

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in the Town Hall Chamber

### Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Community Association
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Peter Crofts	PC	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Note-taker)

### Apologies

Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FCu	Exmouth Town Council
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Rev Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together
Simon Kennedy	SK	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Tom Wood	TW	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Nicky Nicholls	NN	Transition Exmouth

### 1. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

### 2. To agree the notes of the previous meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2023

DP thanked PS for chairing the previous meeting in his absence. TD proposed and PS seconded the accuracy of the notes dated the 16<sup>th</sup> of January.

### 3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

AT was not present in the previous meeting but thanked members for answering his queries in his absence. AT was disappointed with the explanation provided by Street Scene in respect of the heras fencing on the recreational ground still in place to stop people parking while EDDC wait for the posts to be installed. AT suggested an idea that when the Magnolia Kiosk is updated a municipal clock could be installed to replace the one that was taken away.

### 4. Update on the occupation of the lorry park by van lifers

LB updated members that the EDDC Portfolio Holder, Councillor Jack Rowland and EDDC Carpark Services Manager, Richard Easthope attended the last Full Council

meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 to seek the town council's views on a proposed route forward with the van lifers currently using the lorry/coach park at the estuary. It is complicated by the space that they are occupying is a designated lorry park and not for use by overnight motorhomes or unhitched caravans. LB confirmed that the community using this space is seemingly growing and EDDC has attempted to find alternative sites for them but were unsuccessful.

LB confirmed that the whole issue is caught up with the ongoing carparking review that has been undertaken by EDDC re which carparks can be used as overnight motorhome parking for short term visitors. LB advised members that as the van lifers are not short-term visitors various concerns were raised such as grey water and access to facilities.

LB was concerned that if EDDC moved them on it would cause displacing issues around the town area, however the understanding from EDDC is that they are going to enforce removal as they are unable to stay legally. It was suggested that they could move to the Maer Road carpark which has provision in the carparking order for overnight parking, but this would be restricted to 3 nights at £11 per night which the van lifers present at the meeting said they could not afford.

LB advised that EDDC are looking for a permit scheme that would allow them to stay in a carpark lawfully and pay a contribution, but this was inconclusive as they do not have a gypsy and traveller site nominated. A gypsy and traveller site has been put forward in the Emerging Local Plan located in Cranbrook but the van lifers attending the meeting did not want to move to that area as several of them work in Exmouth.

LB confirmed that Richard Easthope will be presenting a report to EDDC cabinet with the proposed next steps which LB suspects will result in eviction from the lorry park.

Members spoke further about this matter and discussed issues raised by concerned residents and the possibility of using campsites. LB confirmed that EDDC have already contacted the 3 commercial campsites in Exmouth who were not keen on having permanent residents as they are only open for 10 months of the year and cater for short stay tourists who pay premium commercial camp rates in the summer which would not be affordable to the van lifers.

## **5. Update on the developing Local Plan**

DP thanked LB for developing the comments on the Local Plan which was well presented. LB reminded members that there is a motion on the EDDC council agenda for this week's meeting that will be live streamed that the local plan is put on hold pending clarification of housing need. LB has circulated information that was issued by the Planning Advisory Service in respect of housing numbers. LB confirmed that EDDC will have to demonstrate that they have used sound methodology to substantiate the housing need and that the background work that needs to be done to support the Local Plan will continue.

PS updated members that the government has taken away first-time buyer's incentive which will have an impact on new houses being built. LB spoke to Hannah Clark last week who is the officer from DCC who submitted the funding application to the Levelling Up Fund. HC confirmed that they are drafting the funding agreement which will confirm

the contribution of 400K match funding from ETC which will be a legal agreement that will be sent to LB imminently to sign on behalf of ETC. HC updated LB that DCC had also had an inception meeting with the Department of Transport to look at the timescales for the project and detailed designs are currently being drawn up. The Dinan Way component is being prioritised and they are starting the land acquisition process. They will start to build the design for the gateway element and have promised to uphold their commitment to public consultation. LB confirmed that as part of the funding process the scheme must be finished by March 2025 which is why they are under extreme pressure.

TD had previously asked LB if there was any scope for ETC to contribute to the detailed planning for the Dinan Way extension as when the application was discussed at council various suggestions were put forward relating to Active Travel and crossing points. LB will liaise with HC to see what scope is available for ETC to contribute to that part.

DP queried if the Dinan Way extension planning permission granted in October 2017 would be out of date by the time the work started, TD advised that the planning permission lasts 10 years so would still be in date.

BB queried if price increases had been taken into consideration since the scheme started, LB believes that a contingency plan is in place but will clarify this with HC.

AB was keen to have the pelican crossing reinstated between the Powder Monkey and Subway, TD confirmed that adequate crossings would be part of the consultation for which ETC will be included.

DP queried how far advanced are they on the purchase of land and building contractors, LB advised that there was a principal agreement in place with landowners but will investigate this further.

## **6. Street Scene update**

PC updated members that the Emergency Tree Fund starts this week with the planting of 700 bare root trees around Exmouth. AT queried where the trees will be planted at the Recreation Ground as has not seen any plans and was worried this may hinder kite surfers access, PC stated that access will not be affected and will share the plans.

PC advised members that the shelter in Phear Park where ante social behaviour has been reported is being re-vamped to rid the graffiti by Sea Dog Art who have a talented young artist who will paint in a Monet style. Every Tuesday volunteers will inspect the shelter and repaint over any graffiti that appears.

PC informed members that the Great British Spring Clean 2023 will take place between the 17<sup>th</sup> of March and the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April.

PC confirmed that the toilets at Orcombe Point will be re-opened.

PS raised concerns that cannabis is being smoked in the Magnolia Centre, LB asked AB to raise this concern in the Police Advocate Forum meeting on Wednesday that AB will be attending.

## **7. Update from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives**

### **Flooding & Land Drainage (SWW updates)**

LB advised members that SWW are attendees at this meeting and the notes of the working party are available on the website and asset updates have been provided by SWW. PS queried if dye testing has taken place, LB confirmed that EA have given the go ahead for dye testing.

TD noted that ETC have still not received a response from Iain Vosper the SWW Operations Director to the questions asked at the Full Council meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

### **Public Rights of Way**

LB confirmed that the footpath 9 improvement has been completed by the Town Maintenance Team. TD updated members that the East Devon Way has been re-routed and as he is on The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Board which is part of the East Devon Way, they are asking for route suggestions.

### **Exmouth Transport Partnership (updates on residents parking & Bus Forum)**

TD confirmed that the ETP meeting will take place tomorrow.

TD updated members that the residents parking scheme will be implemented on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2023 and Devon County Councillor Richard Scott confirmed that once the scheme is implemented in the autumn after 3 months in December residents will have the chance to give feedback.

TD and LB discussed resident's concerns about being charged and the lack of overwhelming support for the scheme.

TD advised members that the Enhanced Bus Partnership is an agreement that enables local authorities with operators to set a shared aim regarding improving bus services. TD confirmed that DCC put in a 110 million bid and successfully received 14 million which will make a difference.

TD confirmed that Stagecoach Southwest lost their managing director but now have a new one called Peter Knight who is driving recruitment. TD hopes that this recruitment drive will improve the 57 service and transport interchange.

GS was appalled by the cleanliness of the station car park steps, TD advised that Network Rail own the steps and Highways own the forecourt so suggests GS contact them directly. Members discussed various buses spotted around Exmouth with off route destinations, LB suggested that this is probably an issue with the digital display not being updated.

LB advised that ETC have 33 bus shelters and Fernbank will replace all 33 shelters over a period of time with living roofs, they currently have 8 shelters under construction earmarked for Exeter and Salterton Road by the end of March 2023.

LB updated members that the shelter on Exeter Road that was damaged by a car crashing into it cost 8K to replace under the insurance.

PS queried where the Pound Lane shelter went as it just disappeared, members did not know where it has gone but LB confirmed that it was a location that would be replaced by Fernbank. LB updated members that the pictures/photos that were on display in the metal shelters that are being replaced will be returned to ETC, TD queried if the pictures could be reused, LB advised that they are designed for metal shelters not glass ones.

### **Placemaking**

AB updated members that the tables and benches on Queens Drive have been updated and the vendors will be asked to come back in the summer although was disappointed that the playpark has not yet been extended. As no meetings have taken place since December 2022 AB did not have any further updates.

### **WEB Health & Well-Being Board**

TS advised that there are 227 unpaid carers in the area, and he is a member of the Unpaid Carers Group which have their next meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023.

TS queried if there was any update in respect of the conversations between LB and Rev Steve Jones about extending the Littleham graveyard or other areas that could be used, LB confirmed that Littleham is a civic graveyard and the surrounding land is privately owned but will try and identify a new place to use. LB has advised SJ that he could speak to the landowner to see if an agreement could be met to extend as part of any planning permission.

### **8. Any other business**

PS updated members that a street trading consultation took place within EDDC, LB confirmed that planning were happy with the street trading changes which were mostly around the Sidmouth area. BB queried if there was any progress on the Ecohub, LB advised that a number of concerns were raised by the solicitors so a business plan will be put together to request funding.

### **9. Next meeting**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for which AB gave apologies.

The meeting concluded at 11:35am