

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 held remotely via Zoom

### Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Toyne	AT	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman	SD	Exmouth Town Council (note taker)
Carol Jay	CJ	Transition Exmouth
Alex Mitchell	AM	East Devon District Council

### Apologies

Councillor Andrew Colman	AC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council

### 1. Welcome and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

### 2. Approval of previous meeting notes held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The notes of the previous meeting were proposed for approval by Councillor Mike Rosser, seconded by Councillor Graham Deasy, and agreed by all.

### Matters Arising

- **Eco Hub** – LB updated members on her meeting with Tim Child, Matt Blythe and Gerry Mills where they discussed EDDC's position with regards to the Eco Hub. Tim Child reiterated that whilst in principle they think the idea of an Eco Hub is sound they don't have the capacity to support anything at this time and they don't think the location or the business plan, in terms of how the project would cover its cost, are sound. They are very doubtful that ETC would get planning permission for any substantial changes to the toilet block on Imperial recreation because of its proximity to the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). They are not convinced it's in the right location regarding footfall. They

said they do not have the funds for an Eco Hub and don't have capacity to look at funding sources.

However, they are keen to work with ETC on the sustainability agenda. One of the ways in which they could help ETC's sustainability goals in terms of community engagement are through their social housing portfolio and community development workers.

EDDC (MB) also said they need to treat the Towns and Parishes fairly and equally and are not in a position to lend support to one town and parish without being in a position to offer too all.

LB explained to members that much of ETC's wider aspirations are captured in ZC's Climate Plan and are achievable with or without an Eco Hub. LB asked members to park the idea of an Eco Hub for now.

- **The Sustainability Award** – The Chamber of Commerce awards will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October where the Sustainability Award (Environmental Impact) will be presented to a local business.
- **Film Festival** – two films (2040 and The Age of Stupid) were discussed. If the Age of Stupid were to be shown ZC explained that the director of the film would come along to do a talk and Q&A after the film. LB added that ZC would need to look into obtaining a screening licence when broadcasting a film to the public.

**ACTION: ZC to investigate licensing costs before deciding.**

### **3. To receive an update from TD on relevant issues from recent Government policy announcements on climate**

TD spoke of the recent U-turns the government has made regarding climate change actions and targets. Members discussed this and TD suggested a recommendation from the WP to the Town Council to write a letter to the government about ETC's concerns on slowing things down.

LB explained that if a recommendation were made to Full Council, it would not be addressed until November as the meeting may be cancelled due to Code of Conduct training for councillors.

As no agreement was reached regarding a letter, LB suggested that this matter be discussed at the next CEE meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **4. To receive an update from ZC regarding the Exmouth Cup**

1,000 cups are now in circulation in the 13 cafes that have signed up to the scheme and another 1,000 cups are to be delivered early next week. Lots more cafes are keen to get involved.

The Exmouth Cup is receiving good national coverage and has gone as far as Isles of Scilly.

Tri Hards will be borrowing some cups for an event they are holding.

ZC explained that she has received an expression of interest from Hospice Care to have their logo on the cup. ZC said that this could maybe happen in stage 2, where we could look to have different people on the cups.

A workshop at a CAG event will be held where ZC will do a talk about the cups.

ZC has received an interest from Simon Jupp for a meeting to see how he can help promote the cups.

ZC explained how the cafes should collect data to track how many cups go out and come back in. This will hopefully illustrate how many cups are in circulation.

#### **5. To receive an update from ZC regarding a tree forum**

ZC has started working on the terms of reference and will share with members once completed. She has reached out to all the people she invited the first time around but has not received many responses.

Florin Orasanu who will be interviewing ZC, TD and Councillor Olly Davey about how ETC are tackling climate change has said he has a team of young volunteers who are keen to plant trees and wanted to know if there was anywhere/any group that would like some help.

MR suggested that he contact Yonder Oak Wood to see if they would like some help.

#### **6. To discuss the idea to buy a thermal imaging camera to assist the community in identifying ways to reduce heat loss in their homes**

ZC spoke about thermal imaging cameras and how Sidmouth Council have bought a couple of cameras to help the community reduce heat loss in their homes.

Councillor Louise Venables has access to a thermal imaging camera and has offered to show members how this works. ZC would like to buy a camera and have a team of volunteers who are willing to knock on doors and liaise with homeowners to give them cost effective tips. ZC proposed a smaller group to meet with Louise Venables so they can see how this works.

Members discussed ZC's proposal to meet with Louise Venables and the possibility of purchasing a camera if members agreed this was something they would like to go forward with.

AM said she could arrange for members to have a chat with Sidmouth Council to speak about how the cameras work.

**ACTION: ZC will send an email to ask who would like to be involved and set up a meeting with Louise Venables.**

## **7. To receive an update from EDDC**

AM updated members on the following:

- **Webpages development:** Happening in the next few weeks will be a dedicated page on EDDC website which will have 5 sections; home, travel, garden, seasonal actions, and community. The idea is to keep things simple and link back to EDDC website with funding suggestions for people which will offer funding and guidance. For example, on the home page will be useful links, government funds etc.
- **Exmouth cup:** EDDC are doing community human interest stories on their social media and the Exmouth cup could be posted on there.
- **Bike Parking project:** The project is about finding places that require more bike parking spaces. There are currently 7 site location across Exmouth: a couple in Phear Park, a couple in the Town centre, one near the RNLI on the seafront. There will be rented bike parking in London Inn car park and the Imperial car park and for the trial period the fee will be £5.

TD asked if AM could feedback to Catherine Causley if there could be a repair station for bikes.

- **Carbon Descent Plan:** EDDC are working with South West Energy Environment Group (SWEEG) at Exeter University. The plan is to identify the breakdown of carbon emissions and use that data to create a plan to reduce them. This is internal to EDDC and is progressing well.
- **Carbon Literacy Training:** This is in-house training but also something that will be added to new-starter training.
- **Charging points at Imperial car park near LED sports centre:** Members discussed the charging points as concerns have been received from members of the public that they have been installed but are closed off. TD provided an update from Richard Easthope the car park officer at EDDC, that there are

delays due to local power supplies and they will be available to use in the new year.

## **8. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth**

Over the summer Transition has been involved in the Friends of the River Exe project which was launched with Transition Exeter and Sustainable Tiverton. They now have 70 volunteers.

To celebrate the River Exe in the week of World Rivers day, a Festival of the Exe was held and it was a magnificent event. Many people attended Lights in the Darkness with the Quakers, there was an evening stillness meditation, ZC did a Walk to Reconnect at Powderham castle, a singing and listening walk involved 3 different choirs and a Salmon Run was held from sea to source of the Exe. This enormously boosted Friends of the River Exe's number of followers.

Many members of the current umbrella group have transitioned from voluntary to paid work, in the sector.

Nicky Nicholls is now in a new post as Community Liaison Officer at Sideshore. They have offered Nicky one of the sheds to use as a Community/Eco Hub.

Transition Exmouth are looking for active trustees to take the group forward as they transfer to being a Community Interest Organisation.

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

- **Public Rights of Way WP update** – PROW progressing with Bapton Valley park improvements which will give better access routes for multiple users. TD added that he has been to Bapton Valley as a Halsdon ward councillor, and the project is moving forward.
- **Public transport** – Didn't have great representation from stakeholders so there wasn't much to report.
- **Neighbourhood plan review** – Some initial work has been started on the review.
- **Feedback from the visit to SWW sewage treatment plant** – This was part of the work that the Flooding and Land Drainage WP are doing to engage with Southwest Water to try and seek improvements around water quality, beach water quality and infrastructure improvements in the town. Some councillors visited the plant to learn about the processes there and about future plans.

From a climate perspective, the comms lady has been doing some work with Newquay Town Council. They have developed a specific comms plan around the impact that residents can have on water quality and infrastructure issues by being more considerate about what you flush down your toilet and drains. They have produced

some bespoke social media content which Newquay Town Council has been sharing and which they are happy to share with us. The comms lady will contact ZC.

Members asked questions around the topic of discharges into the sea. TD clarified that the point of the visit wasn't to discuss this but how the plant works. He said he was surprised at the size and scale of the plant in a country lane.

#### **10. Any other business**

No other business.

#### **11. Dates of future meetings**

7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (6-7.30pm) – in person

6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (10-11.30am) – online

The meeting ended at 11.45am