EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 5th August 2024 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (StreetScene)
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
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 David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association

1. Welcome and apologies

PS welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. To agree the notes of the previous meeting held on the 8th July 2024

GD proposed and MW seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 8th of July 2024, all members agreed that the notes were a true record.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

The County Chairman of RBL has been in contact with LB to discuss plans going forward, ETC will need to plan for VE and VJ day next year. NALC's Pageant master has issued a briefing paper which encourages the lighting of beacons for VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations on 8th May 2025.

The Bapton Valley Park is being officially opened today at 2pm. TS raised concerns over the large stones on the raised bank opposite the garden centre not being visible to grass cutters or walkers because of the length of the grass. The stones have been noted by the grass cutters and it is highly unlikely anyone would detour from the path onto the bank where the stones are located. AT queried the lack of signage, signage and finger pointers are currently being addressed.

PS queried if ETC has formally written to John Morgan to request a site visit for members to view the Bristol camp. LB said that DP was going to contact him directly.

9. StreetScene update

AGR provided the following update:

- Enforcement officers have removed travellers from Queen's Drive very quickly
- More bins have been installed on the seafront
- Bin rounds on the seafront have been altered, the first collection is at 6am with a further collection in the evening

AT reported in a previous meeting that overgrowing vegetation is blocking the pathway near Lambeth Walk adjacent to the garage and that the dog bin on the grass area nearby has not been fixed/replaced. It was confirmed that DCC usually deal with overgrown vegetation over paths and roads and that EDDC have ordered a replacement dog bin.

IC previously reported dead trees around the car park behind the amusement arcade on the seafront which are still there, AGR will pass this onto StreetScene's Horticultural Technical Officer Paul Fealey.

LB has been contacted by EDDC in respect of fly tipping in bins along the seafront, building rubble has been dumped in the bins especially around the Carlton Hill slipway. ETC CCTV does not capture this area but maybe EDDC or NCI cameras capture this, AGR stated that EDDC CCTV is not currently working. ETC's CCTV hub in Torbay is monitoring the seafront for any suspicious behaviour, however since StreetScene highlighted the issue on social media, no rubble has been dumped.

Members discussed poorly positioned signage for the overflow car park in Maer Road opposite Sideshore and LB agreed to pass on the concerns to Richard Easthope, the EDDC Parking Services Manager.

Resident's concerns were raised over the fallen tree in Littleham playpark which has led to children falling off it when playing, into the brambles. It was confirmed that EDDC inspectors check playparks, but AGR will pass the concern onto Paul Feaney to investigate.

Members thanked StreetScene.

AGR left the meeting.

4. To note that EDDC has launched two consultations

A link to the public consultations for play area upgrades and tree, hedge and woodland strategy were shared with the agenda.

The 4 play areas in Exmouth which are being refurbished are:

- Baker Close
- Carter Avenue

- Littleham Village Hall
- Byron Way

EDDC are currently consulting the public for suggestions of what should be included in the project when refurbishing.

EDDC are also currently consulting the public to have their say on the development of the Tree, Hedge and Woodland Strategy.

5. Update on the residents parking following the HATOC meeting on the 16th of July 2024

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

This meeting was rescheduled from the 5th of July 2024 due to the elections. It was agreed that DCC would reconsult on aspects of the residents parking in Exmouth in the following areas:

- Withycombe Road
- Carter Avenue

DCC will reconsult with residents affected by displacement with the scope to introduce residents parking and if residents are in favour, the Director of Climate Change and Chair of HATOC will have delegated authority to push the changes through. HATOC will reconsult in the autumn.

Members discussed the 4-hour parking restrictions which will be imposed in Southern Road and Belvedere Road and PS expressed concerns that this will force town centre workers to use the buses to get into town.

IC felt that residents in Carter Avenue were not properly consulted previously, despite the DCC Councillor promising to individually write to residents. LB confirmed that it was her understanding that residents will be consulted individually in the autumn.

It was also confirmed that another 74 parking spaces have been created in the estuary car park to address displacement issues associated with the introduction of residents parking in the Colony.

6. To receive an update on the Dinan Way extension

There were no updates available other than confirmation that a planning application was submitted by DCC for the removal of 200 metres of hedgerow in the fields north of Summer Lane to accommodate the construction of the Dinan Way extension. The application was conditioned that replanting will take place in accordance with the landowner's land management strategy. The application was discussed in ETC's planning meeting on the 29th of July. This area does not fall within Exmouth's parish, it falls within the Lympstone parish but ETC's Planning Committee raised no objections to the application and on the assumption that the Dinan Way extension will go ahead. LB confirmed that the Town Council had commented as follows:

"Exmouth Town Council has not been consulted on the above application but it is in an adjoining parish and Members have asked me to pass on their comments.

Whilst the Dinan Way extension is generally viewed as beneficial for the Town, Members raised concerns about the length of hedgerow to be removed and were keen to ensure that any approval is adequately conditioned to mitigate the loss of habitat and associated wildlife corridors."

The closing date for the consultation is the 17th of August 2024 before it goes to EDDC to determine the outcome.

IC queried why hedges were being removed before knowing for definite if the Dinan Way extension would go ahead. LB commented that she believes that work will start in September and urged IC to comment on the EDDC planning portal if he has concerns.

7. To receive any relevant updates on the developing Local Plan

A link to the latest reports from EDDC's Strategic Planning Committee which included a report from the Devon Housing Commission were shared with the agenda.

LB commented that the Strategic Planning Committee is conducting background assessment work on various sites that have been put forward for development in Exmouth. However, the new Labour Government has confirmed its intention to overhaul the National Planning Policy Framework document and it is possible that there will now be compulsory housing targets which could increase the number of houses that have to be delivered across the district.

LB explained that the Strategic Planning Committee is the body putting together the Local Plan policies and that the Committee is currently reviewing the sites which have been put forward for development. The approved sites will be incorporated into the new Local Plan which will go out to public consultation at the end of the year. This will establish the principle of development on those sites but individual sites will then be subject to the normal planning application process which will be determined by EDDC's Planning Committee and for which there would be further detailed consultation on a site by site basis.

AT queried if the methodology used to calculate the housing allocations could be affected by the revised NPPF. LB advised that a different methodology may be imposed which could result in more houses having to be delivered across the district but that EDDC officers hope that the methodology adopted by EDDC is robust enough to stand up to scrutiny.

It was confirmed that ETC has commissioned a housing needs assessment for Exmouth, but it is not yet in the public domain.

TS reminded members that there is a need for more cemeteries in the future, LB confirmed that this has been raised with EDDC who are aware of this.

8. To receive any relevant updates on the Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront and to discuss the PETS Subgroup as requested by ECA

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

BdS raised the following questions on behalf of ECA:

- Will LB become a non-voting member of the PETS subgroup to feedback WP concerns
- Have the 13 potential projects at a value of just under 6 million been identified and how will the public be notified, and be part of further workshops
- Will the additional budget to WSP be of good value to Exmouth residents
- How will the endorsements of all 3 councils be achieved
- Who are the wider stakeholders referred to in the brief provided by Andy Wood and could WP members be part of this
- What is the future of the Exmouth Pavilion

LB advised that not all of these questions could be answered today but provided the following information:

The PETS subgroup has been put forward as a means of engaging all 3 councils in discussions about Placemaking priorities going forward. However, it has not been set up yet and no Terms of Reference have been drawn up so no answers can be provided on this subject.

It was noted at the last Placemaking meeting that very ETC is not on board with the plans that have been put forward by WPS. It was also confirmed that there are no funds available to implement any of the potential 13 priority projects and that the Pavilion car park idea is blue box thinking for the future.

Members also discussed the green area next to Queens Drive and expressed concern that it is not being utilised by EDDC for leisure and fitness as anticipated.

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

Exmouth Beach Management Plan

PS attended a BMP workshop that aimed to pull together ideas for the beach management plan. These will form part of a public consultation exercise, probably in September 2024.

Police Advocates

It was confirmed that the OPCC has received 30K of funding from central government to fund two street marshals to target anti-social behaviour hotspot areas in Exmouth. Match funding was provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner bringing the total funding to 60K. The street marshals are employed by a private security company and have CSAS powers, they are not the police officer although they do work closely with the police.

The street marshals will be funded until the end of March 2025 and additional funding is providing separate overtime for the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The street marshals are engaging closely with ETC and pop into reception on a regular basis to discuss any anti-social behaviour that has been reported.

Members discussed recent anti-social behaviour in Exmouth and DR advised members that unfortunately the 2 PSCO's who worked in Exmouth have retired.

PS updated members that the planning application for Exmouth police station will go to the next stage as the bat surveys have been completed.

BB and AB left the meeting.

Health and Wellbeing WEB Board

TS updated members that the Exmouth MIU will be closed on Saturdays and will close early at 3.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the next 3 months, then reviewed thereafter.

PS has been made aware that Treetops surgery is closed throughout August and maybe permanently as no doctors are available. TS will investigate.

Exmouth Community Association

ECA is looking to investigate and possibly support The Travelling with Confidence Campaign aimed at supporting disabled people to become more confident using public transport. The project is jointly run by Devon Communities Together and Living Options Devon.

LB commented that Visit Exmouth and the Beach Wheelchairs will be doing an accessibility audit of the town so that accessibility benefits can be promoted on the Visit Exmouth website. There may be scope to link these two projects.

11. Any other business

No other business.

12. Next meeting 2nd September 2024

IC gave apologies for the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11:44am