

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Campervan Task and Finish Forum

Notes of the meeting held at 10:00am on Wednesday 1st November 2023
held via Zoom.

Present

Richard Easthope	RE	East Devon District Council
Councillor Paul Hayward	PH	East Devon District Council
Councillor Fred Caygill	FC	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Jeff Trail BEM	JT	Devon County Council
Councillor Christine Channon	CC	Devon County Council
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Mollie Carey	MC	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Geoff Jung	GJ	East Devon District Council
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1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

FC welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received and were noted.

2. Approve the notes from 18th September 2023

MW proposed, JT seconded and it was agreed that the notes were a true representation of the meeting held on 18th September 2023.

3. To review and respond to the latest supporting information provided by Richard Easthope in support of the TAFF'S aspiration to provide better facilities for motorhomes and campervans and agree a recommendation to Full Council (if appropriate).

FC welcomed RE to the meeting and asked him to provide an update from a District Council perspective in respect of the TAFF's aspiration to provide better facilities for motorhomes and campervans and to provide an explanation of the costings included in the supporting document which had been produced by the engineering team at EDDC and circulated to all members prior to the meeting by RE.

RE explained that the figures were based on the briefing provided to EDDC engineers and included connection points required to connect to the waste and sewer facilities on both sites (Foxholes and Maer Road). RE also confirmed that the engineering team have retrospectively said there would be no issue with fundamentally installing the required facilities at either of the two sites and that they had done their research on what's required and how this can be delivered.

EDDC has roughly £148,000 set aside for works to fund improvements at the Estuary carpark, which were earmarked in 2019. With regards to a query about the difference in cost across the two sites, RE explained that a requirement for the Foxholes site is the need to widen the access for larger vehicles to enter and exit safely which is estimated at about £30,000. This variation isn't required at the Maer Road site as the entrance is already suitable to accommodate larger vehicles.

LB raised the question of the next steps for this project and sought clarification on the ease with which the budget originally destined for Estuary carpark improvements could be vired to another site and what the associated decision making process at EDDC would be to allocate funds to different car parks.

RE assured members that the purpose of the funding doesn't change because the capital funding has been allocated to provide motor home parking in Exmouth so on that basis, it's broadly similar. Although the location has changed, RE's understanding, after discussing this with Simon Davey, is that it would not constitute a change that would necessarily require approval or necessitate a fresh application for funding. This means that the monies can still be used to fund this project and also some offset parking at the Estuary carpark, in line with what the original funding set out to achieve. RE confirmed that to be able to reallocate the money for this project, he would need to take a report to EDDC Cabinet on this matter which would include the reallocation of the funding.

Members discussed the matter and it was proposed by FC, seconded by MW and agreed by all members that the TAFF would recommend to Exmouth Town Council Full Council meeting that the capital funding allocated for Estuary parking is used in Maer Road instead.

LB asked about Ed Freeman's comments around change of use and the need for an associated planning application for works to proceed. RE stated that not all elements require planning permission and certain adaptations to the site can be carried out without the need for planning permission. It is only the dedicated motor home bays with electric hook up points and the toilet block facilities that would require permission. This would then constitute the change of use of the carparking spaces into a campsite.

JT raised a concern that the current application for the Devon Court hotel and apartments/accommodation proposes access through the Maer Road carpark. It was suggested that if the development were to be approved, a developer contribution could be requested as a condition to assist with this project.

RE confirmed that he is aware of the potential use of the car park but that it has not been formally requested or discussed. Access would need to be approved by EDDC's Estates team. LB confirmed that after speaking with EDDC officer, Tim Child, on this matter when the original planning application was submitted, it was clear that landowner permission had not been given and there had been no engagement by the agent. Members requested clarification on the matter of access from EDDC and RE agreed to investigate further and feed back to members on any implications that may affect the Maer Road carpark and motorhome parking provisions in relation to access for the proposed application.

RE asked for a summary of the T.A.F.F's recommendation for each site and explained that this would be taken to EDDC cabinet for the December/January meeting. Included in the report would be the reallocation of the funding.

FC recommended that the TAFF also decided which of the two proposed locations is deemed preferable for motorhome facilities. Maer Lane was proposed by FC as the site had considerably less impact and this was seconded by MW with unanimous support from members.

RE suggested that the recommendation needs to be taken forward as a two phased plan. First phase can be done by Easter 2024 and the second phase will require planning permission.

The proposal for Phase one will need to capture three elements:

- 1) the provision of fresh water and grey waste disposal.
- 2) Provision of some off set car parking on the Estuary side to mitigate the loss of car parking spaces in the Maer Road car park.
- 3) Proposed policy on charges and management.

Phase two will need to include:

- 1) Provision for accessible toilets facilities.
- 2) Designated parking bays for motorhomes with electrical hook ups.

The recommendation from Exmouth Town Council needs to reflect that the Town Council is happy that the capital funding allocated for Estuary carpark improvements is to be used in Maer Road instead.

FC subsequently proposed, seconded by CC and it was agreed by all that this recommendation will be taken to the next Full Council meeting in November.

JT and CC confirmed that a solution needs putting in place immediately to address the waste being disposed of into the stream and lawned areas at Maer Road carpark from motorhomes. This is causing numerous complaints from residents. JT queried what is being done to address the issue and if EDDC enforcement officers are regularly on site enforcing this.

RE confirmed that education of waste disposal has been carried out throughout the summer and will continue through the winter season. In terms of monitoring out of hours, EDDC don't have the capacity to fulfil this at present but a temporary waste facility could be accommodated. LB made the suggestion of temporary disposable facilities potentially using containers for the grey water waste. CC has contact details for the environmental agency who may be able to provide potential funding. RE will follow this up for the next meeting and contact the Environment Agency regarding this.

Members thanked RE for the advice given and other colleagues officers at EDDC for the exercise carried out to progress forward. FC thanked TAFF Members for their input.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting is TBC.

The meeting finished at 11:05