

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 6pm held in person in the Town Hall

### Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Colman	AC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Daniel Wilson	DW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Toye	AT	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council
Catherine Causley	CC	East Devon District Council
Carol Jay	CJ	Transition Exmouth

### Apologies

Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Fred Caygill	FG	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	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 3rd October 2023

No comments on the accuracy of the notes from the last meeting.

### Matters Arising

Councillor Graham Deasy (GD) asked whether the SWW (South West Water) contact (who was dealing with Newquay Town) had reached out to ZC since the last CEE WP (Working Party) meeting. ZC confirmed she had not been in touch (to her knowledge) and would follow up.

### 3. To receive an update about the Exmouth Cup

- 2000 cups in circulation. 300 lent to Franklins for Remembrance Sunday. Nicky Nicholls and ZC will be on hand to explain the scheme on Sunday. 20 cafes are on board now. 4000 more cups expected by mid-December. Cups are made from polypropylene and don't leach any toxins or BPA's. Feedback

from the cafes varies – most have a good circulation of cups, although some are giving away more cups than they are getting back (Parallel.50). Difficult to get the cafes to fill out the spreadsheets! Some solutions:

- Mystery shopper (TD, DW and GD have volunteered) with a questionnaire. And we'll 'name and shame' the cafes per month. Questionnaire will be ready by end of next week.
- Give the cafes printed spreadsheets.
- Stand in Strand and by Hangtime to collect some data manually (ZC, Nicky Nicholls and Roshni).
- Bayleaf hasn't been asked yet as they are rarely open. Crusty Cob are being evasive. Some push-back from Fortes and Bumble and Bea, Sea and Tee (as there is no water at Bumble and Sea). ZC is confident they will come on board when they see how popular the scheme is.
- Potentially we could do a rubbish audit in the Magnolia Centre/Strand to see how many/if any cups are being thrown away (as the Plastic Reduction Working Party did). Would need to ask Streetscene if we can do this. **ZC to add this to the next CEE WP meeting agenda.**

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

ZC had circulated the TOR with the agenda. ZC briefly outlined the additional comments from TD regarding the purposes of the group (regarding protecting existing trees and bringing together stakeholders to access free and low-cost trees) and the standard voting terms as per the Transport Partnership, for example. MR suggested included DCC (Devon County Council) as a Stakeholder, which was agreed. MR also suggested we initiate more tree planting AND put in a target for number of trees being planted. TD responded that ETC (Exmouth Town Council) cannot do this as we don't have any land on which to plant the trees. It was agreed that any targets and/or measurement should be discussed and agreed in the first Tree Forum meeting. **The TOR will be updated and beefed up by ZC and go to Full Council for approval.**

- **Tiny Forest Project:** there was a discussion around a Tiny Forest project potentially going ahead in Carter Avenue. ZC to find out more from OD, who has been involved, circulate information, and add to the next CEE WP meeting agenda with a view to ETC supporting the project with funding.

#### **5. To receive a presentation from Plastic Free Exmouth**

TD gave Plastic Free Exmouth a big thank you for the great work they have done, especially since the pandemic started. We received an interesting and impressive presentation (please see attached) from Lucy and Debbie at Plastic Free Exmouth, along with a wish-list of activities ETC can support them with. We agreed to discuss

this list at the next CEE WP meeting and pick out a range of activities we can support with in the short, medium and long term. ZC also agreed to continue the dialogue about signage for Plastic Free at the entrances to Exmouth and/or in the Strand, Manor Gardens and along the sea front.

#### **6. To receive an update from ZC about the thermal imaging camera**

LV has kindly lent us a thermal imaging camera. Next steps are to target Waverley Road and talk to residents about the camera, the types of pics it can take and how they can help to reduce energy bills. We can then reference EDDC's website for information on funding and additional professional services/support available to share with residents at various cost bands. NB: At the TARA AGM (Annual General Meeting) GD mentioned the camera and the Chairman is keen to be involved in the project. GD will put us in touch with them. **Next step: ZC to create a 'package' of information to show residents in Waverley Road.**

#### **7. To discuss the potential for an Exmouth Plant Based Treaty and future food campaigns**

ZC introduced the Plant Based Treaty and spoke briefly about the adaptations already made and shared to adjust the treaty for Exmouth Town Council. LV spoke about why the treaty is important, when it was established (2021) and how it has been brought to her attention by various Exmouth residents. Diet change is an easy and fast way to tackle climate change. There was an interesting editorial in The Guardian re the need for us all to take on changed eating habits, and, for first time, centrality at COP 28. At Exmouth Town Council, we can educate, outreach, advocate, raise awareness, get local businesses, schools and eateries involved, provide recipes, get the allotments involved, offer cooking lessons, cookery demos, recipes etc. Make it clear that there are considerations about eating local, growing your own food, being flexitarian, vegetarian or plant based. Making more cost-effective options and busting the protein myth! But avoiding culture wars – education only! It was agreed by all to move ahead with the motion for Full Council to adopt the ETC Plant Based Treaty.

#### **8. To receive an update on the Film Festival**

Exmouth Town Council is financing and hosting the climate film "Age of Stupid" on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in the Town Hall. Tickets are free but should be booked in advance. We have sold 35 tickets so far. The film will be followed by a Q&A with the Director Franny Armstrong. There is an opportunity and invitation for local groups to come along with a table to show their activities etc. There may be capacity to host a panel discussion, comprising locals and councillors, at the end of the evening. ZC to check timings. Tickets available here: [Exmouth Film Festival – an independent cultural film festival](#)

## **9. To receive an update from EDDC (East Devon District Council)**

- The Green Team are working on setting up a training team to deliver Carbon Literacy training and bespoke 45 min awareness training. And for some of our new Councillors (Jan/Feb). Intention is to train everyone at EDDC in the next four years.
- EDDC is working with SWEEG (South West Energy Environment Group) to create a Descent Plan – the goal is to be net zero by 2040 and the plan will show how to get there. This was launched at the Green Team meeting on Monday.
- There are £350k of projects coming to Green Team for approval on Monday.
- EDDC is about to start Service Planning until early in the new year and there are lots of exciting things in the pipeline.

TD questioned whether ETC would benefit from working with SWEEG. CC explained that EDDC pays £25k per year and/or £550 per day consultancy. However, ETC could work with SWEEG on joint projects (e.g. festival sustainability).

There was a question from OD about bike parking. CC replied that they were getting there slowly. There would be more parking by the RNLI, more in town, a residents' bike parking locker in x2 locations in town, Bumble and Tee, Phear Park and others. They had split the project into smaller projects and would achieve it in stages. There will not be any electric bike charging, although bike parking is included for the station area in the Levelling Up bid.

MR had a question about the charging points at Imperial Car Park and CC reassured him that power would be coming in the New Year.

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

TD and ZC expressed huge apologies to Carol (CJ) for missing her off the invite list. Members heard from CJ that Transition now has x6 extremely high calibre and experienced Trustees who are raring to go. Transition is currently transitioning to a CIO (Community Interest Organisation). The Chair will be CJ. The Secretary will be Sarah Kersey. A Trustee will oversee Project Development and Support, in a move away from the previous umbrella group structure, to allow the Trustees to focus on the bigger picture and not get caught up in projects and running the network. Adrian Toole will be Treasurer. There has been a donation of £10k to have a paid member to support volunteers. There is lots of handing-over happening now and before the New Year.

TD gave a big thank you to Transition in recognition of all they are doing to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

## **11. Next meeting**

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

The meeting ended at 7.55pm