

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Exmouth Transport Partnership

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 19th September 2023

Present

Cllr Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Cllr Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Fred Caygill	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Tony Jackson	TJ	ALRUG (Avocet Line Rail Users Group)
Jan Gannaway	JG	Active Travel Exmouth, & Sustrans
John Petty	JP	Active Travel Exmouth, & Exmouth Community Association
Richard Easthope	RE	EDDC Parking Services Manager
Stuart Coles	SC	DCC Highways
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

Apologies

Cllr Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council
Dave Ovenden	DO	DCC Public Transport
Mike Reddaway	MR	ALRUG (Avocet Line Rail Users Group)
Phillip Morgan	PM	DCC Highways
Sam Jeffcoat	SJ	DCC PROW Warden for Exmouth

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. To approve the previous meeting notes from the 20th of June 2023

DP proposed and PS seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 20th of June. The meeting notes were approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

PS queried why there was no sedum roof on the bus shelter by Halsdon nursing home as the one by Rivermead does, LB was not sure which roofs should have sedum so will feedback this to Fernbank to investigate.

JP had queried why there was no item on the agenda for the Levelling Up bid to provide an update on the train station upgrades, TD confirmed that a councillors meeting would take place imminently with the Transport Planners from DCC so an update would be available after that meeting. JP was concerned that the criteria for the second round Levelling Up Fud bid were uncertain and this made it difficult for the public to respond appropriately to the consultation. LB confirmed that the application guidance documents are available on a central government website but it was not immediately obvious how the criteria had changed and LB will try to secure a copy of the application submission for reference.

TD reminded members that the Exe Estuary Trail was not part of the highway or a public right of way; it is a multi-use path which could be discussed in this WP. LB confirmed that SJ looks after the estuary trail but unfortunately was not in attendance to answer any questions,

SC was led to believe that it was a permissive path. LB stated that in Exmouth ETC manage a number of public adopted footpaths under delegated authority from DCC under the P3 Scheme and there are also a number of permissive paths which are usually paths through farmers' fields so not an adopted public right of way, but permissions are in place to let the public use them and ETC maintain a combination of those through the P3 Scheme.

OD advised members that SJ attended the PROW meeting last week and updated members that the Exe Trail is currently closed for three months along the bottom of Lympstone Manor while they replace the board walk. LB confirmed that details of the closure and improvement works were circulated to councillors and published in the Exe Estuary magazine which was circulated to members.

FC queried if it would be possible to lobby DCC to make the Exe Estuary Trail complete as it diverts at Exton and goes through the village, PS added that it also diverts at Lympstone. TD advised that it was widely reported at the time that Exton residents living in the area objected strongly to pushing the path into the village. LB was aware that Lympstone and Woodbury Parish Council, which incorporates Exton, have been pushing for years for the cycle path to be re-routed out of the villages but there are land ownership issues.

4. To receive an update on relevant “20’s plenty” matters

LB updated members that Totnes Town Council had publicised that there would be a lobby session outside County Hall at the beginning of the month and encouraged Town and Parish councils to show support to get 20’s Plenty raised on a relevant agenda. OD attended but only 5 other people turned up and he did not know the outcome of the proposal put forward. LB will share any relevant information when received.

LB confirmed that Wales have introduced legislation to reduce all 30mph limits to 20mph as the default speed limit on restricted roads.

JG advised that Wales and Cornwall differ as Wales wanted all urban areas in Wales to be 20mph however Cornwall wanted local councils to apply for 20mph restrictions in areas of their choice and this is the way Totnes want to go.

5. To receive an update on the proposed railway station ticket office closures

LB confirmed that the deadline for the consultation was extended until the 1st of September and ETC strongly opposed the Exmouth ticket office closure, but LB has had no official reply from GWR to our letter.

6. To note the decisions and minutes of the East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee 30th March and 17th July 2023

TD advised that one of the main issues raised was the residents parking permits in parts of central Exmouth, however this will be reviewed in the autumn. OD has received correspondence from residents raising issues about the parking which he has duly forwarded onto DCC Councillors to respond. OD was contacted by residents who live outside the parking zone areas complaining about the knock-on effect which has led to vehicles parking outside their houses. LB commented that knowledge about the various types of permits is poor and that residents who have care needs, for example, can apply for an essential visitors parking permit costing £10 if they supply evidence from their GP and residents that rely on childcare can also apply for permits at £10 and books of non-essential visitor tickets are available for £30.

PS commented that she believes that more cars are parking by the football club since the introduction of the scheme and queried where the revenue from the parking permits goes. LB confirmed that the income is restricted by the road traffic regulation act with any income collected from on street parking held in a dedicated account and spent on enforcement. Any remaining surplus is used for public transport facilities, highway or road improvement projects or environmental improvements.

FC queried if EDDC would be reviewing the number of car parking spaces available in car parks within the town as the population is growing and TD was keen to know if EDDC and DCC had any joint reviews for off street and on street parking. RE confirmed that an additional 172 monthly car park passes have been purchased in August since the introduction of the car parking restrictions on the neighbouring streets which has made the long stay car park by the estuary particularly busy. RE is aware that there is additional demand for car park spaces and has been looking at ideas to increase spaces available such as extending the estuary long stay car park into the lorry park. RE confirmed that EDDC own a limited amount of land and currently there are no plans to build additional car parks as this will be evaluated as part of the Placemaking Plan.

FC commented that he was not keen on the idea of extending the long stay estuary car park into the lorry/coach park as there would be nowhere for the lorries to park and he also suggested a park and ride scheme should be introduced near the Dinan Way extension. OD was not necessarily in favour of building more car parks as he believes people should be encouraged to use different modes of transport. JG requested more cycle parking and secure bike lockers at the train station to encourage people to cycle. RE confirmed that the EDDC Green Team is looking at secure cycle parking.

7. Stakeholder Reports

a) Stagecoach

There was no Stagecoach representative at the meeting and no report was received.

DP made members aware that in the last few months Stagecoach have become irregular with pickups. TD advised that they made some minor service changes which LB had previously circulated.

b) DCC Public Transport

There was no DCC Public Transport representative at the meeting and no report was received.

c) EDDC Car/Cycle, Coach & Lorry Parks & Electric Vehicle Charging

RE updated members that visitor numbers were down by 20% reflected through car parking statistics and the trailers have been removed from Camperdown Terrace car park which has increased the capacity.

RE stated EDDC have funded some new signage through DCC to improve signage along Queens Drive to promote the Maer Road car park. FC queried when the lorry/coach park signage would be reinstated from Gipsy Lane to the lorry park, RE confirmed that street signage is DCC's responsibility but that he would investigate further. FC thought that the £5 parking charge for lorries and coaches should be increased, RE confirmed that the lorry park only became available when the vanlifers were removed in July and the tariff has never changed.

TD requested an update on when the electric vehicle chargers on the Imperial Road car park would be up and running, RE advised that the energy supplier Gamma, working with Wenea, stated that the connection will be available in December this year so they should be up and running early next year. RE updated members that the Scottish Power site is the second highest used in Devon with 505 sessions taking place since December 2022. RE confirmed that the next phase would be the LEVI funding bid and EDDC have already put some sites forward provisionally, which will include the on-street option which is a DCC led initiative for gully chargers.

d) Active Travel

JG confirmed that the Active Travel Day was postponed due to adverse weather conditions but hopes to reschedule for early next year in the Strand rather than Sideshore. On behalf of the group OD submitted five points to the gateway consultation.

e) Taxis

There was no Taxi representative at the meeting and no report was received.

f) GWR

There was no GWR representative at this meeting and no report was received.

FC commented that he was surprised that Exton is only a request stop between Exmouth and Exeter and TD confirmed that there are two trains an hour on the line and the faster train does not stop at Lymington Commando or Exton and the other is a request stop. TJ explained that some stations cannot be served during the day by every train as the schedule would not allow it within the half hourly timetable service.

g) ALRUG

TJ was disappointed again that GWR were not present and updated members that the biggest issue currently is short form trains as less carriages has led to overcrowding. TJ stated that stock needs to be replaced but he does not anticipate this happening for about five years as stock has not come from other areas as originally planned. TJ hopes that as Transport for Wales take in new stock the old stock should come our way but he has not received confirmation of this.

PS was disgusted that only two coaches were put on for Saturday which was a busy day due to rugby and football matches in Exeter, this led to overcrowding so requested that TJ feed this back to GWR. TD wondered if members had an appetite through the WP to write to GWR requesting more carriages, members agreed, and LB will organise. TJ confirmed that from the December timetable two more Saturday evening half hourly trains have been added which takes this service further into the evening.

5) DCC Highways

SC contacted the DCC Traffic Team Manager who confirmed that income received from the residents parking scheme goes into the on street parking account, funding the management of those schemes such as enforcement and double yellow lines and any surplus providing subsidy to bus/cyclic maintenance.

SC confirmed that the first road warden has come forward who is a sergeant in the Lymington Marine Commando and is currently being trained while they wait for equipment, he will be tasked with filling in potholes around East Devon. PS queried why multiple potholes in and around Exmouth have not been filled, SC confirmed they would be filled as soon as possible but currently they have 800 potholes outstanding across the county with limited resources.

OD asked for the criteria for filling in potholes, SC provided OD with the safety defect criteria and the non-safety defect criteria which is also available on the DCC website. TD was concerned that quite often there is a long depression in the middle of a road, but it would not meet the depth or width criteria even though it is a safety hazard for cyclists, SC requested that members put forward any roads that have this issue and he will endeavour to put a scheme together to joint crack fill the safety hazard.

SC forwarded the information via email to LB about residents parking and the link to DCC active schemes to circulate to members.

8. Any other business

No other business.

10. Dates of 2023 meetings:

12th December

The meeting closed at 11:42