

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Exmouth Transport Partnership

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 10am on Monday 4th December 2023

Present

Cllr Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Cllr Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Jan Gannaway	JG	Active Travel Exmouth, & Sustrans
John Petty	JP	Active Travel Exmouth, & Exmouth Community Association
Stuart Coles	SC	DCC Highways
Phillip Morgan	PM	DCC Highways
Paul Morrey	PMo	DCC Senior Transport Manager
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

Apologies

Cllr Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Fred Caygill	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Andrew Colman	AC	Exmouth Town Council
Dave Ovenden	DO	DCC Public Transport
Stuart Jarvis	SJa	DCC Principal Transportation Planning Officer
Mike Tucker	MT	DCC Public Transport
Hannah Clark	HC	DCC Transportation Strategy Manager
Richard Easthope	RE	EDDC Parking Services Manager
Tony Jackson	TJ	ALRUG (Avocet Line Rail Users Group)
Sam Jeffcoat	SJ	DCC PROW Warden for Exmouth

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. To approve the previous meeting notes from the 19th September 2023

PS proposed and OD seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 19th of September. The meeting notes were approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

PS requested an update regarding the missing sedum on the bus shelter roof by Halsdon nursing home, LB has been unable to contact Fernbank for an answer but mentioned that some roofs are only half planted due to weight constraints. LB will continue to try and contact Fernbank.

PS queried when the Exe Estuary Trail would be reopened, LB confirmed that the timeframe for work was circulated via email to councillors on the 19th of November and stated that the projected end date is January 2024, but they hope to complete sooner.

TD updated members that the ticket office closures are not going to take place as originally planned but will wait for further clarification.

4. To receive an update on relevant “20’s plenty” matters

OD advised that Active Travel were trying to organise a cross Devon group to make representations to DCC, but no further meetings have taken place. JG pointed out that evidence shows that 86% of people in villages and towns approve of the 20mph limit restriction and evidence in 20mph limit London boroughs has resulted in 67% less collisions.

5. To receive an update on the Levelling Up project, in particular regarding the Exmouth Gateway proposal currently under public consultation and agree next steps

LB updated members that ETC met with DCC to understand what was going into the consultation which is now live and DCC have committed to another meeting with ETC before the results of the consultation are published in the new year.

TD updated members that the first DCC meeting was with Councillor Richard Scott, Councillor Jeff Trail, and Stuart Jarvis, the second meeting with North Devon Councillor Andrea Davis who is the portfolio holder for public transport and Hannah Clark the senior transport planner who drew out the first plans. TD confirmed that the latest meeting was an open two-way sensible conversation, signage was discussed and DCC are eager to work with ETC to get the correct signage for the town although the cost breakdown was not provided for the scheme.

OD attended the meeting and queried why a consultation is taking place if the plans are set in stone, HC advised OD that DCC take note of the consultation and make modifications. OD has completed the consultation survey although doubts it will improve active travel.

TD was pleased that toucan crossings are being introduced and that DCC took into consideration the Exmouth in Bloom displays and modified the plans to keep them in place.

JP has spent a lot of time researching since July 2023 when he first heard about the bid, JP requested a copy of the bid that was submitted to the LUF and the response to any conditions as he wanted to make the correct practical comments. JP received an email from Councillor Richard Scott with a link to bid but it was for the round one bid, JP has asked for the second bid link but has not heard anything. JP asked Councillor Simon Jupp to provide a copy of the bid but was told it was not possible as it was submitted online, however since he has received a draft copy of the bid that was submitted and the MOA between DCC and the LUF. JP provided members with some of his detailed research, improvements that he has considered and changes that are being made that he does not consider improvements.

Members discussed dissatisfaction that the back of the train station and walkway have been omitted from the scheme and that a drafted motion about concerns has been put together by Councillor Mike Rosser for debate at the next Full Council meeting on the 11th of December. OD had just attended the EDDC Asset Management Group meeting where it was discussed that DCC now recognise that they need to look at the scheme as a joint project and engage EDDC/ETC.

PS queried if buses would park at the back of the station as the pavement is being widened in-front of the LED to accommodate bus users. TD understands that buses will park in the same place as the road is being narrowed. OD agreed that there was nothing in the proposal that buses will park elsewhere and believes they will still use the 95 bus stop. DP expressed his opinion that public money is not being spent well on a proper transport interchange and that he is opposed to the filling in of the subway as he believes it will make the road crossing busier. JP does not think that DCC has considered taxis and disabled access around the station and agrees with DP that the subway should not be filled.

LB made members aware that ETC are legally committed to 400K funding from ETC CIL funds and urged councillors to complete the survey independently if they were not happy

with the Gateway proposals. JP suggested the project should be reshaped for a better use of public money.

6. To note the points from the Devon Rail Forum dated 21st of November and the Devon BUS Forum both attended by TD

PMo sent the Devon Rail Forum notes and a link to the Devon BUS Forum which is on the DCC website to LG prior to the meeting, LG forwarded the email to TD and will circulate to members after the meeting.

TD provided members with an update about the aspiration to have rail links between buses and trains and through ticketing that were brought up in the forums, although there are no plans in the pipeline for Exmouth.

7. To note the cancellation of the HATOC meeting scheduled for the 5th of December and that a virtual question and answer session is to be run to include issues concerning the Exmouth Resident Parking Permit Scheme

TD confirmed that a virtual meeting will take place on the 5th of December 2023 where the residents parking permits in Exmouth will be discussed. TD has received reports from members and a group of local residents who have raised concerns which TD will present to HATOC.

LB spoke to DCC Councillors recently about resident dissatisfaction due to parking displacement around Exmouth and has learned that a decision will be made at the next face to face HATOC meeting in April 2024 to review zones that opposed the introduction of residents parking. LB confirmed that the traffic order relating to zones where residents parking has already been introduced possibly cannot be reversed. TD thought the whole scheme should be considered; LB did not know what scope there was to tweak the existing parking order in the adopted zones as a traffic order is in place so requested that TD ask HATOC for clarification.

OD received an email about lining works that are taking place around the residents parking zones between the 27th of November and the 8th of December which has caused confusion between parking enforcement officers and residents as the signage is unclear. TD will raise this issue in the HATOC meeting.

OD has received complaints about leaves on pavements causing slip hazards and the general bad condition of pavements, TD will feed this back to HATOC during the meeting.

8. Stakeholder reports:

a) Stagecoach

There was no Stagecoach representative at the meeting and no report was received.

b) DCC Public Transport

To request that DCC add a sentence in bus timetables and other publicity to the effect that the 99E service is financially supported by Exmouth Town Council

PMo advised that no changes are anticipated until April 2024 and the financial support grant received from government has already been fully committed. PMo hopes that they might benefit from the HS2 cancellation and receive additional funding to improve bus services. PMo stated that services 98/98A in Exmouth, 157 to Sidmouth and the 357 to Budleigh have ceased to be commercial so are now financially supported. DP was surprised that the 98

and 157 buses were non-commercial and requested an explanation, PMo confirmed that it is due to a combination of reasons which include recruiting drivers, increase in insurance, fuel, employee costs and passenger levels being down from pre-covid.

After the meeting TD confirmed that he would take the 99E service request to Full Council on the 11th of December as it was omitted from today's meeting.

c) EDDC Car/Cycle, Coach & Lorry Parks & Electric Vehicle Charging

There was no EDDC representative at the meeting however TD read out a report supplied by RE prior to the meeting which LG will circulate to members via email.

PS commented that she has received reports that the car parks are now full due to the knock-on effect of the residents parking scheme and the associated uptake in permits.

d) Active Travel

JG advised members that the Active Travel Day will be on Saturday the 11th of May 2024 at Sideshore. Catherine Causley from EDDC asked JG to suggest places for cycle parking, JG put forward all along the seafront and in the town centre but as has not heard anymore asked ETC to follow this up.

e) Taxis

There was no Taxi representative at the meeting and no report was received.

f) GWR

There was no GWR representative at this meeting and no report was received.

g) ALRUG

There was no ALRUG representative at the meeting however TD read out the report supplied by TJ prior to the meeting which LG will circulate to members after the meeting.

TD attended the ALRUG AGM where it was reported that train usage on the Avocet line is up by 20%.

h) DCC Highways

SC updated members that a press release is available on the DCC website as £6.6 million additional funding has been received from government to tackle pothole issues on the network (although the current weather conditions will cause further issues).

PM stated that safety defect work will continue, and £1 million out of the £6.6 million funding has been released for serviceability and pothole patching in areas with minor defects. PM advised that tarmac cannot be laid in severe wet weather and extreme low temperatures so poses difficulty carrying out work this time of year.

PS raised concerns about potholes around Exmouth especially on traffic lights, PM assured PS that potholes that meet the criteria according to the different classification of roads are filled on a regular basis. TD wanted cyclists to be taken into consideration when assessing ruts in roads as although they do not meet the safety defect criteria, they meet the serviceability criteria.

PM advised members that in the summer they trialled a way of filling holes using a new product call Elastomac which is a rubberised solution. It was used at the entrance to the car park at the Town Hall and PM hopes it will be used more in the future if it is durable.

PM and SC left the meeting.

i) To consider ways of increasing the attendance of stakeholders, especially our public transport operators, who are vital in the provision of adequate transport in the area

TD asked members for ideas on how to increase attendance of stakeholders in particular public transport, PMo suggested inviting them once a year. TD has spoken to DW at GWR who advised that they have no additional resource to send to meetings as they attend several other transport group meetings. TD will put together a proposal to increase stakeholder attendance. LB will keep trying to engage stakeholders.

9. Any other business

JG queried if any update was available on lamppost chargers and OD confirmed that it was discussed at the EDDC cabinet meeting on the 29th of November. DCC has received funding for chargers which include pavement gully chargers. OD updated members that they plan to install the chargers in St Andrews Road, Halsdon Road and Exmouth car parks for resident charging hubs. OD confirmed that the Imperial Road car park chargers will hopefully be up and running in January 2024 once the power supply has been fixed.

LB advised members that DCC held a consultation on their strategy for EV charging points across the county and the report was published in July 2023 which LG will circulate to members after the meeting.

10. Dates of 2024 meetings:

27th February

25th June

17th September

3rd December

The meeting closed at 11:55