EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 17th June 2024 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Bruce de Saram	BdS	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together

Apologies

Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (StreetScene)
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Peter Crofts	PC	East Devon District Council (StreetScene)

1. **Welcome and apologies**

   DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. **To agree the notes of the previous meeting held on the 20th May 2024**

   BdS proposed and MW seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 20th May 2024, all members agreed that the notes were a true record.

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

   BdS queried if the DCC councillor who left the public consultation meeting due to abusive personal comments made by the public had identified which group of residents were abusive, DP did not know but AT who attended the meeting was not aware of any abusive comments made. BdS was keen for ETC to become involved in the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

4. **To discuss the RBL D-Day service that took place on Saturday the 8th of June**

   TS is an RBL member but is no longer on the committee but was personally disappointed with the event although was pleased to see some of the councillors attending. There were numerous issues such as the microphone not working and drunks causing a nuisance in the vicinity which TS will take to the next branch meeting. DP confirmed ETC were invited but not involved as it was an RBL event.

   TS confirmed that nothing happened on the actual D-Day date as the celebration was moved to the Saturday in the hope that it would boost attendance. PS thought that the

advertising was poor with no mention in the local paper just a Facebook post stating the event would take place on Thursday the 6th of June, but nothing happened. PS was appalled by the organisation of the event, the order of service was circulated just two days prior by a DCC councillor, the piper who was supposed to start the celebration was cut out of the order of service, there were multiple two minute silences and no one could hear due to the microphone not working.

TS will add the feedback provided onto the next RBL meeting agenda.

DP watched via webcam and thought the attendance was poor. PS was disappointed that the council did not arrange for a beacon to be lit at the geo-needle point, DP added that beacons are usually driven by national governance which did not happen this time.

TS confirmed that it is now a government directive that town councils are responsible for Remembrance Sundays in November, PS stated that last years' service was good.

PS advised members that LB had asked RBL if they needed any help with the D-Day service but was told that as no road closures were required, they did not need any additional help.

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.

BdS was looking at the Strategic Planning notes and noted the proposed amendments to establish whether there are any exceptional circumstances that would justify individual allocations that are major development in the public interest and wondered what defines public interest.

Members discussed the first Greendale vaccination centre which was removed even though it was in the public interest. DP confirmed that ETC are still waiting for the housing allocation report from EDDC.

6. Receive any relevant updates on the Levelling Up Fund project progress and respond to a request from Transition Exmouth regarding a scheme to promote active travel that excludes cars/motorcycles from Queen's Drive

LB was not present at the meeting but provided the following update:

I spoke to DCC Councillor Richard Scott on Friday for clarification, and he told me that DCC still has to submit a variation of request to have the Gateway component officially removed from the LUF and that DCC does intend to ask if they can retain any money for further active travel improvements within the proposed Dinan Way scheme.

There is absolutely no scope to use that money on a new or different project in Exmouth, as relayed by Meg Booth at the DCC Cabinet meeting.

Richard also said that the impending general election and formation of a new government (regardless of political outcome) could feasibly see the culling of the Levelling Up Fund. The Dinan Way extension funding is secure in his opinion but there is a great deal of uncertainty now over the future of the fund and he was not clear on

whether any variation request would be affected or whether it would be determined by a minister or an officer, but nothing will happen until after the election now.

PS queried if a tender had been accepted for the Dinan Way extension as it is due to start in September and completed by March 2025, delays could happen if problems arise from land that is being sold to them as it would have to go to the secretary of state.

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.

DP confirmed that the last Placemaking meeting was cancelled but changes to the seawall were discussed during the Waterfront WP meeting and the seawall will be inspected during the next walk-about meeting in September.

PS updated members that work on the seawall will pause on July the 8th and the site will hopefully be cleared by July the 18th so that the festival can go ahead.

MW raised concerns that the exclusion of cars from Queens Drive would affect disabled access, DP advised that it is a notion put forward by the project team which is an aspiration and not set in stone. BdS would like a presentation about the proposals put forward from Transition Exmouth, DP agreed that a presentation would be a good idea.

DP expressed his disappointment in the continuous cancellations of the Placemaking meetings. MW hopes that ETC will have input on any changes being made to the seafront, KB confirmed that no decisions would be made without conversations with ETC.

In his absence IC requested an update on the Exmouth residents parking issues, this will be raised in the next HATOC meeting on the 5th of July so will be added to next month's COLP agenda.

8. StreetScene update

There was no StreetScene representative at the meeting and no report was received.

TS wanted to raise with StreetScene that the green space opposite the Royal Beacon is not being looked after very well and the water facility on the Imperial Recreation Ground does not work, DP will contact StreetScene.

Members discussed the state of the grass cutting after no mow May with some of the paths being unwalkable due to overgrown vegetation, tufts of grass being left on banks and grass being left around benches. This issue was raised at the Town Maintenance Overview WP meeting as the new contractor was cutting wet grass so they will be coming back to do a second cut.

DP urged members to contact CJ who will pass specific area queries onto the relevant council responsible.

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

<u>Waterfront WP</u>

PS confirmed that the ramp by the lifeboat station will be reopened once the seawall work has paused in July.

PS visited the Bristol camp and was impressed with the work being done which included a new toilet and shower block. The area is banked with tents in the middle and children come from all over England to stay and take part in a variety of activities such as archery and water sports.

PS confirmed that all members were welcome to visit and look around, DP suggested arranging a site visit for members.

Public Rights of Way

MW updated members that work on the Bapton Valley park has started and has an onsite meeting visit with the EDDC engineer on Wednesday the 19th of June to see the stage of development and what more needs to be done.

The starting date was delayed by about 2 months as the contractors were still working on Brixington park, but they aim to complete by October 2024.

MW was keen for more benches to be donated as currently there are only 3 or 4 but will provide a further update in the next meeting after the site visit.

LV updated members that the Rodney steps are not being replaced due to costs and erosion, MW confirmed that erosion constitutes a danger so they could not be rebuilt because of safety issues. MW was keen for more signage to warn people of the erosion.

Climate and Ecological Emergency WP

LV informed members of future events taking place:

- Plant based bring and share to raise awareness of the impact of diet on the environment.
- Regular monthly sessions at Sideshore, providing support, inspiration and advise.
- Climate Fresk workshops taking place at Sideshore

Everyone is welcome and all events are advertised on Facebook.

Exmouth Community Association

BdS reminded members that the ECA AGM took place on the 4th of June and were pleased to receive an update from the Deaf Academy re improvements to the school and a SWW talk which was a useful learning experience. The AGM was well attended with the leader of EDDC and the mayor in attendance.

Hospital League of Friends

TS advised that 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.

The Hospital League of Friends has a vested interest as they have donated 250k to the hospital which included the MIU so are pushing to get the issues resolved as it is important that MIU have more staff to stay open.

The Hospital League of Friends have committed to support the admiral nurses with 20K per annum but unfortunately this was not enough to keep them, however they are now advertising for admiral nurses who look after people with dementia.

Health & Wellbeing Board (WEB)

BdS as well as others received a text from Rolle surgery about verbal and physical abuse received by staff which is currently being taken up by TD and GD via the WEB board.

Members discussed long waiting times at doctor's surgeries for appointments, PS advised that since the amalgamation of surgeries only one reception desk is available to check in which causes long queues that can sometimes take up to 15 minutes to check in.

TS will raise all issues with the surgeries in the next Patient Group Chairs meeting.

TS advised members that now Claremont and Rolle surgeries have amalgamated they have over 25k patients and are dependent on vaccination/flu jabs as they provide them with an income.

Town Maintenance Overview WP

DP stated that there are continuing problems with tagging and graffiti which is reported to CJ and usually gets cleaned although the National Grid have refused to clean graffiti from targeted sub stations.

DP urged members to report any graffiti to CJ who will liaise with StreetScene.

Town Premises and Assets WP

There is a meeting on the 8th of July at Gorfin Hall to discuss improving and updating the hall.

Planning Committee

DP confirmed that the Devoncourt application was rejected by EDDC.

Churches Together

TS announced that Rector Steve Jones has been made Rural Dean.

10. Any other business

No other business.

11. Next meeting 8th July 2024

The meeting concluded at 11:20am