

## **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Festival and Events Working Party**

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 via zoom

#### **Present**

Cllr Joy Whipps (Chair)	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Frank Cullis	FCu	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Cherry Nicholas	CN	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Eileen Beech	EB	Exmouth Town Council
Charlie Tapp	CT	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council

#### **Apologies**

Cllr Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Trevor Huggons	TH	Festival Volunteer

#### **1. Welcome, introductions and apologies (JW)**

JW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

#### **2. To approve the notes from the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and matters arising (JW)**

The notes from the previous meeting were approved.

TH sent apologies prior to the meeting along with his letter of resignation from the working party which LG shared with members. JW proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to TH.

➤ **Action: LG will arrange for a letter of thanks to be sent**

#### **3. To discuss the Exmouth Festival 2023 (CT)**

CT confirmed that following the Full Council meeting details of the 2023 festival have been publicised. This resulted in mixed responses including some negative feedback.

FCu and OD discussed the positive and negative feedback received from members of the public, CT advised that other festivals within Devon with big headliners were charging £40-£50 per night, feedback from the survey suggested that people would not be willing to pay that amount.

CT updated members with the 2023 festival strategy –

- Bring in new partners to work over multiple sites
- Family programmes
- Open air cinema night
- Bring back the Art Trail
- A celebration of the work done repainting the graffiti on the beach (Abode of Love)

- Partnering with someone on the music side
- Community partners

CT was keen for certain areas around Exmouth to have designated activities and suggested the following –

- The Strand – Festival Hub – Community Stage - Craft Market – Walkabout Performers
- Manor Gardens – Family Friendly Area (until about 8-9pm)

CT has spoken to Grapevine/Spoken and Olly is looking into the possibility of hiring the carpark behind Lloyds Bank for bands to perform.

CT updated members that Bumble and Bee are keen to host the largest cream tea party in the Manor Gardens on the Sunday with jazz music playing during the event. This event would be overseen by a representative of the Guinness Book of Records who would facilitate the record attempt. To break the record, they would need to cater for around 1300 people charging a small fee of around £5 per cream tea. CT will look at the capacity in the Manor Gardens and speak to EDDC. JW suggested that if the Manor gardens cannot accommodate the cream tea event it could be held along the seafront opposite the Pavilion, OD also suggested Bath Road.

CT is looking into the possibility of holding a cinema event with a dinosaur theme, related films such as Jurassic Park could be shown. Queens's Drive is a location that would be most suitable as it has the capacity for a large screen to be displayed and CT is keen for fancy dress to be encouraged keeping in line with the theme. OD mentioned using the cinema in town if Queen's Drive was not viable.

CT confirmed that the press release resulted in 65 expression of interest enquiries which included interest from Sideshore, Plastic Free Exmouth, local bands and traders.

OD & EB discussed local musicians and venues that would be suitable for the festival, CT suggested that the Barefoot Bandits could host an evening of music on the beach.

FCu requested age appropriate events for teenagers possibly at the skatepark, CT confirmed that she is looking into holding events in Phear Park such as Sound Communities which teach music and King Ramps which provide demonstrations and workshops for skateboards and BMX's.

CT advised that Grapevine has suggested partial road closures on Victoria Road and Chapel Hill to help with the festival feel, members were all in favour of road closures.

EB wanted local pop bands to be included in the Manor Gardens line up and reminded members that local residents will need to be notified of the event.

JW queried the no alcohol policy in the Manor Gardens unless special permission is given, CT confirmed whoever runs the bar will be the premises licence holder which we will specify when we apply for the licence.

FCu suggested that as the Manor Gardens music will finish earlier people could go to local pubs for late night bands but queried if the pubs would charge an entrance fee, CT stated that the Town Council could pay for the bands as pubs should be discouraged from charging during the festival period. OD confirmed that it was rare for pubs to charge for entry, but we should provide a list of bands that are on in the pubs over the festival period, so they are available for the public.

CT has looked into the idea of having large inflatables coming out of the Town Hall, these inflatables are supplied by Designs in Air.

#### **4. To discuss the Winter Festival 2022**

CT confirmed that the event application has been submitted to EDDC and the stage has been booked through Waggle Events.

CT provided members with an itinerary of the festival entertainment and confirmed that the Indoor Market will provide a Santa's Grotto.

CT has sent a letter to all the local businesses in the hope that they will stay open late as no stalls will be in place but has only heard back from 2 local pubs. CT will walk around the local businesses to enquire into this further and will look into the possibility of market stalls for next year if we can collaborate with EDDC.

CT has signed up to the group light up window wanderland which allows homes, businesses, schools, and organisations to decorate and light up their windows. Once windows have been decorated photos are uploaded onto the website which produces a digital map so that people can view or walk around the trail of window displays.

CT raised concerns about the lantern parade route as Spark who will be leading the parade need a wider path, CT suggested starting at Pavilion Road, up Bath Road and through Manor Gardens. CJ advised that previously the route started at Gunfield Gardens then along Madeira Walk but this was too windy for the lanterns and Madeira Walk was very dark, so the route was changed. Members discussed alternative routes and the possibility of rigging up lights where required, CT will look into alternative routes.

CT confirmed that this year community groups will also take part in the lantern parade and an additional 30 kits have been ordered which will be available at Seadog Arts.

#### **5. Any other business (All)**

CT updated members that Creative Exmouth's first event was held at Propeller with about 30 creative and cultural people attending. OD who attended the event confirmed that it was inspiring with all the artists/creative people who took part. CT hopes these events will be continued in the future; JW urged members to take part in the next event.

EB requested that the next meeting is moved to an earlier start time of 2.30pm so that she can attend, all members agreed.

#### **6. Date of next meeting**

10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 @ 2.30pm

The meeting ended at 14:50