

## **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Festival and Events Working Party**

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 via zoom

#### **Present**

Cllr Joy Whipps (Chair)	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Nick Hookway	NH	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Cherry Nicholas	CN	Exmouth Town Council
Jess Magill	JM	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council

#### **Apologies:**

Cllr Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council

### **1. Welcome, introduction, and apologies**

JW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

### **2. To approve the notes from the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and matters arising**

OD proposed, JW seconded, the accuracy of the notes from the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2023.

CJ has emailed the events team at EDDC as agreed at the last meeting and requested that ETC would like to proceed with a Christmas tree in 2024 in the Strand but that it be put back in the original position. The tree was vandalised three times in the new location. The first time the tree was vandalised, and the lights were ripped, the repair cost was nearly £1000. The second time the tree was damaged, and the lights were pulled out of the electric box and the third time the lights were damaged again. The engineer has reported that sections of the lights will need to be replaced. CJ has received a response from Julia Woodbridge the Operations Manager of Street Scene and agreed to set a meeting date to discuss the tree location for 2024.

### **3. Update on the Gate 2 Plate festival**

JM had a virtual meeting with Robert Murray from EDDC and the Gate 2 Plate organiser Eat Festivals to run through thoughts, ideas and issues, Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 is a possible date for the event on the Strand.

The event organisers will liaise with the EDDC events team to confirm the date/details, Robert Murray will provide a list of local caterers to invite to trade who will be given priority if they can fulfil the sustainability criteria. EDDC's Development Team have confirmed that they will cover 100 percent of the cost in the first year and 50 percent in the second year.

### **4. To discuss the Magpies Festival of Thrift**

JM updated members that the upcycling festival has now been given a name and will take place between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2024. The programme will be finalised shortly but the first week will be low cost workshops and activities then the last day will be a family fun day at Littleham leisure centre. JM ran through some additional activities/talks and workshops that would take place throughout the festival.

JM and Sideshore have been working in collaboration with an eco group of students from Exmouth Community College who have designed some activities based around charity shops, scavenger hunts and fashion challenges. A workshop will also take place with Littleham Primary School based around the make do and mend theme.

The festival will teach people skills to upcycle or sew and will focus on the Saturdays and evenings on the weekdays as it will run over term time. Men's shed will have a drop in workshop to teach skills to empower people to recycle and cut down on land fill.

JM will work on publicity via press release, posters, and social media.

## **5. To discuss the Summer Festival 2024 and dates**

JM has been working on the line up trying to get main artist in place for the festival that will be held in the Manor Gardens, Sideshore and the Strand. JM will be talking to a local staging company tomorrow with the hope that if the price is competitive and level of expertise is acceptable it will not only support a local company but cut down on the carbon footprint.

Sideshore will host an Earth Day on the Sunday which will include plastic free stalls.

JW made members aware a circus will be on the Imperial Recreation Ground during the festival and wanted to know if members had any concerns. JM did not think the circus would negatively impact the festival as it is a paid event, it may even help with additional footfall. Members discussed this further, and no concerns were raised, members thought it might complement the festival.

OD queried if last year's festival APP could be used this year, JM confirmed that the APP will update when you open it and intends to also use it to promote the Magpies Festival of Thrift.

JM confirmed that the festival budget increase was approved at Full Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2024.

## **6. Any other business**

No other business

## **7. Date of next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

The meeting ended at 14:29