

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Wednesday 6th December 2023 via Zoom

Present

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| Councillor Tim Dumper | TD | Exmouth Town Council (Chair) |
| Councillor Olly Davey | OD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Graham Deasy | GD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Louise Venables | LV | Exmouth Town Council |
| Zoey Cooper | ZC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Sam Dorman | SD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Carol Jay | CJ | Transition Exmouth |
| Lou Doliczny | LD | Transition Exmouth |

Apologies

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| Councillor Steve Gazzard | SG | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Andrew Woodward | AW | Exmouth Town Council |
| Lisa Bowman | LB | Exmouth Town Council |

1. Welcome and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted. ZC introduced LD to the meeting who is the new vice chair of Transition Exmouth.

2. Approval of previous meeting notes held on 7th November 2023

The notes of the previous meeting held on 7th November 2023 were proposed for approval by GD, seconded by OD, and agreed by all.

3. To receive an update from ZC on the Exmouth Cup and to include a possible rubbish audit

The Exmouth cup is now in 26 cafes in Exmouth. This includes all the cafes in the Strand, a couple in and around the area and also in Bumble & Bee, Sea and Tee.

An audit was carried out and at the last count there were about 2000 cups in cafes. 2600 have been distributed so there are 600 missing. The feedback received from cafes is that members of the public are holding on to cups and then returning two or three at a time.

ZC has been posting on social media to get the word out to the community to return the cups. She said that she and Roshni are spending a lot of time picking up and dropping off cups and while this is working well now, spending a day a week doing this is not sustainable and a better system needs to be figured out.

TD, GD and Councillor Daniel Wilson have volunteered to be the Mystery shoppers to visit cafes. This will tell ETC how well the cafes are promoting the cup.

ZC added that she and Nicky Nicholls from Sideshore have planned to have a table in the Strand and then at Sideshore, to promote the cups and to get a sense of who is using them/has heard of them.

Organisations such as RNLI and Coastal Churches are beginning to borrow the Exmouth cup for events.

Members discussed completing a rubbish audit and felt it would be a good idea, but it was suggested that it may be better to do this after an event i.e., the Exmouth Christmas Market to be held in the Strand or perhaps around the warmer weather, potentially at a time of high usage. TD said he would contact Streetscene to set things in motion.

OD thanked ZC for everything she is doing and said this is a fantastic initiative.

4. To discuss the Tiny Forest Project and mention the charity Word Forest

OD updated members that some of the Tiny Forest group will be meeting SocieTree in Plymouth, on a fact-finding mission. SocieTree have already planted Tiny Forests in various schools in Plymouth. Water collection was spoken about, costing about £3000 to have installed, and OD hoped SWW could provide some funding.

The Tiny Forest Project will be turning into a CIC. In order for them to be guaranteed they need to link up to another charity who can assert they are not misusing the funds and the project team is hoping this can be done under the Transition umbrella.

The flailing of young trees by Streetscene was discussed and ZC added that this miscommunication will be avoided when the Tree Forum is up and running and Streetscene has a representative attending.

LD said that it was good to hear the project has a great team of people. She reminded members that the deadline for Transition seed funding is 7th January 2024. Transition Exmouth are holding their Trustee meeting on 11th January 2024.

ZC spoke about rainwater harvesting and how she has tried to have more water butts around Exmouth but is not getting a lot of support from EDDC. She asked members for help in where she should go with this. TD said that as there are district councillors on this working party it would be an idea to send some communication to EDDC. TD suggested some internal work to be done and then to put together some form of communication to send to EDDC.

ACTION: ZC to email TD, OD and SG with where she has got to so far with the water butts and the responses she has received.

5. To receive an update from ZC regarding our involvement with festival sustainability in 2024

ZC updated members that ETC has received £10,000 funding from the Green Team at EDDC to measure the carbon footprint of the 2023 Exmouth Festival, make the Exmouth Festival 2024 more sustainable and create a template/guidelines for all festivals and events across East Devon.

The next step is for ZC and Jess Magill (JM) to meet with someone from SWEEG (Southwest Environment and Energy Group), Sarah Elghady from Arts and Culture East Devon (ACED) and Catherine Causley next week to share the data we have and work with them on a strategy and plan for the festival in 2024.

ZC reported that ETC have also been given a little funding from ACED for our “Make Do and Mend” (working title) festival which is happening on 1st – 10th March 2024, celebrating all things repair, re-use and upcycling. With workshops on repairing, darning, making your own cleaning products etc.

6. To receive an update from ZC regarding a draft campaign with SWW and EEMP to reduce the amount of chemicals and undesirables we flush down the toilet, sink and gardens

ZC is working on a draft campaign with SWW (Vicki Garner Pennon-Group) and Exe Estuary Management Partnership (Steph Chung) about what can and can't be flushed down the toilet and sink. And what can/can't be used in the garden.

Working together ZC, SWW and EEMP would like to launch something at the next Exe Estuary Management Partnership public forum in February at County Hall. The idea is to have some stalls with information from ETC, SWW and EEMP. The campaign would go out on social media from March.

LD added that Friends of the River Exe would be very interested in the campaign.

7. To receive an update from ZC about the thermal imaging camera

Councillor Daniel Wilson and ZC door knocked one side of Waverley Road to ask if they would be interested in having photos taken with the thermal imaging camera to detect where their property is losing heat. 10 people were keen to have thermal images taken.

ZC's plan is to visit the other side of Waverley Road before going to other locations in Exmouth. ZC will work with Devon Communities to either host an initial meeting to talk through what some of the photos will look like or to take photos with them to talk through the results. ZC is having a catch-up call with Devon Communities Together today to finalise next steps. She would like to set up free workshops to give more information on the process.

8. To discuss ways in which ETC can support Plastic Free Exmouth

Members discussed ways in which ETC could support Plastic Free Exmouth and many ideas were suggested.

ZC agreed with members that there is so much we can do so it would be a good idea to meet with PFE to understand what they are planning and how ETC can support them. LD from Transition Exmouth said they would be happy to attend a meeting. LV also volunteered to attend and outlined a number of initiatives that ETC could get involved with.

ACTION: ZC to organise a meeting with PFE.

9. To receive an update from EDDC

No update due to no representative attending the meeting.

10. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth

LD gave an update to say that there are six trustees of the new CIO, Carol Jay, Adrian Toole, LD and three others. Transition Exmouth is still community-based organisation but hoping to be a CIO by March 2024.

Transition is hoping to get together with Nicky Nicholls, CAG and ZC to pick up the reins on existing projects i.e., Friends of the River Exe and Mushroom.

Transition Exmouth is keen to be involved in future festivals.

An AGM will be held on 24th January 2024 of the existing organisation to present accounts for the last year and to give a report on updates.

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

TD updated that through Transport Partnership and discussions at next week's Full Council they are dealing the Levelling Up bid at the Exmouth gateway which will have significant connotations for climate change – positive or negative.

Mike Gidney Chief Executive from Fairtrade Foundation at National Level, visited Exmouth to recognise the good work being done. The Fairtrade organisation is very much supporting Climate Justice and assisting growers to do the right thing from a climate perspective.

ZC thanked everyone that came to the "Age of Stupid" film. It was well attended, and she hoped that people left feeling positive. The 100% plant-based catering at the event was well received.

LV asked if it would be possible to have another film screening of a short film that the charity Word Forest has made. ZC said that it could be shown at one of the CEE meetings. LD added that films could be screened at the Eco Hub down at Sideshore for a smaller number of people.

12. Next meeting

9th January 2024 (6pm – 7.30pm) – Town Hall Chamber

The meeting ended at 11:35am