed limit to 20mph along the seafront was not recommended at the last Full Council meeting as requests need to be agreed by County Councillors and LB was recently made aware that the deadline had passed for this year. LB spoke to County Councillor JT to query if the proposal could be put forward next year, but JT was uncertain if it would open again.

LB confirmed that DCC have used the report from the Newton Abbot trial to implement a scoring system, LB will circulate DCC supporting information and a link to the criteria for 20mph zones and restrictions to members after the meeting.

LB updated members that Devon and Cornwall police have trialled a speed watch in Exmouth which demonstrated that the average speed along the beach is just above 20mph.

LB was doubtful that Exmouth would meet the criteria and advised that out of 120 towns that put in a request only 3 were implemented.

LB urged members to study the criteria before any speed limit reductions are requested.

OD does not expect to get DCC support but hopes that data can be gathered to put forward a request next year. JG believes we should start campaigning anyway as it encourages cycling by making the roads safer for cyclists.

FC and OD discussed average speeds in the Avenue's and Exeter Road.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

No matters arose from the previous meeting.

4. Update on Bus Shelter improvements

PS was disappointed with the delays that have occurred and requested an update on the shelter damaged in the car accident on Exeter Road. LB confirmed that Fernbank have had issues getting the necessary permissions from DCC licencing but now have their own log in to the system to add applications which will speed up the process in the future. The shelter on Exeter Road will be replaced in October but all work will be carried out after hours to reduce traffic disruption.

TD queried where the shelter at the bottom of Pound Lane had been taken but no one knew the location or reason why the shelter had been removed. Members discussed the possibility of moving the Gipsy Lane shelter that is not used to Pound Lane, TD confirmed that a previous request was put in to move this shelter to Exeter Road, but it was refused as college students use the shelter. LB advised members that any cost involved in future relocation would probably need to be funded by ETC.

TD updated members that he read an article on living bee roofs and wondered if our roofs could be adapted for bees, JG will investigate which plants would be suitable.

LB will contact Fernbank to find out the timeline for rolling out the bus shelters.

5. To note the decisions and minutes of the East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee – Friday 22nd of July 10:30am

TD updated members that the main issue on the HATOC agenda with relevance to Exmouth is Foxholes parking, LB confirmed that the Campervan TAFF had previously asked for traffic orders to be put in place at Foxholes for additional yellow lines, but HATOC did not initially support this and it had been put on hold pending further enquiries. PS and OD discussed the parking of campervans in Foxholes and OD advised that he had not seen any campervans parked in this area.

OD queried the 30mph limit at Buckerell being extended, LB was unaware of the criteria involved and requested that OD investigate this further to enable ETC to look at specific areas to put forward in Exmouth. LB confirmed that we would need someone who understands the traffic criteria in order to put areas forward. FC advised that data quoted at Liverton was old data so when looking at criteria up to date data should be used in future.

6. Update on Levelling Up and GWR CCIF bid

LB advised that no updates were available on the Levelling Up bid and confirmed that although the submission was delayed due to a portal crash it has now been submitted.

LB updated members that the CCIF grant bid process via GWR was reopened and a bid was submitted in June in nearly the same format as the 2017 bid apart from updated costs being included. Prior to submission LB discussed the bid with DCC to make sure it would not undermine the Levelling Up bid. LB advised members that an email was received at the end of July to confirm that the bid had been unsuccessful, however the bid could be kept on a project/reserve list in case another project fell through. Since any work included in the project would need to be completed by March 2023, it was decided that due to time frames involved and lack of capacity it would not be feasible to be put on the list at this time. If the grant bid opens next year, it will be reviewed at that point. LB advised members that 300 applications were submitted.

7. Stakeholder Reports

a) ALRUG (TJ)

TJ was disappointed that a representative from GWR was not present at the meeting but confirmed that staffing issues are now under control however the elderly fleet has caused issues with failures on the branch line. TJ updated members that additional diagrams are due to be brought down from Reading in December but as no training has taken place it is unlikely this will happen. The elderly signalling system at Exeter is causing issues with cancellations and delays and trains have been turned at Topsham with no valid reason.

PS raised concerns that during peak times only 2 carriages have been available which has resulted in passengers being left on the platform as not enough room was available. TJ confirmed that during these busy periods 3 or 4 carriages should be in operation but due to the elderly fleet they are not lasting the day and are being replaced by 2 car trains.

TJ has alerted GWR to the need for space on trains for e-bikes as discussed in the previous meeting but has not yet received a response, so will make contact again.

b) Active Travel (OD)

OD shared a PowerPoint presentation to members on the benefits of a 20mph speed limit.

OD confirmed that the National Conference for 20's Plenty will be held in Oxfordshire Town Hall on the 20th of October 2022 at 10am. OD was keen for a DCC officer to attend with an ETC councillor. JP advised members that the application process to request 20mph limits is daunting and a blanket limit in Exmouth would reduce the amount of signage and poles required.

TD queried the accuracy of the population figures in the PowerPoint, OD advised that the figures quoted were from the 20's plenty website.

SC advised that 20mph limits are self-enforced by using speed cushions etc and would be implemented at a cost, although due to reduced budget they are mainly in place around schools. SC confirmed that if a 20 blanket limit was implemented throughout Exmouth speed cushions would need to be implemented where not currently in place at considerable cost that possibly ETC or EDDC could help fund. SC confirmed that all new estates have a 20mph limit and speed cushions are in place.

PS queried if a 20mph limit would be considered at the beach as speed humps and chicanes are already in place, SC confirmed that they are currently only looking at 20mph limits near schools so the beach would not be considered. PS raised concerns over the safety at the beach during peak season with high traffic volumes which becomes very dangerous. TD confirmed that he would investigate further areas to be put forward for speed restrictions between now and the next meeting.

LB circulated a link to the DCC 20mph limit criteria and asked members to look at the scoring system. LB was doubtful that a blanket 20mph limit in Exmouth would be considered due to the costs involved and County Councillors would also need to support this. LB advised members to look at 3 or 4 areas where it could be implemented as this would tick boxes and be a firmer case.

JG was keen for a DCC or ETC representative to attend the 20's Plenty conference, SC advised that the senior leadership team within DCC have withdrawn all events from the 1st of October due to a budget deficit within DCC so he would not be able to attend. OD advised that he would be happy to attend the conference, PS proposed that OD attend with the ticket being funded by ETC, TD seconded, and members agreed that OD will attend the conference.

SC urged members to look at the Bristol Council website re speed restrictions and confirmed would send a link to members after the meeting. LB explained the difference between 20mph speed limits and 20mph zones.

c) DCC Public Transport (DO)

There was no DCC Public Transport representative at this meeting, DO provided the following report prior to the meeting –

Plans are being made to improve bus stop facilities over the next couple of years which should be of benefit to bus users in Exmouth.

Stagecoach will be making some alterations to some bus services in Exmouth from the 31st of October 2022 which involve some re-tendering of services. DO is not yet able to announce outcomes but will send an update so this can be circulated amongst members as this will have some impact on a few bus services. In the meantime, DCC have used some section 106 funding to ensure a service on the 95 continues Monday to Friday throughout the winter. Normally the open top service to Sandy Bay via Littleham only operates between March and November, but a service (using a closed top vehicle) will continue through the winter.

DP updated members on the following services –

- 56 service may stop being an airport service however the service may possibly be re-tendered as Stagecoach have re-tendered in other areas
- 98 will stay the same
- 5 will carry on with a reduced service
- 57 stay the same

TD advised that it was reported in the national bus press that top management changes have taken place after the enquiry carried out in respect of the overturned bus in Totnes. TD was disappointed that a Stagecoach representative did not attend the meeting and will make contact to ascertain the reason for non-attendance.

FC queried why the Sandy Bay bus uses the Avenues as a route and not the main Salterton Road. FC was also concerned about the speed in which buses travel, TD will report this public safety matter to Stagecoach.

d) Taxis (GS)

There was no Taxi representative at this meeting, but GS provided the following report prior to the meeting –

EDDC are still considering the request for fare increases and GS hopes to have a resolution by November 2022.

8. Any Other Business

FC updated members that CCTV will be installed at the Strand facing the taxi rank and has requested that the road markings for the taxi rank are remarked clearer and the no entry sign at the top of the road is highlighted.

9. To discuss if members wish to hold face to face meetings & dates of 2022 meetings

TD proposed a face-to-face meeting in December and zoom thereafter, members were in favour, it was agreed that the next meeting will be face to face.

Next meeting – 13th of December 2022

The meeting closed at 12:21