EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 20th May 2024 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brain Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (StreetScene)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Bruce de Saram	BdS	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Rev Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together

Apologies

Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society

1. To elect a chair and vice chair

LB requested nominations for the election of the chair. GD proposed DP, seconded by MW, that he be re-elected as chair of this working party. No further nominations were received. Members were asked to vote, and DP was duly recommended as chair.

LB requested nominations for the election of vice chair, DP proposed PS, seconded by AB. No further nominations were received, and PS was duly recommended as vice chair.

2. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

3. To agree the notes of the previous meeting held on the 5th of February 2024

TS proposed and AB seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 5th of February 2024, all members agreed that the notes were a true record.

4. **Matters arising from the previous meeting**

No matters arising.

5. **To receive any relevant updates on the developing Local Plan**

A link to the latest reports from EDDC's Strategic Planning Committee were shared with the agenda.

LB and RB the ETC Planning Officer attended a briefing session on the 16th of May as a new stage of consultation launched on the 17th of May. The new stage of consultation is limited to the following 8 specific topics which LB explained:

New housing and mixed use site allocations

A couple of new housing and mixed site allocations are being consulted on. Following the initial trawl for sites a further 38 housing sites across the district came forward from the first round of consultation, after being assessed for viability, they were reduced to 13 sites and EDDC are now consulting on 7 sites, 6 are preferred choice sites and 1 is a second choice. One of the sites is the police station in Exmouth where there is a proposal to allocate the land for 20 residential properties, all the other sites are in other parts of the district.

New employment site allocations

There are 15 new employment sites that have come forward since the first round of consultation, 8 of those are proposed for adoption, although none of these sites are in Exmouth.

Designated neighbourhood area housing requirements

LB had explained the neighbourhood area housing requirements in previous meetings but explained this further. There is a detailed paper on the EDDC website about how they have come up with the methodology used to calculate housing numbers and have provided the figures that they think we would need to allocate in Exmouth under that neighbourhood plan area.

Clyst Valley regional park

EDDC are seeking feedback on the boundary of the park.

Town centre retail areas

EDDC are seeking feedback on policy wording and town centre and primary shopping area boundaries.

Coastal preservation area

EDDC are seeking feedback on an updated boundary.

Green wedges

EDDC have adopted a policy on how they are going to define green wedges and are seeking our views on whether those boundaries have been drawn correctly.

Sustainability appraisal

There is a new sustainability appraisal which has now been completed and is out for consultation.

LB confirmed that the consultation will close on the 27th of June 2024 at 5pm and responses are being encouraged through the EDDC Common Place portal although email will be accepted, and feedback does not have to be provided on all areas.

LB provided members with the Local Plan timetable:

Reg 19 final plan version will go to Strategic Planning in November 2024

Public plan consultation will run between December 2024 and January 2025

Submission for examination in May 2025 through to 2026

Adopted by the end of 2026

ETC will respond to all 8 consultation areas through the relevant working parties. DP urged members to take part in the consultation.

TS queried if the police station site planned for housing allocation included a new police station, LB confirmed that a new police station would be included on the site. SA queried how the consultation will be advertised, LB advised that it is currently being widely advertised through social media and a press release has been issued which will be shared with members.

6. To receive any relevant updates on the Levelling Up Fund project and respond to a request from ECA regarding the Town Councils position in response to the DCC Cabinet meeting on the 8th of May

DP confirmed that the gateway proposals have been withdrawn as discussed in the DCC Cabinet meeting and thanked the various community organisations who attended and made presentation to the committee about various issues regarding the gateway development.

BdS advised members that during the meeting a DCC councillor voiced his displeasure by the comments made by the public at consultation events especially as DCC had listened to the suggested improvements and included most in a revised plan. During the second consultation the DCC councillor left the meeting as felt that public comments were personally abusive to himself and a fellow councillor. On behalf of ECA BdS asked DP to liaise with the DCC councillor to identify which group of residents were abusive as ECA wholly condemns such actions. BdS wanted to express his thanks and appreciation to the DCC councillors for the work done in the division. BdS noted that item 13 on the DCC agenda talked about how wider crossing upgrades would not deliver meaningful active travel benefits and was keen to know what DCC would consider as meaningful active travel benefits.

AT attended one of the consultations and although there were heated discussions, no abuse directed at councillors was witnessed. AT was keen to know why the gateway proposal was withdrawn. LB explained that a policy is in place where DCC must listen to the public and consultation results, 800 people responded to the consultation and 67%

objected to the underpass being filled which meant that they were unable to deliver the other public realm improvements.

GD explained that DCC listened to the public in the first consultation who opposed the closing of the subway by including the reasoning for filling in the subway to fulfil the other proposals in the second consultation.

SA queried if the crossing by the train station could be changed to a light controlled crossing, LB explained that as this was included in the gateway scheme which has been withdrawn this will no longer happen unless DCC find additional funding for a capital project.

SA asked if a request could be submitted to DCC to install a light controlled crossing by the train station. LB was not sure if this would be possible as there is a legal requirement that light controlled crossings must be a certain distance away from other things to meet the safety criteria, the crossing is near the taxi pull in bay and as the subway is not being filled it may not be positionally possible but will ask DCC if there is any scope for this.

LB made members aware that the legal agreement states that the 400K contribution made by ETC was solely for the Dinan Way extension and not towards the gateway proposals.

Members discussed junction issues at Littleham Cross as they thought they were not being addressed by DCC, LB added that DCC have always been clear that the scope to make improvements at the Littleham Cross junction or reroute traffic to Sandy Bay is outside the scope of the levelling up fund bid.

DCC are trying to mitigate the junction issue through the Signage Strategy which is part of the Dinan Way scheme and is currently at the draft stage. Any relevant updates to this will be brought up in the Exmouth Transport Partnership working party meetings.

7. To receive any relevant updates on the Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront

A link to the latest reports and minutes were shared with the agenda.

GD updated members that the next meeting is on Tuesday the 28th of May and the agenda has been published with a supporting document. GD had no further matters to report.

BdS hopes residents should see some improvements although the fitness area is not being used.

BB left the meeting to attend a planning site visit.

8. StreetScene update

AGR provided members with the following updates:

- The beach pull back was completed to keep the sand away from the wall on the 14th of May

- Has requested the beach shelter windows be replaced as the glass is covered in graffiti
- Phear Park toilets have been closing at 3pm to try and deter vandalism but from the 25th of May they will go back to the normal closing time of 10pm.

AB requested extra bins near the beach wheelchair hut and Queens Drive as the bins are overflowing which results in seagull issues. AGR confirmed that an additional 6 wheelie litter bins have been added and smaller bins have been replaced by larger ones, BBQ bins have also been put out at keys points, if more budget is received some more will be put in.

AT reported that the dog bin on Lambeth Walk has fallen off the post so will need to be fixed and the pathway by the mural on Lambeth Walk leading down to the garage has a large bush that has grown over and blocked the path, LB will ask the ETC maintenance team to cut the bush back and AGR will investigate the dog bin.

SA was concerned over the number of weeds in Exmouth and queried weed kerb management and if the council is using environmentally friendly weed killers, LB explained that EDDC are responsible for the centre of town and ETC are responsible for highway and pavement weeding in the outer wards where a mechanical weed ripper is used rather than weed killers. Unfortunately, DCC no longer have the budget to weed on highways so withdrew and only focus on safety aspects. ETC have tried to pick up the additional work, but it is difficult with only 4 maintenance staff to cover the whole of Exmouth. AGR confirmed that EDDC have 3 members of staff that deal with weeds in the all the gardens the Strand and Magnolia Centre using either Foamstream or a high acidic vinegar.

LB added that the grass cutting that ETC maintain on DCC land has been subcontracted out and as part of the new contract some of the bollard refuges in the middle of the roads are weeded if required.

ETC try and encourage residents to maintain and clean up outside their properties as was recently demonstrated in the Colony cleanup, unfortunately it was not well attended with only 2 residents coming out to help.

BdS thanked StreetScene and ETC for an excellent job and urged councillors to encourage clean up parties in their respective wards.

LB discussed the Keep Britain Tidy campaigns but was unsure if there would be the capacity to organise this although it is possible that Plastic Free Exmouth could promote this on their social media. DP encouraged ECA and TARA to formally contact ETC regarding this.

LB has received numerous complaints about dogs on the beach and owners not adhering to the dog control orders or cleaning up after them, AGR will relay comments to the dog enforcement officer.

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

<u>Planning Committee</u>

The Devoncourt application was deferred pending a site visit that will take place today and proposals are back on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Climate and Ecological Emergency WP

The ETC Climate Officer is supporting Bossom Buddies with a reuseable nappy scheme called The Real Nappy Project. A bring and share plant based event will take place tonight promoting plant based meals at Open Door, people are urged to bring and share meals, LV is helping to organise alongside the Climate Officer.

AB advised that a community hub has been opened by Sideshore and the Climate Officer is helping to man the hub for a couple of shifts a week.

Flooding and Land Drainage WP

The working party has been renamed to the Flooding and Water Quality WP to encompass work that they are doing with SWW who they are in regular communication with.

Bapton Valley project

MW confirmed that improvement work has started which is predicted to take 8 weeks.

Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group

LB confirmed that the group will need to reconvene as ETC have received the policy review and housing needs assessment back.

Campervan TAFF

LB is still waiting for the EDDC Parking Services Manager to provide an update before a meeting can be arranged.

Annual Town Council meeting

DP confirmed that during the meeting on the 13th of May Joe Whibley was elected as Town Mayor supported by Steve Gazzard as deputy Mayor, duties will be split as JW has a day job so will attend evening duties and SG will attend in the day.

LB asked members to support ETC social media by liking and sharing to increase the follower numbers.

AGR left the meeting.

Exmouth Community Association

BdS encouraged members to attend the next AGM which will take place on the 4th of June at 6.30pm at The Deaf Academy.

Churches Together

TS confirmed that a new chaplain has been appointed at the college who will be starting in September for 10 hours per week and a youth worker for Littleham starts in August.

Hospital League of Friends

TS was disappointed that only one DCC Councillor turned up to the recent AGM.

The Minor Injuries Unit which was run by the Claremont surgery until they pulled out on the 1st of February 2024 has now been taken over by Royal Devon University Healthcare, unfortunately they do not have the staff to keep it open between 8am and 8pm 7 days per week and are closing on an ad-hoc basis when staff are not available.

DP suggested that the WEB board could contact Rolle Medical Partnership to discuss the possibility of taking on responsibility of the MIU.

TS reported that they have funded new medical bags for all the nurses that go out on visits.

DP was aware that trouble has become an issue since the Littleham Youth Club closed and was keen to get it open again so would like the youth worker to contact him.

10. Any other business

No other business.

11. Next meeting 8th July 2024

The meeting concluded at 11:25am