EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 5th March 2024 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

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
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Lou Doliczny	LD	Transition Exmouth
Sune Nightingale	SN	Estuary Installation Melt

Apologies

Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Daniel Wilson	DW	Exmouth Town Council
Catherine Causley	CC	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 7th February 2024 and any matters arising therein**

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

TD mentioned the Magpies – A Thrifty Festival which is taking place throughout this week and said any help would be welcomed. ZC added that help would be appreciated on Saturday at the Community Thrift Day being held at Littleham Leisure Centre to set up. MR agreed to come along at 10am to help set up.

3. **To receive a short presentation on the Estuary Installation 'Melt' from the promoter (Sune Nightingale) and potentially the artist**

SN introduced himself as chair of Dittisham Parish Council. He presented the project and explained the organiser of the project is actually artist Anthony Garratt but SN is trying to spread the word and get support for the project.

SN talked through the presentation and explained that Ella Hibbert is the first person to attempt to circumnavigate the Arctic by sailing boat. Ella will send photos of icebergs to the artist on her travels for him to paint a series of giant canvases. These

will be floated on giant platforms, on the River Dart then the Teign and Exe. And will turn with the tide.

It is thought that the giant platforms will be on the River Dart around June/July 2024 and then on the Teign and Exe September/October 2024.

Members held a discussion about the project, suggesting activities (and further locations) on the River Exe for 'The Melt', and potential involvement for ETC to promote the project.

ZC summarised the discussion with the following points:

- ETC could support the project with a financial contribution (in exchange ETC receives a print of one of the installations).
- ETC could organise an event, which could be done as a standalone event or tie in with Transition Exmouth or Friends of the River Exe. ZC suggested a film with food and a talk from the local glaciologist.
- ZC suggested she contacted the artist Anthony Garratt for more information on location, timings and set-up.

ACTION(S)

- **ZC to connect SN to a contact at Stuart Line Cruises and to Steph Harper-Chung at Exe Estuary Management Partnership**
- **ZC to work on pulling together a plan for promoting the project, potentially including local schools. Once the plan is developed tasks to be allocated amongst the members.**
- **ZC to circulate ideas to members about how ETC can support the project.**
- **ZC to contact artist Anthony Garratt for further information.**

4. To receive an update regarding the Energy Efficiency Workshops and potential ongoing relationship with DCT (Devon Communities Together)

The joint event at Open Door was a success – Anderson Jones from DCT spoke with and offered advice to eight people. The focus was on staying warm and saving money. There was no mention of carbon footprint/climate change.

DCT funding for this project finishes at the end of March but they would still like to work in partnership with ETC to create an Energy Efficiency booklet.

LB mentioned how ETC spent a lot of money printing Flood Defence booklets, and there are still boxes of these left which are now out of date. Based on experience, LB didn't think a booklet was a good use of time and/or resources.

ZC said we should continue to tackle the 'Energy' topic, but as part of a carbon counting/reduction exercise (as per the Climate Action Plan). As we are moving into

warmer weather, the focus should not be exclusively about saving money and staying warm.

Members agreed to decline the invitation to work on a booklet with DCT. But wanted to pick this topic (save money/stay warm) up again later in the year if DCT has budget for Exmouth.

5. **To decide donation amount and location of the Exmouth Cup postbox topper**

One of the yarn bombers is knitting ETC an Exmouth Cup postbox topper. ZC asked members how much they would be happy to donate to Hospice Care. The top locations for the topper to go are as follows:

- For a £200 donation the topper could be placed at one of the following locations: Brixington Parade, Withycombe Village, Exeter Road near All Saints Church, the Strand pub, Magnolia Centre, Pound Lane, Tesco on Salterton Road or Lloyds TSB.

Members discussed the pros and cons of the locations, and it was agreed the Exmouth Cup postbox topper should be placed at the Strand Pub as the first choice and the second choice Lloyds/TSB. ZC will find out about the seafront postbox (by the Imperial Hotel) as members said this would be a great location.

6. **To discuss cigarette ballot bins in line with Plastic Free Exmouth's current campaign**

ZC had a discussion with Plastic Free Exmouth who have asked for ETC's support, with their campaign to have cigarette ballot bins in locations around Exmouth. Sideshore was discussed as a location but is a smoke free zone.

Members discussed and suggested locations such as outside pubs, who in turn would be responsible for emptying the bins.

LB suggested Plastic Free Exmouth speak to East Devon District Council and/or Devon County Council (Highways) as ETC do not own any land.

ZC said she will have a chat with Lucy Oakes-Ash from Plastic Free Exmouth to say that we would like to support this campaign, we think talking to pubs is the way forward and costs for the bins will need to be discussed.

7. **To discuss next steps for the Plant Based Treaty launch and ongoing activities**

ZC went to Kennaway House in Sidmouth to an event focused on the Plant Based Treaty and said the event had gone well, with a lot of interest from Sidmouth Councillors and members of the public.

Members discussed ideas for activities throughout the year, and LB suggested ZC liaise with Helen Wharam from East Devon District Council. LB also mentioned HALF (now called Project Food) in Axminster, whom ETC had previously supported with offering shopping and cooking classes in Exmouth.

ZC asked for help with some of the ideas suggested and LV offered her help. TD proposed LV's offer to help and all members seconded and agreed they would be happy for LV to help ZC.

8. To receive an update from EDDC

No representative from EDDC in attendance. Catherine Causley sent an update as follows which ZC read out to members.

- The first phase of bike parking has been installed at Exmouth in 3 locations, adjacent to the play park at Phear Park, next to Bumble and Tee at Phear Park and near the lifeboat station along the seafront. These were areas with high volumes of cycling but limited parking opportunities. There will be a press release out shortly to promote these additional spaces.

- The climate action plan review is well underway with various departments and by the end of April we will have a new 1 year climate action plan and strategy document. The next action plan will cover the year 2025-2030 and should indicate the work we will undertake to reduce our carbon footprint by 50% inline with our commitment to the Devon carbon plan.

- Training was offered to new and existing cllrs to inform them of what the climate emergency means and how they can play a part. This was well received and 27 cllrs took part over 3 sessions.

- The internal training team at EDDC has been set up and will deliver training to 25% of the staff a year. This will involve 3 separate streams, induction training for new recruits, team specific awareness training and Carbon literacy training for those that need additional knowledge. The training team is made up of 6 staff and they will deliver this in addition to their main jobs.

9. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth

LD provided an update to members to say that the new Transition Trustees have renamed themselves the Core group. LD explained they have been busy getting Transition established and are waiting on confirmation on CIO status. The cargo bikes are still out and about in the community.

Transition have been busy supporting Friends of the River Exe with their financial modelling, strategy and fundraising. Friends of the River Exe have asked if OD or ZC could provide a reference for them. Both OD and ZC agreed.

A roundtable meeting will be held with ZC, Nicky Nicholls from Sideshore and other community groups next Tuesday. The purpose of this meeting is for each group to briefly present what they have planned for the year ahead, explain where they need support and (hopefully) identify synergies with other groups in the meeting.

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

Tree Forum

ZC said the Tree Forum had its first meeting and was very well attended. It was good to get updates from different organisations and members spoke about what they would like to achieve as a group.

It was agreed that the forum would reach out to EDDC's landscape architect to ask him if he could create a vision strategy for Exmouth. ZC agreed to work on a map to show who owns which pieces of land in Exmouth. HN offered to support this action.

LB added that EDDC and DCC have their own mapping system to show all the land owned by them. ETC also have the Pear Mapping technology which can be used to create this map.

LB reported that when the Tree TAFF was active there was a Team's group for posting any updates and/or useful information. ZC to ask forum members if they'd like to join such a group.

MR said he is disappointed that the Tree Forum is only twice a year. It was agreed that ZC would ask the forum members, via email, if they would prefer a quarterly meeting.

Tiny Forest

OD provided an update on the Tiny Forests. He said it was a fantastic day and gave his praise to EDDC. Louise Baker and Paul Fealey from EDDC supplied the trees, guards and mulch. The trees were then planted and there is now a fence around the Tiny Forest. Groups from schools, residents and members of the public came down to help.

There are 600 trees of different species planted in a semi-circle and beside this EDDC have planted another 160 trees in a more conventional way. The idea is to compare the growth rate.

11. Any other business

MR asked if it was worth revisiting ETC's audit on carbon emissions. ZC said this previous audit is referenced in (and informs) the agreed Climate Action Plan. MR requested this be an agenda item for the next CEE WP meeting.

12. Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 10th April 2024 (10am – 11.30am) Virtual via Zoom

The meeting ended at 20:05.