

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 21st August 2023 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	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
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society

Apologies

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association

1. Welcome and apologies

PS welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. To agree the notes of the previous meeting held on the 17th of July 2023

AB proposed and GD seconded the accuracy of the notes dated the 17th of July 2023.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

No matters arose from the previous meeting.

4. Update on the Developing Local Plan

LB confirmed that no updates were available but that she has started a grant application for some funding for a housing needs assessment to feed into a possible refresh of the Neighbourhood Plan or to challenge any housing allocations that come forward as part of the Local Plan. LB is confident that the funding will be successful but will keep members updated.

5. Street Scene update

AGR investigated the Exmouth Fort disappearance and updated members that Street Scene have not removed any stones, but they will continue to find out who has moved it. IC informed members that the foundation stones that Street Scene have put in front of Mickeys on the seafront belonged to the Exmouth Tradesman's Bathing Club which is an important part of Exmouth history.

AGR has found out which trees in Queens Drive belong to Street Scene so will notify members in due course what they intend to do with the trees. IC queried if the no swim signs have been put up, AGR confirmed that he has passed this request onto the Beach Safety Officer.

6. To receive an update on Exmouth Town Council's verge and open spaces grass-cutting policy

AT requested this item be added to the agenda as an article appeared in the Exmouth Journal where an EDDC councillor was critical of the verge and open spaces grass cutting policy and requested that it be reevaluated. AT wrote a letter to the EDDC councillor which was published in the Journal which led to the councillor meeting with HN of the Exmouth Wildlife Group, this resulted in the criticism's being negated and the policy being safe. AT congratulated the people that put together the comprehensive policy.

LB reminded members that grass cutting and verge policies in Exmouth are very complicated as there are 3 authorities that look after them. LB confirmed that ETC are only responsible for cosmetic grass cutting that used to be maintained by DCC and DCC still maintain the safety cuts.

LB has received complaints and pushbacks about the No Mow May as it resulted in issues with dog mess in long grass and vets reporting more cases of grass seeds stuck in dogs.

LB assured AT that any EDDC review would focus on the EDDC owned land as EDDC would have no jurisdiction over the Exmouth Town Council policy.

7. To receive an update on the status of the Call of Nature project

LB confirmed that this matter was discussed at the Climate and Ecological Emergency working party meeting and subsequently went to Full Council. During Full Council a recommendation was made to write to EDDC to ask if they would partner with us and take the Imperial Recreation Ground toilets out of the public toilet review so that we were not constrained by the licence agreement and time frame, which was restrictive.

LB has received feedback from TC to say that he has consulted the relevant portfolio holders at EDDC and advised that whilst the principle of an Eco Hub is supported, there are concerns over the financial viability of the project as it stands and there is no capacity available at EDDC to deliver an Eco Hub on that site at this time.

LB has a meeting with TC next month where they will look at ways EDDC can support ETC with some of its broader sustainability aspirations.

DR was pleased that the gate at the Imperial Rec had been installed to stop vehicles and trespassers going through. DR updated members that the work on the new scout building will start shortly with the foundations hopefully being laid in September.

In respect of the Eco Hub, AT wanted clarification on what support EDDC could provide to ETC that was outside the context of the public toilet review. LB gave some examples of outreach work and PS provided information on how the beach wheelchair hut had been supported by EDDC. AT queried if CIL money could be used to fund the Eco Hub, LB explained that all CIL money received to date has been allocated so this would not be possible and future CIL money will likely need to be allocated against "shovel ready"

schemes so that it is spent within the five year statutory time limit. It is not possible to accrue CIL funds indefinitely.

Update from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives

Campervan TAFF

LB confirmed that a Full Council meeting was being held on 21st August which includes a recommendation from the Campervan TAFF that ETC writes to EDDC to ask them to complete a scoping exercise to investigate the provision of extra facilities for overnight parking, including grey water waste disposal. LB explained that the Campervan TAFF was formed to put pressure on EDDC and DCC regarding the enforcement of overnight parking of motorhomes in the town and resulted in the trial use of EDDC owned carparks for overnight parking. The trial period has now ended, and the scoping exercise is responding to problems identified during the trial.

Flooding and Land Drainage WP

LB updated members that the WP has met recently and is still trying to hold SWW to account over the necessary infrastructure upgrades and impact on our sea and estuary water quality. LB confirmed that councillor members have a planned site visit with SWW to the Maer Lane treatment works on the 21st of September. Members discussed SWW improvements and LB urged members to read the WP notes on the website as all upgrades are being reported by SWW through the WP.

The Avenues Residents Association (TARA)

MW advised that several issues were raised in a recent meeting especially around tanker movement which resulted in a series of questions being put to SWW. LB updated MW that SWW attended a council meeting prior to MW being re-elected and the SWW operations director confirmed that tankers were coming from Kilmington and Countess Wear due to operational problems in those areas, a tanker movement map is also viewable on the SWW website. MW was keen to know what improvements were being made in Exeter to alleviate tankers coming to Exmouth, BB made members aware that tankers are also coming in from other areas.

Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group

GD attended a workshop at Ocean where it was confirmed that a consultant has now been appointed to start work, the next workshop will be held at the beginning of September to correlate their findings from the meeting on the 31st of July. PS queried if this was an open meeting, LB advised that it is a private meeting by invitation only.

Exmouth Community Association

KB attended an exhibition at the sports centre in respect of the Levelling Up Fund Gateway project but was disappointed by the lack of aspiration for a fully functioning transport interchange. LB confirmed that councillors had also shared this feedback at the previous Full Council meeting, particularly as ETC is part funding the project. However, when LB had a long conversation with the DCC officer responsible for the Levelling Up Fund Bid, the officer stated that the second iteration of the bid had been updated with guidance from Central Government to ensure it met the new criteria and there needs to be a bigger influence on active travel due to it being an essential Highways project. LB was not sure if the second round criteria was available on the DCC website, but a formal consultation will take place later in the year. Members discussed various transport

interchange concerns and LB confirmed that she is setting up a briefing meeting for Town Councillors so that they can understand the context of the bid and raise any concerns.

8. Any other business

TS queried which ETC councillor this year is a representative on the Health and Wellbeing Board as he had heard that he/she had stood down. LB confirmed that the council representative last year was DP, and this year Councillor Angela Boatwright has been appointed but that she is not aware that the latter has stood down.

TS requested an update on the Beach Wheelchair project. PS stated that she was pleased that 139 people have used the wheelchairs this year and care homes are also making bookings for residents. PS advised that more volunteers are needed, and the facility will close at the end of October for the winter period. LB confirmed that the beach wheelchairs are only available to hire Mondays to Fridays between 10am and 4pm due to the lack of volunteers and asked members to reach out to contacts that might be able to volunteer.

PS also urged members to spread the word that the RNLI now has 24 swimming lockers that are free to use but require a £1 refundable deposit.

9. Next meeting

25th September 2023

The meeting concluded at 11:22am