

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Wednesday 7th February 2024 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 |
| Councillor Mike Rosser | MR | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Andrew Toye | AT | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Fred Caygill | FC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Zoey Cooper | ZC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Lisa Bowman | LB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Carol Jay | CJ | Transition Exmouth |

Apologies

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| Councillor Steve Gazzard | SG | Exmouth Town Council |
| Sam Dorman | SD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Catherine Causley | CC | East Devon District Council |
| Alex Mitchell | AM | East Devon District Council |

1. Welcome and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Approval of previous meeting notes held on 9th January 2024 and any matters arising therein

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

3. To receive a brief update from ZC about thermal imaging and the energy efficiency workshops

ETC partnered with Devon Communities Together (DCT) to provide two energy efficiency workshops that were held at Littleham Leisure Centre. One was held in the evening where only one person attended, and one was held during the day where no one attended. This was disappointing.

The workshops were promoted with leaflets being posted to two hundred houses and posts on social media through ETC and DCT.

ZC is negotiating with Littleham Leisure Centre to see if the Warm Space on Wednesday pm needs to be hired as a drop-in session might be more effective.

ZC and Anderson Jones from DCT will be dropping in to an Open Door session next Wednesday morning to provide energy advice and hand out leaflets.

Members discussed other energy efficient workshops that had been held and if there was anything ETC could learn from these to encourage members of the public to attend.

ZC asked members how they would like her to take this forward. Members thought it was a good idea to attend places where people are likely to already be going to receive support. Councillor GD suggested we go to the audience rather than expect them to come to us.

MR asked why it is that Sidmouth Town Council, who are a smaller council than Exmouth, has the capacity to organise volunteers to go out with the Thermal Imaging camera and felt that creating a similar task force is something we should be doing.

ZC confirmed that a task force is something she has been looking into as she needs help with the Exmouth Cup and other initiatives. DCT funding for the project in Exmouth will finish at the end of March.

LB said she will speak to Chris Holland at Sidmouth Town Council to see how Sidmouth is organising the thermal imaging team, and report back to members.

4. To receive a brief update on actions agreed at the meeting with Plastic Free Exmouth

ZC, OD and TD met with PFE and discussed ways in which ETC could support them. Actions from the meeting -

- PFE said they would talk with their team of volunteers to see if they could support ETC with the Exmouth Cup. A volunteers meeting will be held in the next couple of weeks to get them on board with some of the new initiatives for the Exmouth cup.
- PFE are interested in schools being involved to achieving Plastic Free status. ZC has offered to reach out to contacts she has in the primary schools to connect them with PFE so they can start going through the accreditation process. This is, however, not a quick win for schools and they will no doubt need support to achieve Plastic Free status.
- Discussed reusable nappies and PFE gave ZC a contact in Exeter who provide a reusable nappy scheme.
- Discussed signage for PFE at the three entrances to Exmouth. ZC has shared a design with Stuart Coles at DCC along with map locations. She is now waiting to hear if this can go ahead or not.

- PFE are interested in having a plastic free shopping guide for Exmouth. Discussion was had about how they may do this. To be discussed during the climate network meeting in March.
- Discussed the cigarette ballot bin. PFE to talk with Nicky Nicholls and Sideshore to see if they can position one there with ETC potentially sponsoring the bin. The logistics around who would empty it needs to be looked into. This could be a pilot scheme for other areas/buildings to take and manage a bin.

5. To receive a brief update from ZC about the PBT and agree the next PBT initiatives.

ZC provided an update that they would like to have a launch of the Plant Based Treaty. Ideas below –

- A bring and share meal with film – This would be plant based and people could invite a friend along who isn't vegan, so bringing new people into the fold. This could potentially be done with Word Forest, who have been organising bring and shares several months and have a template for guidance. It could be hosted in the Town Hall Chamber and Committee Room where Word Forest could come along and show a short film about their charity and how they are raising money to plant trees. This event would be low cost and relatively easy to set up
- A recipe book and funding application – talk to different community groups and bring in recipes from all over Exmouth. This would be a community and inclusive project.
- Ready Steady Cook – ZC speaking with a filmmaker later today to understand how this could be set up to reach a broad audience.

ZC is attending the Sidmouth event on the 29th February 2024 to talk about how ETC have endorsed a relevant-to-Exmouth Town Council version of the Plant Based Treaty.

6. To agree which water butt to purchase for the Pavilion

ZC shared slides with members about rainwater harvesting activities. She updated members that ETC have the go-ahead and licence to put a water butt at the Town Hall, in the corner where the Mayor has a reserved parking space. EDDC would like ETC to provide an attractive one with a planter. ZC asked members which colour they would like to choose, members voted and chose sandstone.

There are two options for the water butt behind the Pavilion and ZC explained the options with the pros and cons. It has been approved by EDDC in principle, but ETC

is still waiting for the licence. Members voted and chose the second option in a dark colour, also preferred by Exmouth in Bloom.

7. To receive a brief update from ZC about “Magpies – A Festival of Thrift”

Magpies – A Festival of Thrift begins on the 2nd March 2024 at the repair café and runs all week ending on the 9th March 2024 in the Littleham Leisure Centre with a Community Day of Thrift.

Events will be happening from the repair café throughout the week with various repair workshops taking place such as repairing jewellery and electrical items. Men’s Shed have a couple of events happening in the week also.

The big day on Saturday 9th will include many various activities. Exmouth Ecos will be presenting a fashion show. One of their challenges is to go to the charity shops in Exmouth and create an Oscar’s outfit. Each team will be given a small budget to buy their Oscar’s outfit, catwalk their outfits and auction them afterwards. Their second challenge will be a charity shop scavenger hunt where they must find several different things, take a photo of them and send the montage into ETC where a winner will be chosen. The third challenge is a tech challenge. ETC and Sideshore have commissioned a robot frame to be built. The students at the community college will cover the frame, to build a robot with tech they no longer need. It will live in the school atrium for a week before it is taken to the festival. And then on to Bicton, Sideshore and Knowle Hill Recycling.

The recycling centre is going to stage a bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen and garden comprising second hand items. There will be times people can visit the ‘Second Chance Showhome’ throughout the week of the festival.

A huge cardboard sculpture will be bought into the leisure centre which is mouldable, and people can draw on it. A number of different talks will be happening around reusing, repairing and recycling. Devon Communities Together are attending and will have an energy efficiency table. There will be lots of mending and darning. Ride On has a bike repair clinic outside. The Creative Cabin will be attending and also the Mossy Carpet. A full programme will go out in the next couple of days.

ZC asked if members could spread the word.

8. To receive an update from EDDC

No representative from EDDC in attendance.

TD updated members that Catherine Causley has been providing Climate Change training and some dual hatted councillors have attended this.

9. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth

CJ provided an update that an AGM was held, and the group of trustees under the current umbrella were ratified. A newsletter is being put together and CJ asked ZC to

send information she would like to go in with regards to the Magpies - A Festival of Thrift.

Transition Exmouth have been helping Friends of the Rive Exe with their funding bids to continue their work.

The Citizen Science programme has started with training people, and they are taking regular samples.

TD thanked CJ and Transition Exmouth for their contribution to Exmouth.

10. To receive an update on other relevant matters from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives, and any other business

TD asked if there was anything interesting that came out of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership meeting. LB provided a summary and explained there was a heavy focus on Exe Estuary water quality and various organisations provided updates (The Environment Agency, Exe Estuary Management Partnership, South West Water, ESCAPE, Surfers Against Sewage and FORE). No specific solutions were offered, but people were signposted to further information sources.

There was an update from Graham Foreshaw on the Harbour Revision Order, part of which is out to consultation and LB will be sharing information with councillors.

An update from the Otter Estuary Ranger was given, who is now managing the Lower Otter Restoration Project. He shared some photos and inspiring stories about birds that are now appearing on the Lower Otter.

Finally, the Sea Scouts were there to give a plug for their new scout hut which they need funding for.

The relevance of the water quality forum to the CEE WP is that all of the issues relating to pollution are being exacerbated by Climate Change – and this is only going to get worse.

Tiny Forest - OD attended a site and zoom meeting with EDDC Louise Baker who is the new Parks and Open Spaces Improvement Officer and Paul Fealey who is the Horticultural Technical Officer. EDDC is very onboard with this.

Tiny Forest is now set up as a CIC and a bank account is being set up. In discussion with EDDC a date has been set for 28th February 2024 when the tiny forest will be planted at the George V (Carter Avenue) recreational space. As well as the 600 trees that make the Tiny Forest, EDDC would like to plant another 180 around the Tiny Forest as a comparison between conventional planting and the Tiny Forest method.

LB highlighted that the George V site was identified by the engineering team as a possible site for a pump track which was the third most popular project that was voted through the Community Sports vote. LB advised OD that it might be worth flagging this up.

ACTION: OD will mention this with Louise Baker.

11. Any other business

It was noted that the budget of £50,00 was agreed for the CEE WP at Full Council.

An artist has contacted ZC who is planning an Estuary installation called "Melt". ZC will share details with all members, to take a vote in the next CEE WP meeting as to whether the WP would like to support this installation.

12. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday, 5th March 2024 (6pm – 7.30pm) Town Hall Chamber

The meeting ended at 11:42.