

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Public Rights of Way Working Party

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 4pm on Wednesday 8th February 2023

Present

Bruce de Saram	BdS	ETC & EDDC Councillor, Chair
Olly Davy	OD	ETC & EDDC Councillor
Eileen Beech	EB	ETC Councillor
Andrew Toye	AT	ETC Councillor
Steve Gazzard	SG	ETC & EDDC Councillor
Heath Nickels	HN	P3 Co-Ordinator
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

Apologies

Ross Hussey RH Footpaths Volunteer

1. Welcome and Apologies

BdS welcomed members and apologies were noted.

2. To confirm and approve the notes of the meeting on 28th September 2022

OD proposed, HN seconded, the accuracy of the notes from the 28th of September 2022 which were approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

No matters arose from the previous meeting.

4. To review annual P3 forms and survey for submission as part of the P3 scheme

The P3 survey and expenditure forms were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

CJ confirmed that the yearly report on P3 paths will need to be submitted to DCC. HN has completed the annual survey of the rights of way footpaths and produced an update for DCC to highlight areas that need attention, and CJ has completed the financial forms that reflect work that has taken place.

CJ advised that last year extra money was awarded last year which allowed resurfacing of footpath 9 to be undertaken. The time and cost of materials have been included on the forms. More work was required so these extra costs will need to be added to the forms.

EB proposed, and OD seconded, and it was agreed that the forms and survey be submitted to DCC.

CJ reminded members that the concerns raised in the last meeting over footpath 11 have now been resolved by SJ and work has been completed. CJ confirmed that discussions are taking place in respect of signs and erosion.

OD was impressed with footpath 9 that he used on Sunday and queried if it was porous to alleviate pooling of water, CJ confirmed that the material was recommended by SJ and should be porous and when it rains it will turn lighter too.

5. Update on the resurfacing of FP9 (CJ)

CJ advised members that the work carried out was a big job for the Town Maintenance Team as they did not have the correct equipment and could only pick up one dumpy bag of gravel at a time which was sourced from a local building supplier. Although the whole path is now covered the Town Maintenance Team will need to compress the gravel with a pressing machine.

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

HN confirmed that most of his walks take place before the September meeting and asked SJ to provide updates on the following footpaths:

- a) Footpath 1 – Coast path realignment work is still pending as this needs to be discussed with the Coast Path Association, EDDC and the landowner. However, widening and improvement work has taken place on the path back towards the town. SJ has reported the deteriorated fence to EDDC and will chase this up with them.
- b) Footpath 12 – Work has been completed and the gate has been replaced.

7. Update from DCC Public Rights of Way warden (SJ)

SJ advised members that a full inspection has been completed and provided the following update:

- a) Footpath 11 has been a success as after a week of rain the path was still dry, SJ will complete a claim form to recoup some money for the work completed from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- b) Footpath 1 has been widened out at the start of the coast path.
- c) Footpath 12 gate has been replaced at A la Ronde.
- d) Faded signs have been replaced and broken steps repaired around Exmouth.
- e) The cycleway needs white lining.
- f) Tactile Paving needs replacing at Phear Park which will commence once a contractor has a time slot.

8. Update on Bapton Valley project

CJ confirmed that this project is still moving forward and has contacted TBS who provided the following report:

A new officer has started work on this project and as they do not need a cabinet report there should be no delay in the project moving forward. EDDC are still not up to full staff in the engineers therefore projects have fallen behind although they are now prioritising outstanding projects before starting new ones.

OD hopes that EDDC will consult with ETC before the final design is approved, CJ will contact EDDC and request a meeting to move this project forward and discuss the design and routing. OD and JG both agreed that they were not happy with original design, so consultation is imperative.

9. Any other business

BdS thanked CJ for all her commitment to the WP and queried if a newsletter could be produced to highlight to the wider community progress made on footpaths. CJ confirmed that this is already in hand as an annual report is produced and stories about footpaths have already been identified to be shared.

OD queried who completed the work on the footpath along the estuary as the surface has improved, SJ confirmed that DCC carried out this work. OD raised concerns that leaf coverage during the winter period on the cycle path between Bradham Lane and Phear Park caused treacherous conditions, CJ advised OD to report this on-line to EDDC as they own the land.

EB raised concerns over big trees planted on pavements as the roots disorganise the surface and, in the autumn, when leaves fall you cannot judge where you are walking so urges local councils against this. AT advised that this was an issue in other areas, but residents did not want the trees taken down.

ED advised that the footpath at back of Douglas Avenue does not have a gate to protect animals running out onto the road, SJ confirmed that the highways legislation does not permit gates to be put on public rights of way as DCC would then become liable for the maintenance.

JG updated members that there is a lot of evidence to prove that street trees have a positive impact on people and as they are now planted differently the roots do not cause issues. JG pointed out that a few street trees have died and would like to get them replaced, CJ advised JG to report this on the DCC report a problem page. JG and EB discussed the positives of street trees.

10. Next meeting

BdS confirmed that the next meeting will take place on the 13th of September 2023 and thanked everyone for being an outstanding committee. He added he will not be standing in the forthcoming elections and wished everyone all the best.

The meeting closed at 16:39