EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 28th October 2024 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Bruce de Saram	BdS	Exmouth Community Association
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

Apologies

Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (StreetScene)
Peter Crofts	PC	East Devon District Council (StreetScene)
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association

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 2nd of September 2024

PS proposed and DP seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 2nd of September 2024, all members agreed that the notes were a true record.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting.

BdS requested an update from BB regarding the Grampian condition that was discussed in the previous meeting. BB confirmed that the situation remains ongoing, with two to three sites currently under the condition. Progress on these sites cannot move forward until SWW provides evidence that they can manage the additional housing.

PS wanted it noted that the Dinan Way extension work has started. LB has spoken to DCC councillor Richard Scott who stated that the construction has gone out to tender and as soon as the contract has been awarded, they will make an announcement.

4. To receive an update on the Exmouth Camp site visit

Members shared their positive feedback from the site visit on the 9th of October, where attendees unanimously agreed it was a valuable experience. An email was received from John Morgan providing an update that a school from Newton Abbot has enrolled, and DP is working on getting children from Littleham to potentially use the facilities to address

anti-social behaviour in the area. TS took a church youth group worker to the site, resulting in good contacts and plans for football activities on the grass. As an aside, DP mentioned the challenge of darkness at this time of year for evening youth activities, highlighting the need for temporary lights at the Littleham Crescent MUGA, LB will discuss this with DP after the meeting.

DR was unable to attend, the scouts event organiser Stuart Wilson attended on his behalf and expressed interest in planning events 2-3 years ahead, noting the scouting movement's eagerness to collaborate with John Morgan.

TS pointed out that this is a wonderful opportunity to unite all Exmouth youth groups. PS suggested advertising in Visit Exmouth's printed Visitor Guide; however, LB noted that it will not be printed for 11 months but will check if it can be featured on the website. DP also confirmed that schools are becoming increasingly involved.

5. To receive an update on arrangements in place for Remembrance Sunday 2024

LB reported that all preparations for the upcoming event are well underway. A meeting is scheduled for October 28th at the Town Hall with the parade marshal, town band, RMA, and representatives from the local RBL to confirm final arrangements.

Security and first aid services for the event have been outsourced to ensure professional management. Additionally, all necessary road closure signs have been displayed to facilitate smooth traffic control during the event.

A press release is set to be issued later this week to inform the public and generate interest. DP took a moment to thank LB and the staff for their hard work and dedication in organising the event, acknowledging the significant effort involved.

6. To receive an update on the Jingle and Mingle Community Showcase Event planned for the 18th of December 2024

The event will be held in the Christmas Village marquee between 10am and 4pm with ninety spaces available. Community and not-for-profit organisations are invited to book stalls to promote their services and recruit volunteers. Confirmed participants include ETC Beach Wheelchairs, TIS/Visit Exmouth, Community Resilience who will focus on warm spaces, and Climate and Eco, all of which will have dedicated stalls.

LB asked members to actively spread the word about the event and encouraged registration through the QR code available on the promotional poster or via social media. No raffles or sales will be allowed at the event, as these would require special licenses. A key legacy of the event will be the creation of a directory that includes all participating groups.

PS mentioned that EDDC used to maintain a directory of sports available in the area, but it requires frequent updates to stay current. LB expressed optimism that if the event is successful, it could become an annual fixture in the community calendar.

TS raised a question about the possibility of having collection tins at the event; LB responded that licenses would be necessary for collections, so unfortunately, that will not be permitted.

Additionally, IC informed the group that the Christmas Village organiser has granted permission for Churches Together to use the marquee on December the 23rd for a special day of choir singing, featuring performances by the Town Band, which will continue until the event concludes at 8pm.

7. **To note that Devon County Council is consulting affected residents to ask whether the introduction of two new residents parking zones in Exmouth would be supported in the Withycombe Road area (ref. 6150) and the Carter Avenue area (ref. 6183). The consultation will run from 23 October – 13 November 2024**

A link to the DCC Exmouth residents parking was shared with the agenda.

LB urged all members to thoroughly review the consultation and provide their feedback to ensure all concerns are addressed. DCC has proactively communicated with residents in the affected areas by sending out letters. During the discussion, members highlighted the negative consequences of displacement and the issue of inconsiderate parking that has arisen since the introduction of residents parking in August 2023. PS voiced concerns that the current residents parking scheme might eventually expand to cover the entire Exmouth area, leading to further parking challenges. In response, LB reassured members that while some displacement may occur, the implementation of residents parking will remain confined to the town area and will not extend further.

Additionally, AT expressed disappointment regarding DCC's decision not to implement a park and ride scheme in Exmouth, emphasising the potential benefits such a scheme could offer to alleviate parking issues.

8. **To note that the agenda for the Strategic Planning Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 29th October 2024 which seeks agreement on the sites to be included in the Regulation 19 draft of the local plan, subject to any final technical assessment work to be completed.**

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

The local plan is approaching its next stage, with the next meeting set for the 29th of October to discuss potential site inclusions. This meeting will primarily focus on revisiting sites that were previously rejected by councillors. It was noted that the site at St Johns is under scrutiny by the community due a proposed development of seven hundred houses. As usual, and to ensure transparency, the Strategic Planning Committee meeting will be live streamed and members of COLP were encouraged to watch the live stream.

During the discussions, BdS expressed worry about paragraph 3.8 of the report which accompanied the agenda for the Strategic Planning meeting, which indicates that Torbay is

struggling to find sufficient land for housing. BdS requested clarification on why an area should request land to fulfil their housing needs from other areas. DP noted that both Exeter and Teignbridge have made similar requests, emphasising a growing concern over regional housing pressures. In response, BB confirmed that there is no legal requirement to accommodate housing needs from other areas.

DP urged all members to remain vigilant and keep track of ongoing meetings to stay informed about developments. LV raised concerns about specific areas being considered for development, highlighting the need for careful evaluation. LB warned that without an adopted local plan to maintain a 5-year housing supply, developers could potentially build anywhere, leading to an uncontrolled increase in housing numbers if the government intervenes and mandates development locations. This could undermine local decision-making.

To mitigate these risks, Grampian conditions could be implemented, ensuring that necessary infrastructure is established prior to any building projects commencing. BB acknowledged that EDDC officers are under considerable pressure to allocate housing numbers, reflecting the urgent need for compliance with government targets.

GD pointed out that the current allocation of land and the types of housing being proposed do not adequately fulfil the needs of the community, raising questions about the overall planning strategy. Specific concerns regarding the lack of a dentist and medical centre at Goodmores, were cited by members as an example of poor planning.

9. 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.

The next meeting is set for November the 12th at the Council Chamber in Blackdown House. During this meeting, EDDC will invite local businesses to share their ideas and concepts regarding the area near the amusements by Queens Drive. This discussion aims to gather insights on what businesses envision for that space.

Following this meeting, GD will compile and provide a report summarising the key points and suggestions discussed. Additionally, during a brief placemaking meeting, BdS stated that ECA raised several questions related to the topic.

There was also a concern expressed by PS regarding a car park sign that has not been moved from its incorrect location on the seafront, indicating an ongoing issue that needs addressing.

10. StreetScene update

A StreetScene representative was not present at the meeting, but the following report was provided by AGR:

Due to the weekend weather the wall by Rockfish was severely damaged, Mamhead slipway will be closed from the 24th as contractors will be using this site to repair the wall.

The foxholes toilets are now shut to be demolished, there are three chemical toilets on site, one of which is a disabled facility, Orcombe toilets have also been kept open because of this, these are usually shut for the winter.

AB reported that the bins along Orcombe Point have been emitting strong odours, LB will email StreetScene to address the issue. PS highlighted that several benches and fencing along the beach have been vandalised and noted that one of the benches from the seafront has been stolen.

In terms of community safety, DP mentioned that a meeting took place last week to discuss the rising incidents of anti-social behaviour in Littleham, indicating ongoing concerns in the area.

IC raised an issue regarding mud on the road at Warren View. LB explained that the EDDC enforcement officer is aware of the situation and recently visited the site, warning that a stop order could be issued to the contractor if the road near the football pitch is not cleaned up. Additionally, PS has contacted DCC to request road cleaning, many cars in the area are covered in dust and lorries are creating ruts in the road.

IC also inquired about the status of two dead trees and the four to five stressed trees along the estuary and the stressed/dead trees around the car park at the amusement arcade. LB clarified that the trees in the car park are managed by EDDC landscaping, while the estuary trees are under the jurisdiction of Kier as part of the flood defences. LB committed to raising these concerns further and mentioned that the area behind the railway club has been filled in to extend the pavement.

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

Flooding & Water Quality WP

GD discussed several key updates regarding SWW. SWW aim to complete all pipework replacement by March 2025. The work will be done in two phases. Phase one will replace the damaged pipe from the corner of the field to the Maer Lane treatment centre. Phase Two will commence when the weather is better to replace the lower lying pipework from Maer Road pumping station to the field. Plans are also in place to upgrade Maer Road pumping station in this timeframe. Efforts are being made to ensure that surface water is separated from sewage, particularly for new developments.

GD also highlighted that David Reed MP had recently hosted a meeting for Local councillors and community organisations, with SWW and the EA, to address issues related to bathing water, sample testing, tanker operations, and sewage discharge; however, no new outcomes emerged from this meeting.

The capacity increase at the Maer Lane pumping station is expected to reduce sewage outfalls, discharge will only occur if substantial and will occur 2.5 miles offshore from Sandy Bay, taking tidal flow into account. SWW has also acquired a field next to the sewage centre for potential expansion of sewage works, pending planning permission.

In terms of tanker operations, current movements involve transporting sludge, which is processed into cake for use as fertilizer. There are no plans to increase the sludge processing capacity at the Exmouth site, although there are aspirational plans for a new sludge centre on the A35 between Honiton and Axminster.

Campervan TAFF

The meeting on the 27th of September aimed to raise awareness about the growing issue of campervans parking in both car parks and residential areas. A key point discussed was the lack of a chemical waste disposal unit, which had been proposed by EDDC but rejected due to objections from residents.

The Campervan TAFF expressed support for the idea of allowing campervans to park in designated car parks, contingent upon the implementation of effective chemical waste disposal facilities and appropriate enforcement measures to ensure compliance. The EDDC car parking manager is actively advocating for a plan that addresses these concerns and allows for responsible campervan parking and a consultation is proposed.

Ongoing problems with the EDDC permit scheme were also cited at the meeting, noting that van lifers are misusing it, and multiple instances documented through photo evidence showing motorhomes parked in residential areas, which has raised alarms among residents.

PROW – Rodney steps

MW updated members that Rodney Steps are officially closed and will not be replaced due to significant concerns regarding coastal erosion in the area. There are six clear signs posted to inform the public about the closure, ensuring that visitors are aware of the situation. Additionally, Sandy Bay has committed to providing tide times for holidaymakers who wish to walk along the beach from Sandy Bay to Exmouth, helping to enhance safety and awareness for those enjoying the coastal area.

Festival & Events – Winter Festival

LB confirmed that the festival will take place on the 30th of November and a press release will be issued shortly to announce details. The Christmas tree will be positioned in the same pit location as last year, where it was unfortunately vandalised. The tree is sponsored by Kings Garden Centre again and is set to be delivered on the 13th of November.

Beach Management WP

The last meeting was on the 23rd of October 2024.

There is a public consultation on the 12th of November at Exmouth Town Hall between 2pm and 7pm, this will involve a survey about three options are available for the seawall defences.

Climate and Ecological Emergency WP

AT updated members that in the previous meeting an EDDC officer announced the introduction of a climate manager who will be responsible for enhancing climate initiatives across all departments. This role will help ensure a coordinated approach to climate action. Additionally, there is a budget available for hiring consultants to assist with these efforts, which could provide valuable expertise and resources.

The "Chasing the Sun" film night is scheduled for the 19th of November. This event aims to raise awareness about climate issues, LV encouraged members to promote it within their networks to increase participation.

12. Any other business

BdS noted that ECA are in support for the winter fuel allowance.

TS made members aware that the Deaf Academy is organising a fundraising event with a target of 100K to fund a crossing. LB will engage with DCC to discuss potential support or collaboration for this initiative. Additionally, BdS expressed interest in having representatives from the Deaf Academy attend a future meeting to share updates on their fundraising efforts and progress. LB will investigate further to ensure all necessary information is gathered.

13. Next meeting 25th of November 2024

The meeting concluded at 11:58am