

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 26th January 2023 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 Eileen Beech	EB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Jess Magill	JM	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies: None

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies (JW)

JW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted that no apologies were received.

2. To approve the notes from the 8th December 2022 and matters arising (JW)

SG proposed and JW seconded the accuracy of the notes from the previous meeting with no matters arising.

3. Introduction to the new Arts Manager Jess Magill (JM)

JM introduced herself to members and confirmed she was settling in well.

4. To discuss the Exmouth Festival & proposed date change 21st – 24th July 2023 (JM)

JM advised members that she had reservations about the original date proposed as it was after the end of school term which may have impacted on the number of schools getting involved. JM received feedback from people potentially involved in the festival through the provision of art and entertainment stating that they would have less capacity during the original dates hence the proposed date change. JM updated members that EDDC have confirmed that the Strand and Manor Gardens are already booked for the new proposed dates so changing the date will no longer be an option.

JM provided members with the following updates:

- Waggle has been selected as the production company, they were highly recommended and put money back into local charities.
- Currently in conversation with EDDC licencing team about the Strand.
- Has met with Street Scene to discuss the land permissions, and everything is fine.

- A parade will take place on the opening Friday so is looking at potential route and will liaise with DCC regarding use of the roads.
- Discussions with security firms will take place to provide security for all three locations.
- The event management plan for each location is underway.

JM updated members that we should find out if we are successful with the arts council bid that was submitted just before Christmas by the end of February. JM confirmed that she attended a meeting with Simon from Sideshore to discuss financial assistance, they are happy to support financially once they have discussed it further with the trustees.

JM is currently putting together the bar tender document which will be on a smaller scale this year due to the location in the Manor Gardens. JW was not keen on a bar selling alcohol in the Manor Gardens as the area is a designated family area. LB advised that historically when the festival was held in the Manor Gardens others applied for a licence which raised security issues as we became responsible for keeping the public within the designated area. LB was concerned that if we did not provide a bar this would happen again. FCu agreed that a smaller bar is more appropriate and lower key for the Manor Gardens but wanted the bar size specified when the tender went out to prevent a large bar turning up.

SG queried if any stalls will be in the Manor Gardens, JM confirmed that food, craft, and good stalls will be situated there.

EB queried if the cinema would be in the rugby club grounds as she was worried that the festival would clash with users of the caravan club, LB advised that they can only operate a camp site for a certain number of days so hopefully this will not clash as the rugby club were consulted on the dates.

FCu queried if non plastic/glass cups would be specified on the tender, JM confirmed that she is speaking with the Climate & Ecological WP, and it will be part of the conditions that recyclable containers are used.

5. Any other business (All)

CJ recently attended the National Assembly, which was also attended by Bruno Peake the pageant master, although they are currently thinking about the Kings Coronation, not much information was available at the time. The King has advised that he does not want beacons lit for the coronation however CJ confirmed that next year will be the D-day celebrations so this would be an opportunity to light the beacon previously used for the Jubilee.

CJ advised that various parish councils were talking about how well the jubilee celebrations went. Small parish councils held fetes which worked well but these were difficult to arrange in larger town councils. Street parties are being encouraged as last year. The government agreed that to waive the street closure fee and hoped it will happen again this year.

CJ confirmed that some parishes are putting up large screens in village halls but was not sure if this would be suitable for a large town.

CJ will source environmentally friendly bunting once the colour/theme has been released for the coronation.

CJ confirmed that when more information is available for the coronation another National Assembly forum will be held to discuss the plans in more detail.

CJ asked members to consider purchasing trees to be planted by each local school as a coronation legacy.

CJ updated members that last year ETC applied for funding to install a mosaic bench in conjunction with the youth service as part of the Jubilee celebrations. Unfortunately ETC was not successful. However, the fund givers were very impressed with our project to work with the young people that the application was re-presented in different funding pots and eventually we successfully and received nearly £2000. As the funding was received after the jubilee it has been suggested that the theme be around the Coronation. CJ has spoken with SPACE about this and the youth service is keen to work with us on this project. CJ asked members for any ideas on where the bench could be located. JW and EB thought Manor Gardens would be a good location if Streetscene give permission. LB confirmed that the rainbow bench commissioned for Pride is located there too. CJ has a meeting with the youth service next week to find out when workshops could be arranged for the project to start and will promote this on social media to get young people involved.

CJ updated members that the palace has released the following plans for the coronation:

- Coronation at Westminster Abbey
- Sunday - Concert in the grounds of Windsor castle
- Sunday – The Big Lunch
- Monday – The Big Help-Out

FCu was keen on the idea of a big TV screen which allows everyone to congregate in one place, LB was concerned that this would cause capacity issues as the coronation weekend falls on the election weekend and as it would need an event management plan, stewards, and staff and was worried capacity would not be available. LB added that historically when a screen in the Strand was investigated, problems were raised with wind and light reflection so felt this would not be a good idea. OD agreed that a big screen is logistically difficult and although a lovely idea it would not be practical. If it rains it would not be of any use, and if it's sunny no one will see the screen. FCu and LB discussed other locations that could be used although LB advised that it may not be viable given the elections taking place.

EB queried if the funding received could be combined with the school tree planting in one place to look like a woodland area and ask young people what feature they would like to build with the funding. CJ stipulated that funding is for a bench only and as it is the same project, artists are already lined up and the bench will be made up of mosaic panels. CJ is looking into the Town Maintenance Team getting involved by making a simple bench and agreed that the Manor Gardens would work. LB reminded members that as we do not own any land, we would have to ask the landowners permission for a bench or trees to be planted.

6. Date of next meeting

23rd February 2023 @ 2pm

The meeting ended at 14:57