

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Public Rights of Way Working Party

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 4pm on Wednesday 14th February 2024

Present

Mark Williamson	MW	ETC Councillor, Chair
Andrew Toyne	AT	ETC & EDDC Councillor
Jan Gannaway	JG	Active Travel Exmouth & Sustrans
Elizabeth Deasy	ED	TARA
Heath Nickels	HN	P3 Co-Ordinator
Ross Hussey	RH	Footpath Volunteer
Chetna Jones	CJ	ETC Deputy Town Clerk

Apologies

Louise Venables	LV	ETC Councillor
Sam Jeffcoat	SJ	DCC PROW Warden for Exmouth

1. Welcome and apologies

MW welcomed members and apologies were noted.

The meeting was not quorate, however members agreed by show of hands to continue on an informal basis.

2. To approve the notes of the meeting on the 13th of September 2023

The accuracy of the notes from the 13th of September will be ratified at the next quorate meeting.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

No matters arose from the previous meeting.

4. To review annual P3 forms and survey for submission as part of the P3 Scheme

The P3 survey and expenditure forms were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

5. Update from the P3 Co-ordinator on current state of footpaths (HN)

RH mentioned that a section of footpath 11 needed some light remedial work, possibly some extra gravel laid, CJ will mention this to SJ.

MW queried the amount of working hours that has been spent on footpath 13 as it is a very short path, CJ confirmed that the footpath was extremely overgrown which took a number of hours to cut back.

HN was not aware of any current issues with PROW footpaths.

AT confirmed that work on footpath 9 from the end of Maristow Avenue leading to Exeter Road has now been completed.

6. Update from DCC Public Rights of Way warden (SJ)

SJ was not in attendance, but the following report was received after the meeting:

The workload has been heavy for some months now due to the poor weather and staff shortages in our department. The main news now is that the cliff stability report has not been positive at Rodney Point, and it is unlikely therefore that DCC will be able to repair/replace the steps down to the beach. I'm waiting to hear re next steps from my manager and the engineering department (who are directly responsible for the steps) but they remain closed at the moment. I am going to add additional "Path Closed" signs to the structure so that it is as obvious as possible from the beach that the steps are closed, but ETC/EDDC may wish to consider additional signage elsewhere on the beach/seafront to warn beach users in advance of the step closure if felt necessary.

On a more positive note, I have recently received some funding from the developments around Dinan Way and hope to deliver work to have Exmouth FP12 stoned-up by the end of March to greatly improve the surface of this path between Hulham Road and A-La-Ronde.

7. Update on Bapton Valley project

JG, NH and CJ met on site with the contractors and Louis Hoyle (LH), the EDDC Projects Engineer, to discuss the finer points of design such as barriers, path widths and where the contractor's machinery compound will be positioned. During the visit CJ and JG were approached by a resident who moved into the area in 2021 but was not aware of the project through land searches that they made prior to purchase. CJ tried to reassure the resident that the work would improve the pathway and added that the work would not have shown up in any planning searches as no planning application is required for the existing pathway improvement. MW suggested that he may visit the resident to reassure them.

Overall, the site visit was very positive, and the contractors were mindful that they would need to clear some parts and check for wildlife when doing so. CJ made LH aware that Streetscene should be involved in the project as they are responsible for maintaining the valley park and will need to cut back some current overgrowth, LH will discuss this with Streetscene.

During the visit CJ and LH briefly spoke about expenditure and covering the costs (cost breakdown spreadsheet circulated with the agenda), LH requested payment in full as well as a 10 percent contingency to allow for extra work that may be required. CJ asked that any contingency money not used should be reimbursed. EYC will release the funds to enable EDDC to make staged payments as the work is completed.

CJ has requested signage but it maybe that ETC will need to deal with this aspect as a separate project, members were asked for their design ideas. JG was mindful that the wording on signage is very important and needs to be correct. Members discussed possible signage designs including maps as a separate project that could be displayed between Goodmores and the Town Centre. JG has a map of the whole Bapton Valley Park route which will be forwarded to CJ to circulate to members. Members discussed possible signage locations in more detail.

Permissions would be required to install signs on the highway so any signage would be dependent on DCC approval. MW urged members to forward any design and location ideas to CJ.

The contractors are currently working at Brixington Park, as soon as this work is completed, they will start the Bapton Valley project, CJ confirmed that they hope to start in March 2024 however this would be dependent on no delays at Brixington Park and dry weather.

MW suggested another site meeting with the contractors and LH prior to the next PROW meeting on the 11th of September.

8. Any other business

No other business.

9. Next meeting – 11th September 2024

The meeting closed at 16:47