EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 8th July 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
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Bruce de Saram	BdS	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

Apologies

Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (StreetScene)
Rev Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together

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 17th June 2024

PS proposed and MW seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 17th of June 2024, all members agreed that the notes were a true record.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

BdS queried if any update was available on the active travel presentation, DP confirmed no update was available.

DP has not contacted DCC Councillor JT regarding the comments made at the levelling up meeting as he thought it would be inappropriate during the election period, but he will now do so.

TS expressed his disappointment with RBL's organisation of the D-Day celebrations and commented that the Town Council should be taking the lead on such events and said that he would be contacting the RBL county office to ensure that the local RBL branch is aware that ETC are responsible for organising such events.

LB explained that the local RBL branches have had a directive from HQ which states that they cannot use branch funds to pay for event organisation and this has resulted in Exmouth Town Council being asked to organise, insure and risk assess the Remembrance Sunday Parade, however the local branch has maintained control of the

other remembrance events in the Town. TS confirmed that the national RBL holds responsibility for national remembrance services but local RBL's do not have the capacity or funding to organise events.

DP updated members that the HATOC meeting was rescheduled from the 5th of July until the 23rd of July, so no update is available on the residents parking.

DP requested that ETC formally write to John Morgan to request a site visit for members to view the Bristol camp.

TS confirmed that the League of Friends' coffee morning will take place on Wednesday the 24th of July at 10am in Littlemead Methodist Church, this has been shared to all councillors via the weekly ETC bulletin.

TS reminded members that the Hospital League of Friends has a vested interest in the hospital as they have donated 250k to Exmouth hospital and provided new bags for district nurses. There are ongoing issues with MIU which closes sporadically due to staffing issues. DP stated that issues would be raised at the next WEB Board meeting. When Royal Devon University Healthcare took over the MIU they announced that it would be open between 8am and 8pm 7 days a week, GD stated that this is a breach of contract, and they should be taken to task at the next WEB Board meeting.

Members discussed various issues with Rolle and Claremont surgeries and LB offered to add this to the next full council meeting if the WEB Board need support from ETC by writing a letter to RDUH.

Claremont and Rolle surgeries hold a patient group meeting every 3 months which TS attends to discuss any problems, the next meeting is at the end of the month where all issues will be raised.

4. To receive any relevant updates on the developing Local Plan and to discuss the proposed development at the side of Littleham Church

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

LB explained that the responsibility for planning cemetery and burial capacity across the District falls with EDDC although ETC does have the legal power to manage cemeteries and there is an organisation that can help town councils find suitable sites, do site assessments and help register the sites as civic cemeteries. LB has discussed this with Revd. SJ prior to the meeting as his aspiration was to extend the Littleham cemetery into the field behind. LB explained to members that the land is privately owned by Clinton Devon and is in the AONB which has been put forward as a proposed development site in the emerging Local Plan as a second choice site therefore unlikely to be used for development.

TS was concerned that Littleham cemetery has limited capacity which will last no longer than 7.5 years so more space is needed. LB confirmed that if the land does gain approval for development, there maybe scope through the planning obligations officer at

EDDC to potentially negotiate with Clinton Devon to have some of the land on the development site allocated to a cemetery.

If the development approval does not come through for the site, ETC could still speak to Clinton Devon but LB did not think they would engage until the Local Plan work is complete. Other sites being proposed for development in the local plan could also be looked at and cemetery provision potentially negotiated as part of an S106 agreement and LB had flagged up the need for a new civic cemetery with the new EDDC S106 officer.

LB also urged members to visit the EDDC Emerging Local Plan webpage to see all the proposed first and second choice development sites for Exmouth which are still being assessed and analysed. EDDC is hosting a private meeting at the end of the month where all the ward members representing Exmouth will be asked to provide feedback on the respective sites.

LB will keep members informed of any Strategic Planning Committee developments.

DP confirmed that there was nothing to report on Levelling Up and LB advised that although the Gateway Project was dropped, it is assumed that the Dinan Way extension is still going ahead as planned.

5. 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 understands that the EDDC project manager Gerry Mills briefed his new leadership about a week ago, although the outcome is not yet known. The next Placemaking in Exmouth meeting will be held on the 31st of July and GD will provide a report when more information is available.

6. StreetScene update

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

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

Festival and Events WP

The festival is taking place between the 19th and 21st of July 2024 and there is a dedicated festival app where the programme of events can be accessed, volunteers are still required.

LV informed members that the festival will focus on sustainability and the green team still need volunteers. LV stated that the link on Facebook to download the APP will need to be updated as it is not working. LV also provided members with details of various events that are taking place at the Sideshore eco hub throughout July.

BdS is looking forward to receiving his estate agent board to promote the festival, LB confirmed that Bradleys Estate Agents have offered to promote the festival by providing bespoke for sale sign boards that will be put in resident's gardens. LB urged members to collect festival posters from the ETC office to display, LV volunteered to letter drop the resident's letters which contains a programme.

Climate and Ecological Emergency WP

LV informed members of future events taking place:

- Plant based bring and share on the 14th of July to raise awareness of the impact of diet on the environment.
- Regular monthly sessions at Sideshore, providing support, inspiration and advise.
- Real nappy project

Everyone is welcome and all events are advertised on Facebook.

Exmouth Transport Partnership

LB confirmed that the meeting on the 25th of June was well attended, members were able to raise concerns about the recent changes to the bus services to the Stagecoach representative who was in attendance. The Stagecoach representative fed back on changes made to services and has planned to visit Exmouth to check on the re-routing of the 95 bus service.

The EDDC Parking Services Manager provided an update on the lorry park and charging points in the LED carpark, 73 new car spaces will be created at the estuary side car park by reclaiming the land used by EA as a compound and reducing the lorry park. The lorry park will be moved further up to the boatyard and accommodate 17 spaces.

Town Maintenance Overview WP

The Town Maintenance team are busy with the grass cutting and watering season, LB is disappointed that ETC are still being blamed for grass cutting regimes that are not within the town council's jurisdiction. Grass cutting in Exmouth falls under the responsibility of DCC for visibility, EDDC who cut on their own land and ETC who have taken on some of DCC's work which is contracted out to Idverde. LB explained that the 3 full time and 1 part time Town Maintenance team are spending a lot of time tending to the blue tier hanging baskets and flower beds around Exmouth and on the roundabouts.

BdS queried if a newsletter for grass cutting could be circulated and suggested that ETC engage with other organisations and the wider community for a Keep Britain Tidy campaign next year.

LB advised that ETC only produce a climate newsletter as printing is not environmentally friendly and the admin involved is colossal, messages are posted on social media to keep the public up to date with the work being carried out by the town council. LB has spoken to CJ about the Keep Britain Tidy campaign but following on from the poorly supported colony cleanup with only 2 residents helping they have doubts about potential community engagement. However, if we had support from other organisations, it maybe something that ETC would revisit.

The Climate Officer and LB also have an aspiration to hold an open day to promote clubs and volunteering opportunities across the Town but a suitable venue has not yet been located. PS suggested the Christmas Market marquee.

Town Premises and Assets WP

There is a meeting being held on July 8th, onsite at Gorfin Hall, to discuss refurbishment works to the building and it is hoped that in the longer term, these will help maximise the use of the Hall and the associated income.

IC left the meeting.

Churches Together

TS was asked by IC for an update on Christmas Encounters, LB advised that this is a Churches Together initiative that took place in the Christmas Village marquee last year so they would need to contact the event organiser directly although LB was aware that they are starting to plan the Christmas event. LB agreed with PS that the marquee would be a good location to promote community volunteering.

8. Any other business

DP expressed concern about the state of the grass/mud in the Strand as a result of the Christmas Village event last year. LB confirmed this is a StreetScene issue and that she had already reminded EDDC of a protocol adopted in 2016/17 relating to the use of the Strand for events which was aimed at protecting the war memorial from encroachment and protecting the fixed businesses in town.

TS queried when the privately owned land train would be back on the road, LB understands that the owners are struggling to get specialist parts from Germany and recruiting drivers. This was flagged up in the Transport Partnership meeting especially now the 95 bus service does not provide a service to the end of the seafront. LB will try and get an update.

9. Next meeting 5th August 2024

The meeting concluded at 11:10am