

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 3rd October 2022 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FCu	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Community Association
Peter Crofts	PC	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Note-taker)

Apologies

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Nicky Nicholls	NN	Transition Exmouth
Rev Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Simon Kennedy	SK	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Tom Wood	TW	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)

1. Welcome and apologies

PS welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

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

Members agreed the accuracy of the notes from the meeting dated 27th of June 2022.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

AT requested an update on the Climate Officer vacancy, LB confirmed that Zoey Cooper will start on the 1st of November 2022, working 3 days a week, primarily based at the Town Hall and provided a brief description of the job role. AT queried if ZC would be invited to be a member of COLP; LB stated that it would depend on which days ZC works.

PS reminded members that the Town Council's Civic Service will be held on the 8th of October and all councillors are invited.

LB confirmed that the Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group (consultative meeting) that was previously cancelled has been re-scheduled for the 10th of October 2022 at 10am via Zoom as confirmed on the EDDC website.

4. Update on the Developing Local Plan and proposed development sites in Exmouth

LB updated members that the final version of the draft Local Plan will be discussed at East Devon's Strategic Planning Committee meeting on the 1st of November 2022 and the consultation period will be open between the 7th of November 2022 and the 21st of December 2022. LB urged members to look at the updated site preferences for Exmouth as there have been some changes to the preferred development sites. In total 1033 houses are currently proposed across various sites in Exmouth; with 1.5% of the total allocation for the district in tier 1 settlements and 7.9% in tier 2 settlements. LB confirmed that a total of 18847 have been allocated across the district of which Exmouth will potentially need to accommodate 1033.

LB confirmed that ETC is a statutory consultee for the Local Plan process but individual chapters of the Plan will likely be considered by the relevant working parties. Also, the proposed consultation website will be using new software called Common Place which will include links to plans as well as a succinct summary of themes and issues.

BB queried whether the Douglas Gardens site is within the built-up area boundary. LB confirmed that the site is currently outside the built-up area boundary but that the proposed development site is now a preferred site which suggests that the boundary might change or that the development meets exception criteria. BB also queried where capacity issues relating to SWW infrastructure might be referenced and LB advised BB to look at the chapter on infrastructure. LB urged members to look at the EDDC Strategic Planning site for any updates.

DR commented that he was unsure if ample time has been allowed to respond to the consultation. GD agreed that 6 weeks is a short space of time. LB advised that Strategic Planning meetings are streamed live and that the working documents for the Local Plan can be seen on the EDDC website for which LB will send links to members.

5. Street Scene Update

PC introduced himself to members and advised that he became the Area Officer on the 15th of August 2022.

PC confirmed that winter hours are now operating between 8am and 3pm and the public toilets will be open between 8am and 7pm. The toilets at Orcombe Point and the Maer are now closed for the winter period and will reopen on the 31st of March 2023.

PC advised that the sand around the beach wheelchair storage unit has been removed and the cleansing of the walkway behind Wetherspoons has been completed. PS confirmed that a snagging list has been sent to TW as a result of the last Waterfront working party walk-about where multiple issues along the beach were noted. DR raised concerns about the hazardous railings next to RNLI, BB confirmed that the railings at Gunfield Gardens are also dangerous. PC will liaise with TW regarding these issues.

PC updated members that a non-chemical weed killing system that uses boiling water and 5% foam is now being trialled by EDDC, it is mounted on a small truck with a 60

metre hose and takes 2 people to operate. LB confirmed that ETC are responsible for weeds in lots of areas around Exmouth although they use a weed ripping machine. AT queried how weeds were differentiated from flowers. LB advised that there are identified special verges in Exmouth for wildflowers which are left to grow naturally. LB informed members that most weed clearing is mainly on the concrete highway. PC suggested dual ownership of the non-chemical weed killing truck with ETC. LB will liaise with Chetna to see if this is of interest.

AT confirmed that an electric cargo bike will be given to the Camperdown Terrace depot to trial.

GS raised concerns about the waste containers in the walkway outside Wetherspoons. PC advised he will investigate this further to see if they are authorised to use the walkway.

AT thanked Street Scene for removing the barrier on the Phear Park cycle path.

6. To note the recommendation from the Town Council's Planning Committee regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Devoncourt Hotel

Concerns were raised that the development encroached on the EDDC car park which would have an impact on the amount of public parking spaces available. LB has been in contact with Tim Childs at EDDC who confirmed that EDDC have not given permission for the use of their land.

LB stated that Members had raised concerns over whether the development was appropriately marketed and infrastructure capacity. Neighbourhood Plan policies EN5 and EN6 were cited within the objection.

DR was concerned that community groups had not been notified of the development plans as part of a pre-application consultation event at Ocean. GD stated the consultation was not published very well although resident groups publicised this via social media. LB confirmed that over 100 representations have been received via the EDDC portal.

7. To note that the final version of the Devon Carbon Plan has been launched

LB urged members to look at the quick read version of the Devon Climate Emergency Plan.

8. To note that EDDC has published a Tourism Strategy for East Devon

LB confirmed that Exmouth Town Council has not been noted as a stakeholder but has sought assurance that the Town Council can be included. She urged members to read the Tourism Strategy for East Devon and said that she will update members on any new developments.

PS was concerned that public toilet closures would have a negative impact on tourism.

BB was surprised that Lypstone Manor is cited as an ambassador as they continue to run a glamping business without the prerequisite planning permission. LB will email EDDC for an update.

9. To note that EDDC has published a draft framework policy for the use of off-street carparks by campervans and motorhomes

LB confirmed that recommendations from EDDC list several car parks that are possibly suitable for overnight use by campervans and motorhomes, including the lorry park (estuary car park). LB stated that the issue is complicated due to the definition of campervans as per the DVSA definitions and the fact that some people permanently live in converted vans which haven't been reclassified. This makes the enforcement regime difficult. LB advised that EDDC is however looking at a potential charging scheme and discussing rates and when/ where overnight parking by motorhomes and campervans might be allowed. EDDC is also hoping to take on another civil enforcement officer.

BB queried that if EDDC run the campervan/motorhome parking as a business, would they legally need to supply toilet facilities? LB commented that she wasn't sure but that certain sites such as micro sites do not need to supply facilities. LB urged members to read the report for more information.

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

TD supplied the following reports in his absence, which LB read out to members:

Exmouth Transport Partnership

Our recent ETP meeting again was not attended by either Stagecoach or GWR. A letter will be written to Stagecoach expressing current concerns. Since the meeting, we have had confirmation that they are making many changes across Devon, including extensive change to the 56 and 56B/E routes serving Littlemead, Byron Way, Woodbury, Higher Lympstone and Exeter airport. Exmouth is losing its direct link to the airport. We had a long discussion about practical ways of extending areas with 20mph limits, or zones in town, and we are sending a Councillor to attend a national one day conference on the 20's Plenty theme.

Plastic Reduction

Plastic Free Exmouth (PFE) group have reported that Exmouth has now achieved Plastic Free Community status, awarded by Surfers against Sewage. We join Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary locally in holding it. Many congratulations to all concerned! Today is the launch of the latest water refill station, at Foxholes. Again, many thanks to all involved, including CJ, our Deputy Clerk, PFE, CC and others at EDDC.

Trees

FCu and I are attending another launch, on Wednesday, this time at Coombe Farm just outside Exmouth's boundary, in Lympstone. The Woodland Trust are publicly launching their flagship tree planting and ecological conservation venture. This is a very important project, sited here because it is the 50th anniversary of the Trust, which started in Devon, and because of the absolute necessity of conserving our ecological heritage and biodiversity. Exmouth Town Council have given support to the project from its early stages. Brilliant work, all concerned - I know the Trust would welcome any keen volunteers to work on the many projects there.

Waterfront

PS confirmed that the festoon lights are partly up. LB will speak to CJ about Mamhead slipway as it seems that there are no control boxes located there now.

PS updated members that the pipe under the RNLI ramp is exposed again. GS confirmed that there has been lots of sand movement and there is a build up at Orcombe Point. LB stated that the Environment Agency's position regarding this matter is that sand loss cannot be put down to specifically to the works at Dawlish Warren for example as there are multiple influencing factors and the Environment Agency will only intervene if it poses a risk to life or property. GS stated that all the groins have disappeared at Orcombe Point which has brought more people onto that area of beach. Members discussed sand movement further.

11. Any other business

BB requested that LB notes that the illegal parking of buses at LED is still an ongoing issue.

LB confirmed that the Community Resilience plan is currently being updated.

AT updated members that in the context of proposals to temporarily close the Withycombe Post office, he has researched post box requirements which states that there must be a post box within 800 metres from your house. PS confirmed that Exmouth has 40 post boxes.

12. Next meeting 28th November 2022

The meeting concluded at 11:25 am