

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 25th July 2023 in the Town Hall

Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Toye	AT	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Daniel Wilson	DW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Nicky Nicholls	NN	Transition Exmouth Chair
Catherine Causley	CC	East Devon District Council

1. Welcome and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Approval of previous meeting notes held on 6th June 2023

The notes of the previous meeting held on 6th June 2023 were proposed for approval by OD, seconded by GD, and agreed by all.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive any comments regarding the circulated email update (July 7th) including:

- *Eco Hub*

There was an update regarding the Eco Hub. Tim Child (TC) has been consulting with EDDC Members and Officers regarding the potential for EDDC to partner with us on the project. In summary, he'd come back to say that, although they're not opposed to the concept of an Eco Hub, they believe that the scale of the project poses significant viability issues and resourcing issues. And they are not convinced that the site is the right site for a project of that nature. EDDC has reiterated some of the concerns that were raised and discussed at the previous CEE WP meeting.

There is a meeting planned in September with ETC Officers, TC, Gerry Mills (GM) and Matt Blythe (Assistant Director for Environmental Health) to discuss how we might work together on the sustainability and climate change agenda, for example including the potential for EDDC to store an ETC eco trailer. Members agreed that although EDDC was supportive of the Eco Hub in principle, there were reservations about it being the right solution in the right place.

A discussion was had regarding the reason for the increase in scale of the proposed Eco Hub. The explanation given, was that the Eco Hub would have been an exemplar building, with space for meetings, exhibitions, and workshops. The goal was not to simply centralise sustainability services and offer a meeting point, but to provide services for the wider community that were not currently available in Exmouth.

There was a brief discussion around the excellent work Sidmouth has done to invite the community to education sessions regarding carbon footprint measurement and reduction, which has been emulated via Sustainability Workshops in July in Exmouth.

- *Exmouth Festival*

ZC reported that there are sustainability guidelines in place and the carbon footprint of the festival will be measured, with a view to reducing it next year. There will be a stall at Sideshow on Saturday and Sunday, promoting the Climate Action Plan, the Exmouth Cup, Samudra the Sea Serpent and various other initiatives. ETC has access to the stage between mid-day and one o'clock for eco speakers (Plastic Free Exmouth, Exmouth Wildlife Group, Catherine Causley, Exe Estuary Management Partnership and Friends of the River Exe). ZC made a request for volunteers for the stall to wear the high vis "Ask me about sustainability" waistcoats. Members were urged to download the Festival App.

- *Exmouth Cup*

ZC confirmed that 1000 Exmouth Cups had been manufactured and printed for the festival. This would be a soft launch to gauge reaction, but the cup would not be available until end of August (via cafes) when the launch plan had to be ironed out. Users and stakeholders would be Exmouth residents, to get traction.

- *Sustainability Workshop (5th July)*

ZC spoke about the x2 workshops. 14 attendees in the morning. x2 attendees in the afternoon (World of Country Life and River Exe café). Next step is to make the sessions topic specific or business specific. And is waiting for feedback from the attendees as to their preference.

ZC is also chasing the Chamber of Commerce to find out the uptake of businesses who have entered the Sustainability Award according to the new criteria (measure your carbon footprint, plan and demonstrate improvements). Part of the goal of the Sustainability Workshop was to support some of these entrants.

ZC will liaise with CC to find out what sustainability training is being offered by EDDC over the next few months to avoid duplication.

- *Climate Officer supporting ECC for their sustainability challenge (19th July)*

ZC went to the Community College during their Activity Week to support the Year Tens who were working on Sustainability Development Goals proposals. She recommended to the CEE Working Party that the winners and runners-up present their proposals to Full Council in September, with a view to strengthening ETC's relationship with the college. And potentially put into practice in the town, some of their proposals. The CEE WP was supportive of this idea. Nick Holt (Assistant Head) is keen to forge closer ties with ETC.

- *No Mow May*

ETC made their own signs. ZC reported on some backlash seen online and via email from residents claiming the grass was too long, it was obstructive, it was laziness on the part of the council. There was some public confusion about which council is responsible for which area of grass etc. It was agreed there should be better communication about No Mow May next year from both EDDC and ETC – why and how it's managed. The consensus in the meeting was that No Mow May had been a success and Exmouth residents are getting on board with it.

- *Hedgehog Highway Surrounds*

The hedgehog highway surrounds will be available on the stall at the festival via a prize draw. Members agreed it was important they be included in future development plans.

5. *To discuss the scope for CEE WP and ETC to sign the single use plastic pledge: [Single-use cup pledge - Plastic Free July](#)*

Members agreed to invite Plastic Free July to a Full Council meeting to remind us how to reduce single use plastics. There was a discussion about moving from single-use cartons of milk to having milk delivered.

6. *To discuss the scope for CEE WP and ETC to sign: [The Plant Based Treaty / Eat Plants, Plant Trees](#)*

ZC proposed she summarize the Plant Based Treaty and highlight the various pledges that ETC might adopt. The CEE WP agreed this would be a good next step.

7. **To note interest from Adam Fitzgerald at Exmouth Town Football Club for a bore hole.**

ZC shared that Adam Fitzgerald is interested in having a bore hole that could also serve the community and potentially ETC as well.

Water butts: ZC explained that ETC has installed one out of three purchased water butts. No luck in installing one outside the town hall as EDDC thought the style was 'underwhelming'.

8. **To note interest from Nick James from Exmouth Town Football Club (Warren View) to explore sustainability options like solar panels and rainwater capture.**

ZC, GD, CC, NN and ZC visited Warren View to talk about options for solar panels on about half of the bank that surrounds the football pitches, including to generate community energy. CC recommended getting solar on the roof first and has sent through supporting information, guidelines and contacts to Nick James for reference. The football club has ambitious plans to improve the quality of the pitches at Warren View and to improve opportunities for all football enthusiasts, also benefiting the town from the perspective of driving revenue through tourism. The CEE WP agreed that ZC should get back to Nick James to say we would be happy to provide any advice or guidance they might need with longer-term plans for improving biodiversity and establishing some kind of community "eco site".

9. To receive an update from EDDC.

No update from EDDC.

10. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth.

No update from Transition as NN had sent her apologies.

11. To receive an update on other relevant matters from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives.

No updates were received.

12. Dates of future meetings

8th August 2023 – CANCELLED and any updates will be sent via email

5th September 2023 (6-7.30pm in person meeting)

3rd October 2023

7th November 2023 (6-7.30pm in person meeting)

5th December 2023

Meeting ended at 8.28pm