

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Public Rights of Way Working Party

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 4pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Present

Bruce de Saram	BdS	ETC & EDDC Councillor, Chair
Olly Davy	OD	ETC & EDDC Councillor
Eileen Beech	EB	ETC Councillor
Andrew Toyne	AT	ETC Councillor
Heath Nickels	HN	P3 Co-Ordinator
Ross Hussey	RH	Footpaths Volunteer
Elizabeth Deasy	ED	TARA
Jan Gannaway	JG	Active Travel Exmouth & Sustrans
John Petty	JP	Active Travel Exmouth & Exmouth Community Association
Sam Jeffcoat	SJ	DCC PROW Warden for Exmouth
Chetna Jones	CJ	ETC Deputy Town Clerk
Lisa Greenway	LG	ETC Note-taker
Chris Woodruff	CW	Guest speaker representing AONB

### Apologies

None

#### 1. To elect a Chair

EB proposed and AT seconded that BdS be re-elected as Chair of this working party. No further nominations were received. Members were asked to vote, and BdS was duly recommended as Chair.

#### 2. Welcome and Apologies

Bds welcomed members and it was noted that no apologies had been received.

#### 3. To confirm and approve the notes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

HN proposed, EB seconded, the accuracy of the notes from the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 which were approved.

#### 4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

##### a) Footpath 11

RH raised concerns with EA about footpath 11 by the Estuary and Carter Avenue as he believed re-surfacing was required, although EA did not agree they have since added additional gravel.

#### 5. To note, for information purposes only, the temporary diversion to address road safety aspects of the section of the East Devon Way along Higher Marley Road and the B3179

CJ introduced CW the AONB representative.

CW updated members that safety issues have been raised with East Devon Way which has resulted in a change of route as a temporary measure while they come up with a longer-term solution. The Town Clerk and Planning officer have been made aware of this and will keep an eye on it.

CW displayed the route to members and stated that Devon County Councillors have expressed concerns although explained that it is not a permanent diversion but offers an alternative route allowing safer access out of Exmouth to the pebble bed heaths.

CW wants to explore possibilities going forward as it has been difficult finding alternative routes and there is a possibility that AONB will have funding available for future projects.

EB questioned CW as to whether the temporary diversion was mainly on roads or footpaths and was it clearly sign posted, CW confirmed that it is well signed and mainly on footpaths with only a small section on the road.

JG advised that East Devon Ramblers are concerned that nothing can be done with Upper Marley Road with the temporary path through the wooded area. CW has contacted Nutwell Estates regarding the wooded area who said they would raise this issue with trustees, but they have not got back to him so there has been no progress as they did not respond.

JG queried if a small narrow section could be acquired as a compulsory purchase and if CIL money could be used to put a footpath along the side of the wooded area, CJ advised it would need to go through the CIL/S106 W/P to investigate the possibility and confirmed a compulsory purchase would need to be done by EDDC.

- **Action: CJ will speak to LB to see if this can be added to the next CIL/S106 W/P agenda.**

**6. To note that payment of £1500 has been received to assist with work on the paths in the parish in particular the resurfacing of FP9, a well-used urban footpath linking the housing areas with the popular Exmouth – Exeter bus route**

BdS congratulated everyone involved. SJ updated members that he is looking into a tarmac path rather than stone and has approached a tarmac contractor for a price which he should have by next week. SJ suggested that the funds received by Exmouth Town Council could be added towards the cost of adding tarmac to FP9.

- **Action: CJ to hold off work on FP9 until SJ confirms whether he has arranged the tarmac.**

**7. Update from the P3 Co-ordinator on the current state of footpaths (HN)**

HN provided members with the following updates:

a) Footpath 7 needs attention as the runoff from Douglas Avenue is eroding the path.

- **Action: SJ will investigate this next week**

b) Footpath 12 gate at the end near Summer Lane needs attention.

- **Action: SJ will investigate this to see if a new gate is required.**

HN confirmed that all work discussed in the previous meeting has been completed and all other footpaths are ok. RH enquired as to whether footpath 11 from Carter Park to the Lorry Park would receive any improvements as the stone could do with compacting. SJ advised that he would look at the path and although finances are tight if access is easy work can be arranged in the next couple of weeks.

SJ updated members that he will be looking at linear cracks and standing water on the cycleway. ED informed SJ that the sign has fallen on footpath 7, SJ confirmed he would reinstall the sign.

## **8. Update from DCC Public Rights of Way warden (SJ)**

SJ advised members that a full inspection has not been completed but provided the following update:

- a) New tarmac patch work is being carried out today on the cycleway between Littleham Road and Capel Lane.
- b) The bollard on the cycleway at Phear Park towards Bradham Lane has been removed.
- c) Footpath 9 – considering tarmac instead of stones.
- d) The cycleway near Phear Park requires more white repeater signage and tactile paving will be re-laid.
- e) Footpath 1 that starts at the rear of the car park at Foxholes is in a poor state so next week contractors will scrape away dirt to see if the tarmac is useable for patching or replacing entirely.
- f) If funding is available tarmac repairs can start on the coast path near Budleigh Salterton as cracks are showing, with a view to moving the path further inland. SJ will speak to the landowner and EDDC prior to any work starting.

HN advised that the coastal path area needs urgent attention before it falls away. OD queried if a different contractor would be used for the cracks on cycle path as previous work carried out by a specialist resulted in an uneven path. SJ confirmed that a local contractor will be used, and cement will be applied for a smooth flat surface.

## **9. Any other business**

JP queried if there was any progress on the Bapton Valley Park, CJ confirmed that this has gone back to EDDC as landowners who will produce a report although this has been delayed due to staffing issues, District Councillors have been chasing this.

## **10. Next meeting**

HN was keen for the next meeting (date TBC in February 2023) to be face to face, CJ highlighted that this may result in low attendance by key partners/stakeholders due to time constraints and the need to travel to Exmouth. Members discussed hybrid meetings and the IT constraints within the Town Hall and CJ advised that due consideration will be given by the Council on the matter. OD thanked SJ for FP 9 and CJ asked that thanks also be passed to Ros Davies.

The meeting closed at 16:51