# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 2nd September 2024 in the Town Hall Chamber

### Present

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| Councillor David Poor | DP | Exmouth Town Council (Chair) |
| Councillor Pauline Stott | PS | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Brian Bailey | BB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Graham Deasy | GD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Adrian Toole | AT | Transition Exmouth |
| Dave Radford | DR | Exmouth Civic Society |
| Keith Bungay | KB | Exmouth Community Association |
| Tony Siddall | TS | Churches Together |
| Rev Simon Atkinson | SA | Churches Together |
| John Morgan | JM | Exmouth Camp |
| Lisa Bowman | LB | Exmouth Town Council (Officer) |
| Lisa Greenway | LG | Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker) |

### Apologies

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| Councillor Mark Williamson | MW | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Aurora Bailey | AB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Louise Venables | LV | Exmouth Town Council |
| Bruce de Saram | BdS | Exmouth Community Association |
| Ian Cann | IC | Exmouth Civic Society |
| Andrew Gordon-Raby | AGR | East Devon District Council (StreetScene) |

### 4. To receive a presentation from John Morgan re Exmouth Camp

JM thanked members for inviting him to the meeting to provide a presentation on behalf of Exmouth Camp.

Bristol Schools Camp was renamed Exmouth Camp in 2023, they also have Red Rock Outdoor and Leisure and Prattshayes. They provide various water and land activities to schools, families and groups including school camps at a cost of £275 per week full board. JM has an aspiration of turning the company into a registered charity so that children can enjoy all the facilities and activities for years to come. JM provided members with an overview of all the additional activities that are available for children all over the country who attend.

Bristol pulled out 5 years ago and started going to the Isle of Wight, so this year JM visited every school in Bristol and managed to get half of the schools (220 school children) back to Exmouth camp.

JM explained that rain and cold is not a problem, but sewage has been a continuous issue forcing them to cancel water activities which has been detrimental to their income and damaged their reputation, SWW have paid Prattshayes compensation, but JM intends to claim for the water sports business.

JM officially invited members to view the camp and asked members to choose a suitable date for the visit. DP thanked JM for his insightful presentation and asked him to expand

on the financial impact sewage has had to the business. JM explained that all water sports operators are suffering from the sewage issues and reputations are being damaged, some schools in Exmouth have pulled out and activities have had to change to land sports which will result in some schools not rebooking. Although the issue has caused a large financial impact JM could not provide an exact figure but estimated that it would be in excess of ¼ million.

TS was keen to know what engagement Exmouth camp has with local schools, JM confirmed that local schools are heavily involved, Exeter Road school camped with them last year and as some of the schools have been involved since the start they receive a lower price. TS will provide contact details for the 2 youth workers and school chaplain who have just started through the church and engage with the Community College as they would like to get involved with the camp.

GD informed members that fact finding information is currently being gathered by local councils/pressure groups etc on the impact sewage issues have caused to waterfront traders, GD wants to co-ordinate compiling all this information together to produce a quantifiable damage limitation and a plan to go forward to repair reputational damage.

Members discussed SWW pipework that was installed within the last 30 years which have failed. GD provided members with a detailed summary of the rising main going up to the Maer Lane sewage works that burst on the 14th of August 2024 resulting in tankers arriving on mass into Exmouth, the tankers were unable to cope, and sewage was dispelled. Temporary pipes were installed but it was reported this morning that they are leaking. GD praised the EDDC Beach Safety Officer took immediate action and put the red flags up before EA requested. The blue flag was removed by activists during the height of the crisis.

DP thanked GD, LB, PB and CJ for their work.

BB advised members that EDDC are pushing to get a Grampian Condition put in place on all new development, this will mean that new houses cannot be occupied/sold until SWW can demonstrate that sewage issues are rectified, and additional housing will not affect the community. PS is aware that the MP David Reed is involved with the sewage issues and is pushing SWW for completely new system to be installed. LB has received an email from the EA officer who is investigating the sewage discharges, during a meeting between EA and the MP last week it was mentioned that ETC has held a meeting with local businesses regarding the impact to the recent incidents on the local economy. ETC has not held a meeting with local businesses as yet, but this could be co-ordinated to collate evidence.

JM thanked members and suggested a site visit mid-September when he hopes to have some impact figures available.

JM left the meeting.

**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 5th August 2024**

PS proposed and GD seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 5th of August 2024, all members agreed that the notes were a true record.

**3. 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 was shared with the agenda.

DCC Councillor Jeff Trail posted on social media that the Dinan Way extension work is starting, ground condition surveys are being undertaken. LB reassured members that the money has been committed to the project so is not at risk.

A Strategic Planning Committee meeting is taking place tomorrow morning at EDDC to discuss site allocations, BB and OD are on the committee and dual hatted town councillors can speak on their respective wards. GD will attend as an ETC representative and pass on a general statement to committee members about housing needs with a more holistic picture. The meeting will be live streamed on YouTube so anyone can view.

Site assessment reports form part of the agenda pack which is available on the EDDC website. Some adjustments have been made to preferred sites, but land is still needed for approximately 900-1000 houses in Exmouth. LB advised that the housing needs assessment that ETC commissioned is not in public domain, but GD will allude to aspects of the assessment to make sure EDDC provide suitable housing based on the intelligence that was gathered.

LB confirmed that ETC will need to work with EDDC to make sure extra policies are put into the Neighbourhood Plan to provide affordable houses for people with local connections. LB urged members to watch live stream of the meeting for which an update will be provided in the next meeting.

**6. 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 confirmed that more information will be provided after the next Placemaking meeting on the 9th of September. LB confirmed that plans are currently aspirational and that EDDC has confirmed that the report that WSP produced contains ideas and the list of short-term deliverable projects are not currently viable as funds are not available.

LB advised that a Placemaking master plan is required to access external grant funding in the future even if some plans are aspirational.

**7. StreetScene update**

AGR provided the following report in his absence:

- I would like to thank ETC for assisting with the CCTV footage from the phantom fly-tipper, we are still trying to work out what van it is, but it's a positive step in catching the person.

- 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.
- 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 Fealey to investigate.

AGR has spoken to Paul and Louise regarding both issues and is awaiting their responses.

LB confirmed that ETC CCTV was not able to identify the van, but EDDC think it is a rental.

PS raised concerns about the brambles behind the football club on the estuary and at Rivermead on the National Trust side which need to be trimmed back, DP added that there are overgrown brambles on EDDC land at Dinan Way. LB believes EDDC are responsible for the brambles behind the football club and DCC are responsible for the brambles at Rivermead.

TS queried if the graffiti near the toilets in Phear Park has been removed, LB confirmed that since the toilets were locked before and after school times the graffiti has ceased although understands that graffiti is a prolific problem in Exmouth.

**8. Update from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives**

**Festival & Events WP**

Christmas plans were discussed in the last meeting on the 22nd of August 2024. The Christmas market organiser has agreed to allow ETC to use the marque on the 18th of December for a show and tell event for all the local community groups to promote themselves and recruit volunteers, the marque can accommodate up to 90 stalls. LB will reach out to community groups mid-September.

ETC will organise 2 Remembrance events in 2025 for VE and VJ Day as well as a 2026 event to coincide with the 30th anniversary of ETC by re-instating Beating of the Bounds which last took place in 2012. LB explained to members that Beating of the Bounds is a traditional ceremony to re-affirm the parish boundary by walking around the boundary beating the boundary stones.

TS thanked the Art's Manager for carrying all the benches to the Strand when Those in Glass Houses performed on the 16th of August.

**S106 & CIL**

There is a new S106 officer at EDDC who is building a team to look at S106 agreements, chasing payments and looking where money is being spent. Play areas are being upgraded and EDDC are aware that a site is required for a civic cemetery.

Bapton Valley Park was delivered using ETC CIL money and Plumb Park allotments are due to be handed over ETC under a S106 agreement. PS queried what would be happening to the unused allotments, LB confirmed that these are being earmarked by

the EDDC Countryside Team for use as a community space which will be used by a local school.

**Town Council Premises and Assets WP**

Upgrades to Gorfin Hall are currently taking place and are expected to be completed within 2 weeks.

**Hospital League of Friends**

DP and PS are increasingly worried about Rolle surgery, e-consult is not working smoothly, TS will raise these concerns in the next meeting.

TS left the meeting.

**9. Any other business**

DP will be in contact about the site visit to Exmouth Camp.

**10. Next meeting 28th October 2024**

The meeting concluded at 11:35am