

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 17th July 2023 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mark Williamson	MM	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Note-taker)

Apologies

Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association

1. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. To agree the notes of the previous meeting held on the 19th of June 2023

PS proposed and GD seconded the accuracy of the notes dated the 19th of June 2023.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

No matters arose from the previous meeting.

4. Update on the developing Local Plan

DP urged members purely for information to look at the EDDC Strategic Planning meeting agenda which has a series of consultation reports and local responses to the local plan. DR queried if the government have decided how they would look at targets and do the Town Council have a paper copy of the consultation responses, DP confirmed that they are still waiting to hear from the government and LB stated that the Town Council do not receive a paper copy from EDDC.

IC received an email with a link to a two page general consultation report that will be going to the Strategic Planning Committee on the 21st of July. IC would like to access the fuller version in respect of the development application throughout the whole of the district, LB will circulate the link.

DP updated members that a housing commission has been set up by Lord Best looking at various housing issues in Devon, DP will circulate the link to members.

LB reported at the last meeting that EDDC were doing some additional work on housing allocation as in the 2019 update to the National Planning Policy Framework there is a requirement for local planning authorities to look at housing allocation by designated neighbourhood area. As discussed in the previous meeting LB was sceptical about engaging in this process however if we engaged it may give us more input into the type of housing we require in Exmouth, which will enable us to refresh the neighbourhood plan.

LB contacted EDDC to find out if they had a parish area figure rather than a settlement tier figure but unfortunately, they have not started the work yet as it is subject to consultation. When LB and RB attended the webinar discussed in the previous meeting, they were under the impression that a figure had already been calculated however after speaking to EDDC it was confirmed that this was not the case.

BB attended the previous Strategic Planning meeting, and the committee were not happy with the government calculation of 910 houses in Exmouth and wanted alternative calculations to be investigated. LB advised that there is pressure building for EDDC to deviate from the housing formulas used so far to calculate the housing needs across the district, but any methodology used would need to stand up to scrutiny. BB confirmed that the committee discussed a housing figure of 600 houses over a 5 year period to include adequate infrastructure first but this will be discussed further in the next meeting.

LB suggested that we should wait and see what housing figure comes out first and, in the meantime, LB will investigate if any funding is available to commission some background work to find out what the Exmouth housing needs are. LB confirmed that there is no obligation to engage in the process of allocating housing, but if we could add a level of detail into the type of homes we need it would be more likely to get community support. MW agrees that we should focus on gathering hard data for the types of houses needed especially for young people, AT agrees that we should not lose the perspective that although we do not want too many houses, we need to prioritise that part of the demographic.

DP reminded members to complete the survey from the new housing commission set up for Devon by Lord Best as it could influence what we can do in the area. LB will send the link.

PS informed members that 5000 people are on the council house waiting list and affordable housing is not affordable to young people in the area as wages are low. PS did not agree with the amount of council houses that are being bought by their tenants leading to less council houses available. DP summed up that LB will send out a link to the Strategic Planning Committee with all the reports, the link to the new housing commission survey and the 21st of July Strategic Planning Committee minutes.

5. Street Scene update

AGR confirmed that the Imperial Rec. bollards have been installed and vandal proof gates have been erected at the bottom by the water tower and the slipway which has resulted in the heras fencing being removed. AGR was pleased that the wheel is on the seafront again for the summer season. AGR advised that he is still waiting for an update on the Queens Drive car park trees.

AB raised concerns that the public toilets did not have any soap in the dispensers, AGR will make sure they are topped up daily. IC queried if there was any update on the Exmouth Fort on the beach, AGR advised that no one in Street Scene was aware of the fort so will investigate further.

AT had asked in a previous meeting if the big gully to the far side of lifeboat station could be painted white as it is a hazard for cyclists, AGR will put fencing up.

IC has noticed a sign on the Sideshore access ramp which provides information but does not state that the area is a no swim area and as the flags have been removed it is important to have better signage, AGR will speak to the beach safety officer.

6. Update from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives

Waterfront WP

PS confirmed that the last meeting went over previous matters that had already been dealt with.

Exmouth Transport Partnership WP

DP was concerned that representatives from Stagecoach and GWR are not attending meetings or providing reports therefore the WP has been unable to raise and discuss issues with the partners. TS queried if an update was available on the closing of the Exmouth ticket office, DP confirmed no update was available and personally does not see the logic in closing the ticket offices.

Festival & Events WP

AB reminded members that the Exmouth Festival will be running between the 28th and 31st of July over three sites which are the Manor Gardens, Strand and Sideshore. BB urged members to contact CJ who is still looking for volunteers for the festival.

Churches Together

TS updated members that the flagpole is now up on the church after a year and the flags are flying.

7. Any other business

IC has received a leaflet from a concerned member who lives in the Warren View area regarding an application for commercial development from Exmouth Boxing Club but has been unable to locate it on the planning portal, he has left a message for TD to contact him to discuss the application. IC is aware that TD and PS have been in consultation talks regarding the pre-planning application. IC provided members with some background information about the boxing club and the development proposed. PS confirmed that a public consultation took place at Ocean in November last year, LB will circulate the link to the public consultation but confirmed that a planning application has not yet come through. PS declared an interest as her son lives in the road where the planned development is located, and DP confirmed that any planning application received will have to go through the planning committee.

AT queried if there was any update on the plan to find new accommodation for the Town Council, LB advised that the search for a suitable premises has been fruitless. LB confirmed that 300K is available in earmarked reserves that could be put towards a

freehold property. LB updated members that numerous buildings have been viewed in Exmouth but nothing suitable has been found that is a freehold property, so the search continues. LB has asked EDDC if we could have the Town Hall as EDDC staff underutilise the building, but no reply has been received.

PS updated members that unfortunately co bikes and co cars based at the LED have gone into liquidation.

BB asked if any progress has been made on the ECO Hub, LB advised that the letters have been sent to EDDC so it is now in their hands, and they will have to commit to take out the toilet block from the public toilet review by the end of the summer.

8. Next meeting

21st August 2023

The meeting concluded at 11:05am