

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 8th January 2024 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (Streetscene)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Julian Short	JS	Exmouth Community Association
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society

Apologies

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association

1. Welcome and apologies

PS welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. To agree the notes of the previous meeting held on the 20th November 2023

GD proposed and MW seconded the accuracy of the notes dated the 20th of November 2023 and members agreed.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

As promised in the previous meeting LB contacted DCC Councillor Jeff Trail to understand the process for reviewing the residents parking, JT confirmed that this matter would have been discussed at the December HATOC meeting, but it was cancelled, the next meeting will take place in April 2024. LB updated members that written into the existing traffic order there is a process for a review depending on the scale of proposed changes which would dictate if further consultation would be required. JT advised that if more than 50% of residents voted against the original residents parking in their roads it would be likely that a new consultation would be required to ascertain the appetite to extend the residents parking on a street-by-street basis.

LB advised that it is written into the traffic order that changes can be made so urged members to email DCC to request a review but made members aware that the roads where residents parking was introduced in August will not be reversed but new residents parking could be introduced. IC spoke to a resident in Carter Avenue who contacted a DCC Councillor to query if a review would take place and was told that reviews would be on-line, as this is not always possible the Councillor agreed to write to residents. PS was

concerned that if the residents parking was extended to other roads, it would cause further displacement and as the car parks in town are getting busier maybe EDDC should be looking into a park and ride service. AT was pleased with the scheme introduced in the colony as residents have benefitted greatly although would like to see a reduction in car use and reminded members that 2 cargo bikes are available for hire.

JS was keen for a transport hub behind the bus station, LB advised that this has always been an ETC aspiration for a proper transport interchange which is pushed through the Exmouth Transport Partnership WP but Stagecoach have historically been reluctant to take the buses behind the station as it would increase the journey time.

Members discussed the residents parking further and the lack of joined up thinking between EDDC and DCC which has resulted in the scheme causing parking issues in the town centre.

PS was pleased that the winter festival was successful and well attended given the bad weather.

4. To receive any relevant updates on the developing Local Plan. The latest reports from EDDC's Strategic Planning Committee can be found here:

[Browse meetings - Strategic Planning Committee - East Devon](#)

GS queried when the Town Council's neighbourhood plan steering group would be reinstated, LB confirmed, as per previous meeting, that the neighbourhood plan must be in compliance with the local plan therefore the emerging local plan will take precedence and ideally needs to be adopted before the neighbourhood plan could be reviewed properly. Therefore, there would be no value in reinstating the steering group at this point. ETC has received funded support through Locality to complete a housing needs assessment to possibly strengthen the housing policies in the neighbourhood plan and to potentially challenge housing numbers or types of houses that come through the local plan allocation, this work should be finalised within the next month.

GS was keen to know if DCC Councillor Paul Arnott received a response from Michael Gove in respect of reviewing housing numbers. LB had not been informed of any reply but was keen to stress that Ed Freeman has consistently stated that the statement by Michael Gove regarding housing numbers does not mean that the District Council can completely dictate its housing need. There is potentially scope to use alternative methodology to calculate housing needs but any alternative methodology would still be scrutinised by government and may not result in a lower calculation of housing need. It is hoped that the housing needs assessment commissioned by ETC will help to inform a discussion and policies about the type of housing needed in Exmouth, even if the target figure remains at approximately 1000 homes in the emerging Local Plan.

LB confirmed that she has spoke to the Neighbourhood Planning Officer at EDDC Angela King who had queried why ETC had commissioned a housing needs assessment and asked us to check which methodology Locality were using as EDDC have challenged methodology that Locality have previously used in villages although she added that they have had no experience of Locality working in large urban areas and therefore could no comment on its application. LB previously reported that housing allocated across the district to date had been calculated on a tiered settlement approach, Exmouth is a tier 1 settlement so it is expected that Exmouth will take the majority of housing.

IC queried if Locality are responsible for choosing the methodology used. LB made members aware that ETC applied for funding through Locality to commission a housing needs assessment and policy review of the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan and that work was assigned to AECOM who will, as far as she is aware, use one type of methodology. We are unable to dictate which methodology they use. IC was concerned that historically Exmouth has not received the type of houses requested, LB advised members to wait until the housing needs assessment is completed by AECOM as it will provide evidence of what sort of houses Exmouth require that can then be presented to EDDC. LB also commented that she could not predict whether that work would result in a lower housing needs number for Exmouth than EDDC had calculated.

GD raised concerns that developers may say that the types of houses requested are not profitable enough which will lead to missed housing targets if developers refuse to build. Members discussed previous developments in Exmouth that provided the wrong type of houses, LB stated that it is difficult to challenge developers when we currently do not have a 5 year land supply, hence why we need to get the local plan adopted and use the evidence provided by AECOM.

LB confirmed that the report will explain how the figures have been calculated and which methodology was used to calculate the housing numbers.

5. To receive any relevant updates on the Levelling Up Fund project progress

LB confirmed that the consultation closed on the 5th of January 2024, and a meeting has been arranged for the beginning of February 2024 to meet with the DCC portfolio holder Andrea Davis to discuss the outcome of the public consultation before any decisions are made and the results are made public.

LB did not have any updates on the compulsory land purchase for the Dinan Way project, although it was noted that DCC's stated position is that negotiations would result in the voluntary surrender of the land required. LB confirmed that the contract tender is out for the road construction which should start in Autumn 2024.

AT was keen for a better public transport system due to concerns that the new link road may divert people living in the area away from the town centre. GS and IC did not find the consultation on the gateway or online questionnaire helpful so provided comments in writing directly to DCC.

LB advised members that although there is some wriggle room, the allocation of funding dictates what DCC spend money on as it must be within the specified criteria, unfortunately ETC aspirations for a transport interchange were outside of the criteria.

GD shared his disappointment with members that the scheme is based solely on active travel, concentrating on walking/bicycles rather than a transport interchange. Members discussed the gateway proposals and the ETC aspirations for the back of the train station to be a transport hub which had been adversely affected by the development of the M&S store. LB advised members that the Gateway scheme is on DCC owned highway land that is within the County Council's remit. GD felt that DCC were not consulting with EDDC and ETC, who are partners, and that the three Councils should be

working together. LB suggested that dual hatted councillors could be pushing this as they can influence decisions at District Council.

6. To receive an update on the progress of a review of Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan

This was discussed in item 4.

7. To note that recent issues relating to SWW will be discussed at the next Flooding and Land Drainage WP

JS and ECA have collated a list of questions to ask SWW about the current issues, LB advised JS that although we can discuss this at COLP, the matter falls within the current remit of the Council's Flooding and Land Drainage working party and any questions should be raised through that working party as it has the jurisdiction to deal with SWW issues on behalf of the Council. The notes are also published on the Council's website.

IC queried which authority is responsible for unblocking the drains and LB confirmed that DCC are responsible for gully cleansing but that she believed that they were only cleaned every 3 years, or sooner if reports are received. LB urged members to report blocked drains to the DCC highways department through the DCC online portal.

JS made members aware of various SWW issues that he has reported to HSE, EA and SWW as well as meeting with Councillors Paul Arnott and Geoff Jung on New Years Day due to industrial hoses being exposed over the Maer Road car park and potentially causing a hazard. Members discussed further SWW issues including tanker convoys for which PS and LB explained the SWW tanker process for sludge and sewage.

IC wanted to know where storm tanks were located in Exmouth, LB will forward details to IC after the meeting. LB urged JS to view the Flooding and Land Drainage WP notes on the ETC website for any updates.

8. StreetScene update

AGR did not have an updates available on the sea wall at this time, but the team has been busy clearing up over the Christmas period, especially graffiti which has been particularly bad in the public toilets. PS requested that the glass panes on the beach shelters opposite the Pavilion be cleaned as they are very dirty, AGR will investigate and get them cleaned.

PS thanked StreetScene on behalf of ETC for all their hard work over Christmas and New Year.

9. Update from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives

Climate and Ecological Emergency WP

LV updated members that during the last meeting it was recommended that the Plant Based Treaty would be taken to Full Council, it was taken to Full Council on the 11th of December 2023 and resolved that the Town Council adopts the treaty.

Exmouth Transport Partnership

PS was disappointed that public transport members did not attend the last meeting, and no reports were received.

Festival & Events WP

LB confirmed that the previous meeting was primarily a wash up meeting for the Winter Festival.

Budget Briefing meeting

LB advised that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday the 10th of January when the draft budget and proposed precept will be discussed. This would need to be ratified at Full Council on the 22nd of January 2024.

Planning Committee

LB made members aware that Churchill won their appeal for the Jewson's site, LB will forward the appeal link to members after the meeting.

Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group

GD advised that the original meeting scheduled for the 5th of February 2024 has been re-scheduled to the 23rd of January 2024.

10. Any other business

DR was impressed with the private event held on the Strand over Christmas and New Year, PS confirmed that the organiser of the event intends to hold another similar event in December 2024. IC was grateful that Churches Together had been given the marquee to use for free for their Christmas Encounters event on Friday the 22nd of December.

11. Next meeting 5th February 2024

AGR was unable to attend the next scheduled meeting on the 5th of February however confirmed that Peter Croft would attend on behalf of Street Scene.

The meeting concluded at 11:55