



EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2022



A Christmas Message from the Mayor

Councillor Steve Gazzard

The Town Council has been extremely active this year working on important issues such as climate change and community resilience. Our Maintenance Team have been working hard around the town weeding, watering and cutting back overgrown brambles and branches.

Exmouth is still a very popular place for people to visit and stay for holidays and we look forward to welcoming visitors during the festive season. A highlight of this time of year is the Christmas Day swim, which is used by individuals to raise money for so many charities. The Exmouth Festival is always a key event of the year and this year was no exception. The event draws in people from all over the country and we are so lucky to have such dedicated staff and an enthusiastic team of volunteers who help to make the event such a success each year.

As Mayor, this year has been extremely busy. To date I have attended over 100 events and I have thoroughly enjoyed every single one! Starting in May with the official opening of The Welcome Centre, I have visited many voluntary organisations, youth groups and clubs, opening Exmouth Festival and the Christmas Lights switch-on, attended various openings/ reopening of new and existing businesses. I was also lucky enough to have visited The Commando Training Centre in Lympstone again this year.

I would like to thank my Deputy, Councillor Alex Sadiq, Exmouth Town Crier Roger Bourgein and my wonderful Mayor Consort Diane Love for their help and support with events this year.



It was a great honour and privilege to be elected again as the Mayor of Exmouth in May of this year. I have dedicated this to my late children, Sean and Sarah, as without their belief in me I would not have stood for election 20 plus years ago!

As winter chills come and the nights draw in, I would encourage people to care for their family, friends and neighbours and provide them with the help and support that they may need so they are not on their own during the festive season

2022 has brought its challenges, but it has shown us the power of community, so I want to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank everybody living and working in Exmouth for sticking together during the tough times associated with lockdown and financial hardship.

At this special time of year, on behalf of Exmouth Town Council Councillors and Staff, I would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Meet our new Climate Officer

Hello I'm Zoey, ETC's new Climate and Ecological Emergency Resilience Officer! I joined the team at the beginning of November and am quickly getting to know Exmouth - its people, places and culture.

As you might expect, I'm passionate about sustainability. I love nature, am a keen walker, less-enthusiastic cyclist and very amateur bird watcher. But most of all, I'm keen to do what I can to help residents and businesses in Exmouth confront, tackle and adapt to the climate and ecological emergency.

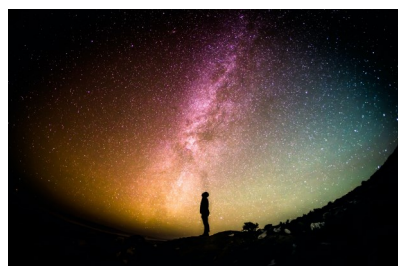
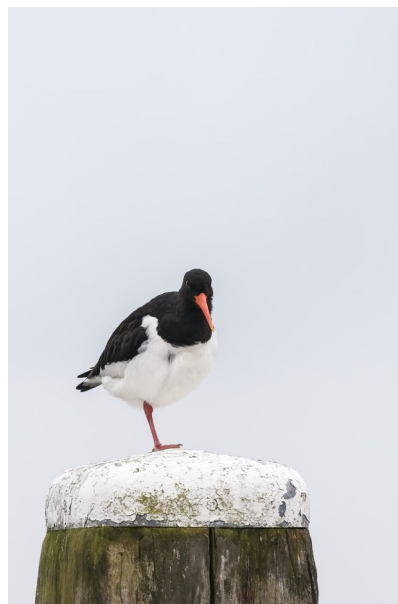
It's wonderful to see the good climate work already taking place in Exmouth - most of the current ten-point climate action plan has already been achieved! But there is always much more we can do, and so I'm looking forward to working with partner organisations and local community groups to update and expand on these activities.

With the support of our Committees, Working Parties and Councillors, I'll be developing a climate plan for Exmouth to promote and implement sustainable solutions. And I'll be aligning with East Devon District and Devon County councils' climate and ecological work.

If you haven't seen them yet, check out our suggestions on FB, Twitter and Instagram for a more environmentally friendly Christmas. And don't forget to share your top tips with us.

The climate and ecological emergency can feel overwhelming at times, but, in the words of a young climate activist I met at the weekend, from his poem "Think":

Think "How can I help?"
Think "How can I take part?"
Think "Together we can fix this"



Visioning a future for Exmouth

Inspired by Rob Hopkins's book "From What Is To What If", and after I attended an excellent online session (Imagining Your Communities) from Harry Bonnell ([Devon Communities Together](#)), our CEE (Climate and Ecological Emergency) Working Party has supported the idea of a visioning session in the new year.

As a community, we are going to "harness the power of our imagination" to create the future we want for Exmouth. Details regarding initial stakeholders, community engagement, process and timings are still to be worked out, but we agreed in principle to think big and think long term! How do we want Exmouth to look, sound, feel, smell – even taste – in 2040?!

We are creating a vision for Exmouth to help everyone get on the same page. Imagining our future helps build empathy and hold together lots of elements in a collaborative way. Imagining also helps us to realise that a lot of things we wish for are actually within our reach. What's more, using creativity frees parts of our brain, helps us get to know each other better – and is a lot of fun!

More on this – and how you can get involved – in the New Year.

Draft Local Plan Consultation

The ten-week consultation for a new Local Plan for East Devon will end on Sunday 15th January 2023.

The Plan will ensure that development is regulated across the District and aims to allocate 1033 new homes and 6.6 hectares of land for employment in Exmouth.

Residents can visit East Devon District Council's Commonplace consultation web site to get involved and have your say here: [Have Your Say Today - East Devon Local Plan - Commonplace](#)

The need for a further new town, with up to 8,000 new homes, is also being considered due to planning constraints associated with Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, flood risk and the need to protect natural habitats across the District. Three possible locations have been proposed for the new community, including a favoured option on land between the A30 and the A3052, to the north and east of Westpoint.

The Local Plan Evidence Base and Supporting Documents are available here: [commonplace-reg-18-final-071122.pdf \(eastdevon.gov.uk\)](#)

The Town Council will be responding in due course and encourages all residents to engage in the process by submitting your views to the District Council via the Commonplace consultation web site. You can also contact your ward Councillor for East Devon if you have specific concerns about the emerging Local Plan:

[Who is my councillor? - East Devon](#)

Cutting waste at Christmas

Christmas is a time when our consumption and waste reach a peak! Read on to find out how to enjoy the festivities for less money and more care for the environment. (Find us on [Facebook Page](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) for more advice- see final page for inks.)

Christmas trees – If you have an artificial Christmas tree, use it again rather than buy a new one. Use LED fairy lights and remember to turn them off when you go to bed! If you get a cut tree, please put it out for EDDC to collect and mulch down. Check their [website](#) for dates.

Flowers – Out of season cut-flowers are costly to the environment, usually flown over from Africa or grown in Europe in heated greenhouses. Instead, plant hyacinths, cyclamen, amaryllis or narcissi in a pot, to flower soon.

Decorations – Make your own decorations by foraging in the park for seed heads, berries, fir cones, holly. This [gardening site](#) is good for inspiration. (www.gardensillustrated.com)

Christmas dinner – Try a smaller turkey to reduce cooking time and energy. Choose seasonal British vegetables. Try to only cook what you need, and turn leftovers into meals for the rest of the week. [BBC Good Food](#) has 46 ideas for leftover turkey!

Presents – At least one in five presents is unwanted and thrown out. How about giving experiences rather than gifts? Or small value and/or home-made gifts? Or an offer of a kind deed, a walk in nature, a cup of tea and a chat, or a cycle along the Exe trail?

Cards and wrapping – Paper-making has a high environmental cost in terms of deforestation, and consumes huge amounts of water and energy. Cut down on cards and use recycled (and recyclable) wrapping paper. Avoid metallic or sparkly paper and glitter.

A guide to the Environment Agency's free coastal flood warning service for Exmouth: What are they and what do they do?

Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme's construction completed earlier this year. It comprises walls, embankments and flood gates. The defences were designed to reduce the likelihood of tidal flooding at Exmouth: from a 4% chance of happening at any time to 0.5%. It's impossible for any flood defence to eliminate the risk of flooding completely, because there's a small chance they could be overtopped or breached. That's why the Environment Agency encourages residents and businesses at Exmouth to register for the local coastal flood warning service. Sign up for free coastal flood warnings for Exmouth. Call 0345 9881188 or sign up online: www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings



FLOOD ALERT

What does it mean? - Flooding is possible. Be prepared

When is it used? - Two hours to two days in advance of flooding.

What triggers this - Forecasts of high tides, surges or strong winds.

What impacts can be seen on the ground? Spray or wave over-topping on the coast. Mamhead Slipways' flood gates will be closed. Flooding on fields, recreation land and car parks. Flooding of minor roads and farmland.

Advice to the public/media - Be prepared to act on your flood plan.

Prepare a flood kit of essential items.

Avoid walking, cycling or driving through floodwater

Farmers should consider moving livestock and equipment away from areas likely to flood

Operational actions - East Devon District Council (EDDC) to close Mamhead Slipway flood gates.



FLOOD WARNING

What does it mean? Flooding is expected. Immediate action required

When is it used? Half an hour to one day in advance of flooding

What triggers this? High tides, surges coupled with strong winds.

What impacts can be seen on the ground? Flooding of roads with major impacts, Flooding of homes and businesses, Flooding of rail infrastructure, Extensive flood plain inundation (including caravan parks or campsites),

Flooding of major tourist/recreational attractions. Significant waves and spray on the coast, As a minimum, the following flood gates will be closed: Pedestrian flood gate at Imperial Hotel, Pedestrian flood gates at Morton Crescent, Western vehicle access gate at Morton Crescent, Sliding vehicle gate opposite Cavendish Hotel, Additional flood gates at Exmouth may be closed*

Advice to the public/media Protect yourself, your family and help others. Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place. Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so. Put property flood resilience equipment in place. Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 for up to date information.

Operational actions EDDC will close Morton Crescent's western vehicle access gate

EDDC will close the sliding vehicle gate opposite Cavendish Hotel

Nominated trained volunteers will close all thirteen pedestrian flood gates along Morton Crescent (checked by EDDC)

Imperial Hotel will close their pedestrian access gate (checked by EDDC)

*Environment Agency will be considering whether highway flood gates on the seafront and flood gates at Camperdown Slipway and Exe Sailing Club need to be closed: depending on whether a critical range of pre-defined tide levels, wind, surge and wave conditions are forecast to coincide

Environment Agency sends bespoke, targeted operational messages to flood gate volunteers and East Devon District Council to advise which tidal flood gates need to be closed. Emergency responders, including RNLI will also be notified for awareness.



**SEVERE FLOOD
WARNING**

What does it mean? Severe flooding. Danger to life.

When is it used? When flooding poses a significant risk to life or significant disruption to communities

What triggers this ? Actual flooding where the conditions pose a significant risk to life and/or widespread disruption to communities. On-site observations from flooded locations. A breach in defences or failure of a barrier that is likely to cause significant risk to life. Discussions with partners.

What impacts can be seen on the ground? Deep and fast flowing water. Debris in the water causing danger. Potential or observed collapse of buildings and structures.

Communities isolated by flood waters. Critical infrastructure for communities disabled

Large number of evacuees. All tidal flood gates at Exmouth will be closed.

Advice to the public/media Stay in a safe place with a means of escape.

Be ready should you need to evacuate from your home.

Cooperate with the emergency services.

Call 999 if you are in immediate danger.

Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 for up to date information.

Operational actions Check flood response plans for actions required at this stage

Advise the public to put their safety first and to be ready to evacuate should the authorities decide it's needed.

Develop clear messages for local communities and the public.

**Warning no longer
in force**

What does it mean? No further flooding is currently expected for your area.

When is it used? When a Flood Warning or Severe Flood Warning is no longer in force.

What triggers this? Risk of flooding has passed.

Sea levels have dropped back below severe flood warning or flood warning levels

No further flooding is expected.

Professional judgment and discussions with partners agree that a severe flood warning status is no longer needed.

What impacts can be seen on the ground? No new impacts expected from flooding, however, there still may be:

Standing water following flooding.

Flooded properties.

Flooding or damaged infrastructure.

Advice to the public/media Be careful. Flood water may still be around for several days and be contaminated.

If you have been flooded, ring your insurance company as soon as possible.

Operational actions Recovery phase will have started.

Advise the public to call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 for advice on what to do if they have been affected by flooding.

Town Maintenance



Our town maintenance team have been very busy road weed clearing in the outlying areas of Exmouth, graffiti clearing, footpath clearing, grass cutting, cleaning and maintaining road signs and bus shelters as well as planting and watering flowerbeds around the town.

The team consists of Tony Slinn, Peter Habgood, Neil Burns and Stephen Greenway. If you see them out and about do say hello and let us know what you think of their work.

Here's what a recent post said "Well done to the team doing a great job cleaning the town. Engaged, happy, smiling, and loving their work. Great to see."



We celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with themes in some of our flowerbeds

Exmouth Town Council works closely with many community groups on projects which enhance our natural environment and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their help in achieving our mutual goals.

We have introduced an environmental policy and now maintain, with the help of community volunteers, several areas rich in wildlife and wildflowers. Again we thank all our volunteers who help maintain our town. We would love to hear about your environmental community project so please get in touch and share what you have been doing to look after our wonderful environment.

Congratulations to Jan Gannaway from Exmouth Wildlife Group, and one of amazing volunteers, for winning the “Outstanding Individual Award” at the Devon Wildlife Community of the Year Awards for her actions towards wildlife conservation.



CCTV for Exmouth

Exmouth Town Council commissioned a CCTV System just over a year ago, consisting of 10 re-deployable wireless cameras, seven of which are situated strategically around the centre of the town and, three on Exmouth Esplanade. This replaced the system installed over 30 years ago which ceased operating in April 2021, when EDDC withdrew its funds.

The previous system had reached the end of its useful life and even though it is not a statutory requirement for the Town (or District Council) to provide CCTV, Exmouth Town Council felt it was important to continue to have a system for Exmouth which would contribute to community safety.

The cameras used in the new system are made in the UK with UK manufactured parts, of high specification and are re-deployable meaning they can be relocated to new positions in the town if needed.

The £76,000 cost of this system has been funded by Exmouth Town Council with some of the costs offset by grants of £15,000 from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and £12,000 from Devon County Council’s Investing in Devon Programme.

We have had 16 Subject Access Requests from the Police to help with their investigations.

Going forward, Exmouth Town Council has commissioned Torbay Council to act as the Data Processor for the CCTV system and provide a monitoring service.

Winter Festival 2022

We were thrilled with the turn-out to this year's Christmas Lights Switch-on that saw hundreds of residents enjoying performances from local choirs, youth groups and illuminated walkabout performers. We were particularly excited to be joined by the international street theatre group Worldbeaters Music who performed their hit show Spark! in the Strand, before leading the children's Lantern Parade from the seafront into the town. We hope people will remember this spectacular performance for a long time to come!





Exmouth Town Council would like to thank Kings Garden Centre for the beautiful tree they donated for The Strand in Exmouth and to Appleton Event Photography for the great photos from the Winter Festival.

Exmouth Beach Wheelchair Service

After many delays due to the covid pandemic and with thanks to our wonderful supporters and Councillor Pauline Stott, we were delighted to finally launch our Beach Wheelchair Service from a purpose-built unit on Queens Drive, near the Lifeboat Station, this summer.

It was really heart-warming to see so many people taking advantage of the service during the hot summer months and we received some lovely feedback, including this message from one lady:

“Hello. This is just a quick note to say a huge thank you for the loan of the wheelchair yesterday. It was amazing having the opportunity for my daughter to go in the sea in such a relaxed way. She really enjoyed it, and even just being able to use the chair on the sand was a game changer for family visits to the beach.”

We are currently closed for the winter season but aim to re-open in April 2023, when we will again have a total of seven specially adapted chairs to loan out. The service is free of charge although donations are greatly welcomed.

Our online booking facility and availability calendar will be available from March 2023 at exmouth.gov.uk/beach-wheelchairs/

We also have volunteering positions available; if you are interested in becoming a volunteer and making a difference in Exmouth, please contact Mollie Carey at Exmouth Town Council on 01395 276167 or email beachwheelchairs@exmouth.gov.uk





Allotments;
Bus Shelters;
CCTV;
Dinosaurs;
Exmouth Festival & Arts;
Festive Lighting: Seafront & Christmas
Footpath maintenance;
Gorfin Hall & Jubilee Clock Tower;
Local Grants;
Local Information Notice Boards: Magnolia Kiosk & London Road Inn Car Park
Planning: General & Neighbourhood;
Supplementary Town Maintenance (e.g. drains, graffiti, litter, overgrowth, weeds)
Tourist Information Service.

If you need to speak to us about any of the above please contact us via our website www.exmouth.gov.uk or email us on reception@exmouth.gov.uk



Beaches & Seaside;
Benefits & Council Tax;
Community Safety;
Elections & Registering to Vote;
Environmental Maintenance & Dangerous Structures;
Food Hygiene & Safety;
Gardens, Parks & Recreation, Countryside, Trees, Memorial Benches & Cemeteries;
Housing & Homelessness;
Licensing (Events; Charity Collections, Pop-up Shops);
Litter, Graffiti & Fouling Clearance, Street Cleaning (Streetscene);
Local Information Notice Boards: Manor Gardens & LED Leisure Centre
Lost Animals;
Parking (public car parks);
Pest and Noise Control;
Planning & Building Control;
Public Toilets;
Recycling/Refuse (Kerbside) & Fly tipping reports
Regeneration of Exmouth.

If you need to speak to EDDC about any of the above please contact via their website www.eastdevon.gov.uk or email on csc@eastdevon.gov.uk



Adoption & Fostering;
Flyposting & Unauthorised Advertising;
Highways (road/pavement maintenance, e.g. drains, potholes, verges, gritting, traffic & streetlights; licensing for roadworks, skips, scaffolding, etc.)
Libraries & Archives;
Parking (on-road);
Parking Permits for Langerwehe & Victoria Ways businesses and 7-day-stays;
Public Transport, Blue Badges and Bus Passes;
Recycling Centres;
Registration Services (Births, Marriages, Deaths);
Residential Homes;
Rights of Way; Exe Estuary Trail, Foot/Cycle paths;
Schools & Youth Services;
Social Services (Care Direct; Family, Children & Carers Support; Independent Living)
Trading Standards;
Traffic Management;
Wildlife Guidelines.

If you need to speak to DCC about any of the above please contact via their website www.devon.gov.uk or email customer@devon.gov.uk



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