

# **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)**

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Town Hall Chamber

### **Present**

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	MW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Peter Crofts	PC	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society

### **Apologies**

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Simon Kennedy	SK	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Keith Bungay	KB	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 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

AB proposed and GD seconded the accuracy of the notes dated the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2023 and members agreed.

### **3. Matters arising from the previous meeting**

AT queried if any developments were available on the Call of Nature project, LB confirmed that, as discussed in the previous meeting, EDDC has stated that it has no capacity to deliver the Eco Hub project and it shares the same concerns as ETC in respect of the financial viability and planning permission challenges, therefore this project will not proceed at this time. LB has a meeting with EDDC next month where they will look at ways that EDDC can support ETC with some of its broader sustainability aspirations.

TS made members aware that the church has an ecofriendly group.

### **4. Update on the Developing Local Plan**

Prior to the meeting, LB circulated the agenda pack, draft minutes and you tube recording from the EDDC Strategic Planning meeting that took place on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup>

of September. The links contained detail about housing targets and the scope to deviate from the standard methodology for calculating targets. LB urged members to read the reports and confirmed the need for EDDC to have an adopted Local Plan with a five year land supply in order to control development in the District.

LB also highlighted future work planning required to support the East Devon Local Plan. BB confirmed that he had attended the Strategic Planning meeting and stated that neighbouring councils are running out of land and want to use EDDC land to meet their commitments. LB confirmed that the meeting notes state that EDDC will write to local MPs to press for a policy change on the methodology used to calculate housing numbers.

GD highlighted the risk of developers citing that they cannot afford social housing on new development sites due to viability issues. PS also made members aware of an EDDC initiative which would have delivered affordable housing under the framework of a community land trust, if taken forward, and also advised members that in St Ives you can only buy a house if you live locally and when you sell it must be to a local.

## **5. To receive an update on the Levelling Up Fund project progress**

LB confirmed that the Town Council had a meeting with DCC last week to discuss the criteria of the schemes and some clarity was provided from the meeting. LB confirmed that the extra crossings requested by ETC have been agreed. LB updated members that the projects are very much a highways scheme and that DCC is restricted to what they can deliver on DCC land. The land ownership around the train station is complex.

PS stated that she was against the underpass being filled in and LB confirmed that DCC is conducting a pedestrian count to ascertain how well the subway is used. DCC is keen to reduce the traffic along Marine Way and has put forward the idea of a toucan crossing to replace the current crossing by the train station and is looking to potentially replace the crossing at the RAFA club with a timed crossing. GD expressed concerns relating to time constraints as the funding must be used by March 2025.

AB updated members that the relief road work will start in Autumn 2024 although consultations will take place prior to this. PS confirmed that compulsory purchase orders are out for the land at Dinan Way and if no complaints are received, the road construction will progress.

LV stated that she had been reassured in the DCC meeting about traffic issues and is happy that money is being put into Exmouth. PS raised concerns that more development causes more traffic issues for smaller roads and BB was disappointed that although 52% of people surveyed did not want the subway filled, DCC did not seem to take that into consideration.

LB advised members that DCC cannot deliver half the scheme and that it must meet the specific criteria for the Levelling Up Fund. LB also reminded members that funding for the Dinan Way scheme was originally sought from the Pinch Point Fund, which was then superseded by the Levelling Up Fund Round 1 for which DCC was unsuccessful. The criteria for Round 2 had changed and LB has been trying to obtain a paper copy of the second round application which was submitted by DCC to provide clarity on the criteria.

TS raised concerns about the width of the path where the cycle path joins the pathway near the football field as it is used by cyclists, pedestrians and electric buggy's which sometimes do not take each other into consideration, LB confirmed that this area is outside the scope of the scheme and DCC cannot deviate from what they have applied for. Members discussed shared paths and problems that arise from the lack of consideration by multiuse users.

AT was saddened by the plans to fill in the subway as he is a regular user but believes the improvements around the railway station will improve active travel. AT stated that more path segregation is needed especially on the seafront and Exe Valley Trail, members discussed the Exe Valley Trail diversion and LB provided members with some highway legislation in respect of roads that require access for properties that have driveways.

## **6. Street Scene update**

PC did not have any updates to share with members but was happy to answer any questions put to him from other members. PS thanked Street Scene for the two disabled spaces that have now been painted outside the beach wheelchair hut.

BB requested that the rotten tree and brambles in Littleham playing fields be removed as it could cause an accident and AT mentioned that he previously suggested putting white paint lines along the large gully at the edge of the sea wall by the lifeboat station, PC will look into these requests.

PC updated members that the rubbish has been cleared up which was left by the travellers in the carparks, the costs involved for enforcement and clean up are extremely high. PC was horrified by the state of Withycombe pitches which was left by the travellers with human faeces everywhere, torn up pitch, rubbish, filth, and mess which Street Scene had to clear. PC confirmed that Phear Park now has a ditch running alongside the road to act as a physical barrier to prevent travellers accessing the park.

## **7. Update from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives**

### **Flooding and Land Drainage WP**

PS advised members that WP councillors met with SWW at a planned site visit at Maer Lane treatment works last week which provided insight into how the sewage and sludge is processed. LB confirmed that the WP is still trying to hold SWW to account over the necessary infrastructure upgrades and impact on our sea and estuary water quality. LB made members aware that the pollution risk forecasts are not always down to SWW and it was suggested that the flags that EA use to advise when the water is not safe for bathing could be colour changed to identify the reason such as agricultural runoff.

### **Public Rights of Way WP**

MW updated members that, as part of the Neighbourhood Plan to develop Bapton Valley Park, WP and Halsdon members met with EDDC for a site visit last week and ETC have agreed to make staged payments. MW confirmed that accesses will be developed, and the footpath re-designed for walkers, but it cannot prohibit cyclists. MW was keen for more benches to be installed as only one is in situ currently and thought memorial benches would be suitable. MW advised that the project hopes to be completed in 2024.

AT raised concerns about the concrete access ramp which is overgrown and queried whether highways or EDDC would deal with any maintenance issues, MW will investigate who is responsible. PS confirmed that the park has four access points and LV provided members with some info on the improvements that are being made.

LB reminded members that the Maer Valley and Bapton Valley Parks were in the Neighbourhood Plan but neither are deliverable without the landowner's collaboration. LB confirmed that Maer Valley is not as easily deliverable as the landowners, Clinton Devon Estates, are not supportive of it unless there are opportunities through housing delivery projects and that the land is currently designated as agricultural land.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

LB advised that funding has been agreed by Locality to deliver a housing needs assessment for Exmouth. The results could be used 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. Locality has also agreed to fund the review of up to 15 policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and work on that will start imminently. LB hopes to have the housing assessment after Christmas as it takes about 12 weeks.

### **Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group**

GD attended a workshop forum on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September to gather suggestions to be put forward for areas in Exmouth. Suggestions from the workshop will be put forward to the next meeting of the Placemaking Committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November.

LB advised that the Placemaking meetings are open to the public.

### **Waterfront WP**

PS confirmed that the next walkabout meeting would take place on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

### **CIL & S106**

LB advised members that there is no urgency for a meeting at this time as EDDC do not have a S106 officer who can provide an update and all CIL money received to date has been allocated.

AB confirmed that drainage work is going ahead at Brixington Park and exercise equipment is being installed with works being coordinated by an S106 engineer.

### **Exe Estuary Management Partnership**

GD updated members that a stakeholder forum took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September where priorities for the Partnership were discussed. GD provided members with a brief update on priorities and ongoing work and advised that the next meeting would be held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

### **Health & Wellbeing Board**

TS queried who was representing the Health and Wellbeing Board. LB confirmed that Councillor Angela Boatwright is currently on the board but may have to be replaced as work commitments are hindering her attendance at board meetings.

## **8. Any other business**

No other business.

## **9. Next meeting**

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

AT sent his apologies for the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11:47