ANNUAL REPORT

Exmouth Town Council

2023/2024

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

"We're looking to the future to improve the quality of life for Exmouth residents and visitors and building on the characteristics which make Exmouth special."

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Councillor Olly Davey

It is an honour and a pleasure, as Town Mayor, to present my Annual Report for the people of Exmouth. In this, my first year as Mayor, I have undertaken visits to a range of community groups, organisations and businesses and I have attended numerous events within the town and beyond. I would like to thank all those who made my wife and myself so welcome during these visits. We have been to concerts, award ceremonies, eco events and a variety of civic functions. I have really enjoyed meeting the many people who do so much to contribute to the life and vibrancy of our town, and I have noticed that many of them pop up in more than one guise. We are very fortunate indeed to have so many dedicated, enthusiastic, civic-minded people in our town.

In the past year, the Town Council's various Committees and Working Parties have continued to meet on a regular basis with the aim of helping the Town Council to steer decisions which are vital for our town and residents. We have also continued our support for many local organisations, clubs and charities through grant funding and service level agreements.

Exmouth Town Council continues to work in partnership with our two higher tier councils: East Devon District Council and Devon County Council. This has enabled us to continue to be an efficient and proactive Council and to tackle issues together for the benefit of our town. The path is not always smooth but we continue to keep the lines of communication open.

The Town Council also works in partnership with Torbay Council to provide real-time CCTV monitoring services to support of our neighbourhood policing team.

Tourism in Exmouth is booming! I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to our team of Tourist Information Service (TIS) volunteers for staffing the information centre. The TIS offers a welcoming first point of contact for all visitors, as well as enabling local businesses to be promoted though our exceptional Town Guide. The annual footfall for the TIS in 2023 has been phenomenal which is excellent news for Exmouth and testament that we are still a fantastic holiday destination. I have been fortunate to be invited to a couple of their events, and very much enjoyed my visit to the launch of Visit Exmouth! where I met various businesses and organisations who attract and cater for our many visitors.

This year we have worked hard to make sure we are meeting the needs of all our residents and visitors by making sure that everyone has access to the beach through our Beach Wheelchair service. This is free to use and run with help from another team of volunteers.

Our grounds maintenance team has continued to work hand in hand with Exmouth in Bloom. This positive working relationship has contributed to Exmouth in Bloom's ongoing success, with a Gold award this year from Britain in Bloom.

The Town Council has also continued supporting the work of the Ride-On Scheme based in Exeter where unwanted bikes are recycled and refurbished to encourage users to choose cycling as an alternative mode of transport. The maintenance team help by picking up unwanted bikes from residents in Exmouth and delivering them to Exeter.



The Town Council's finances have been continuously kept at a high standard with clean external and internal audits for 22 years. We have now welcomed a new Finance Officer to our team; Sharise has over 20 years of financial experience and has settled well into her new role.

The Town Council is extremely fortunate to have a team of dedicated staff. Their considerable experience, diligence and commitment are invaluable and ensure we meet the ever-changing challenges with which we are presented.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks and gratitude to all Councillors, staff, volunteers and residents who work hard to make Exmouth a great place to live, and who pull together as a community through times of hardship.

PLANNING

The Town Council's Planning Committee is a statutory consultee for planning issues affecting the Town. It meets fortnightly to discuss and comment on planning applications which have been accepted and are being processed by East Devon District Council. These applications include the development of new dwellings, change of use, extensions, advertisements and works to listed buildings and trees. We are guided by the National Planning Policy Framework, East Devon District Council's Local Plan and Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan when compiling our responses.

We also comment and make representation, where necessary, on the District Council's licensing and street naming consultations. Occasionally, a Town Council representative will attend the District Council's Planning Committee meeting to add weight to our views.

The Committee comprises a cross section of 9 members from all five wards. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can make representations.

2023/24 has been a busy year for the Committee. We have deliberated and commented on 283 planning applications and multiple licensing applications. We have also contributed to the emerging local plan consultation and raised concerns through that process about the level of development that is proposed for the Town in future, particularly in the context of ongoing infrastructure pressures.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brixington	Halsdon	Littleham	Town	Withycombe
Andrew Colman	Tim Dumper – Deputy Chair	Graham Deasy	Joe Whibley - Chair	Andrew Woodward
Cherry Nicholas	Andrew Toye	David Poor		
		Michael Rosser		

TOWN MAINTENANCE

Exmouth Town Council employs four members of staff in its Town Maintenance team to support the upkeep of our public realm. The team consists of Tony Slinn, Peter Habgood, Neil Burns and Stephen Greenway and in the last twelve months, they have been busy weeding and clearing unkept areas throughout the Town, grass cutting, cleaning graffiti and maintaining numerous footpaths and lanes. The team is also responsible for planting and watering flowerbeds and flower towers.



As always, we were pleased to support Exmouth in Bloom on the respective judging days for the South West Regional and National competitions, held on 25th July and 27th July 2023, respectively.

To coincide with the judging, we were grateful for the support of Devon County Councillors Jeff Trail, Richard Scott and Christine Channon, who kindly agreed to help pay for the refurbishment and painting of lamp columns at the entrance to Bath Road (by the water wheel) as well as all the lamp columns in the Magnolia Centre.

The judges were taken to various locations to see how residents, volunteers and councils are working together for the benefit of the town and the Town Council's flowerbeds, flower towers and our wildflower bank at Marine Way all featured in the judges' route so were delighted to hear of Exmouth in Bloom's subsequent successes, winning Gold and Champion of Champions in South West in Bloom and Gold in the National Finals.

At the time of writing, we have just completed another successful joint project with East Devon District Council and Devon County Council on the big Colony clean-up. Thankyou to all the residents who also took part. Team works makes the dream work!

TREE COPSE AND MOSAIC BENCH IN PHEAR PARK TO REMEMBER THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III



To mark the Coronation of King Charles III, the Town Council invited schools in Exmouth to plant trees and design and make a mosaic bench for Phear Park. The project was aimed at encouraging young people to get involved and to foster a sense of ownership in something they have made and designed as a lasting legacy.

Ten trees, one for each school in Exmouth, were planted in April 2023 in a semi-circle shape to form a copse. The children who attended learned why it is important to have trees, the benefits they bring to the environment and wildlife and were taught how best to plant a tree. Mosaic panels for the bench were designed and made by young people at the Hive's youth group sessions with the help of artists, Allan Punton and Manya McMahon, who also taught them how to use mosaics and to transform the designs into mosaic art.

If you would like any further information on projects like this or have an idea for working together, please contact Exmouth Town Council by emailing us reception@exmouth.gov.uk or giving us a call on 01395 276167.



MAGPIES – A THRIFTY FESTIVAL!

In collaboration with Nicky Nicholls (Sideshore Community), Jess Magill (our Arts Manager) and Zoey Cooper (our Climate Officer) organised a 'new' festival for Exmouth – a festival of thrift! Celebrating all things thrifty, the focus was on free or pay-what-you activities to encourage upcycling, repurposing, repairing, reusing and rethinking. Out with the 'new' and in with the 'old'!

Culminating in a Community Thrift Day at Littleham Leisure Centre, the week included furniture refurbishing, bunting-making, bike repairing, charity shop challenges, an enormous tech robot, a 'Second Chance Showhome' a mega clothes swap, tie-dying, jewellery-making and delicious plant-based drinks and snacks. The events were well attended, inspirational and fun.

We worked closely with Exmouth Community College's Eco team who co-created the Snazzy Fashion Show challenge, the Scavenger Hunt and the Tech Robot.

We have also launched 'Magpie Tables'. Put out a table of things (clean and in working order) you don't want, on the first Sunday of every month, and see what treasures you can pick up locally.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Exmouth Town Council's Finance Committee meets once a quarter and has delegated responsibility for monitoring the Council's budget.

For the year ending March 31st 2024, the Council budgeted to spend £877,000 across its range of services. £761,000 of this was raised via a precept request to East Devon District Council, which is recovered via the Council Tax billing process. The remaining income comes from a variety of other funding sources, including the Council's own reserves, Devon County Council, Exmouth Festival and Gorfin Hall.

Each year, the Council's financial accounts and statements must be examined by an independent internal auditor appointed by the Council. For the year 2023-24 this is Thomas Westcott Chartered Accountants. The Council is also required to complete an Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) which includes the findings of the Internal Auditor, together with Governance Statements and year-end Financial Statements. The AGAR is then submitted to the independent external auditor appointed by the Audit Commission for examination, PFK Littlejohn LLP. There is a public inspection process, but the full Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) documents and internal audit reports are also available to view on our website, where you can view details of payments for goods and services over £500 and grants to local not-for-profit organisations.

ANNUAL BUDGET 2023/24

	2023/24			
	Budget	Income	Precept	Reserves
	Expenditure			
Allotments	600		600	
Civic	40,375	5700	23,175	
Footpaths	6,600		500	
Exe Estuary Mgt Partnership	4,120		4,200	
Town Maintenance	94,800	5,200	35,700	52,000
Town Management	53,500		30,000	
Festival	72,000	61,024	38,000	
Arts – non-Festival	10,000		10,000	
Administration	452,200		475,500	
Accommodation / Buildings	66,000		69,500	
Grants	58,056		64,000	
S137 other	5,200		5,200	
Gorfin Hall	13,250	11,000	4,750	
Total	876,701		761,125	52,000

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brixington	Halsdon	Littleham	Town	Withycombe
Fred Caygill	Andrew Toye	David Poor	Olly Davey	Matt Hall
Cherry Nicholas		Mark Williamson	Alex Sadiq	Steve Gazzard
				Andrew Woodward

GRANTS & SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL IN 2023/2024

Grants

Date	Applicant	Purpose	Amount Approved
08/06/2023	Exe Sailing Club	Core activities & equipment	£1,000.00
08/06/2023	Exmouth & District Talking Newspaper	Purchase of new speakers	£860.00
08/06/2023	Exmouth Rowing Club	New Equipment	£750.00
21/11/2023	Exmouth Town Concert Band	Contribution towards rehearsal space hire	£1,000.00

SLAs

Date	Applicant	Purpose	Amount Approved
23/02/2023	NCI Exmouth	Core Activities	£1,500.00
23/02/2023	Citizens Advice East Devon	Core activities	£7,000.00
23/02/2023	Exmouth Museum	Core Activities	£1,500.00
23/02/2023	Exmouth in Bloom	Core Activities	£7,500.00
23/02/2023	Exmouth Community Transport	Core activities	£5,552.88
23/02/2023	Exmouth Beach Rescue Club	Core activities	£1,500.00
23/02/2023	Exmouth Football Club	Floodlights for night landing site	£3,500.00
23/02/2023	Open Door	Support towards running costs of its Children and Families projects	£7,000.00

DID YOU KNOW COFFEE TASTES BETTER IN AN EXMOUTH CUP?



Exmouth Town Council and Sideshore Community have launched a reusable cup scheme for Exmouth. We have bought thousands of bespoke Exmouth Cups and given them to cafés in the town to promote the cups to their customers. The Exmouth Cups are free to borrow and can be returned (clean or otherwise) to participating cafés in town.

For this scheme to work, the Exmouth Cup must be used time and time again – eventually replacing all the disposable/single-use cups in town and hugely reducing the amount of waste generated from single-use cups. We are also encouraging a mindset shift from throwing-away to reusing.

The Exmouth cup is made from polypropylene, manufactured in the UK.

- It has a lower environmental impact than single-use paper cups after just 3 uses.
- It is robust and designed to last for hundreds of uses.
- The cup is insulated so hands are safe, but it keeps your drink hot in the same way that a single use paper cup does.
- It can fit a regular (recyclable) takeaway lid.

I'll drink to that!

EXMOUTH BEACH WHEELCHAIRS

Exmouth Beach Wheelchair Service will re-open in the Spring of 2024 and our online booking facility remains open to accept bookings for 2024.

The service is provided by Exmouth Town Council from a purpose-built unit on Queens Drive, Exmouth, near the Lifeboat Station, and provides specially adapted beach wheelchairs for use by residents and visitors. This service is free of charge although donations are welcomed.

In 2023, the service was in high demand, with 173 bookings from April until October. We were particularly pleased to welcome users from local residential homes, community groups and schools as well as visitors and residents of Exmouth and our surrounding towns and villages.

EXMOUTH BEACH
WHEELCHAIR HIRE

We still have volunteering positions available for 2024. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Mollie Carey at Exmouth Town Council on 01395 276167 or email beachwheelchairs@exmouth.gov.uk

Thank you again to our beach wheelchair users, those that have donated and our wonderful team of volunteers.

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL ENDORSES PLANT BASED TREATY

In December 2023, Exmouth Town Council endorsed a version of the international Plant Based Treaty that was deemed relevant to Exmouth Town. As part of a Climate Action Plan to encourage everyone to reduce their carbon footprint, and 'tread more lightly', it was agreed that diet change is a relatively simple and effective way to tackle climate change.

Exmouth Town Council therefore resolved to promote plant-based foods and in doing so will:

- Include campaigns/activities to encourage a switch to plant-based foods in our Climate Action Plan.
- Design public information campaigns to raise awareness about the climate and the environmental advantages and health benefits of plant-based food, nutrition and cooking.
- Aim to reduce the public's consumption of animal-based food through education in schools, organisations and local businesses.
- Transition to plant-based meal plans when catering for climate-related meetings, events etc.
- Support reforestation projects and convene a Tree Forum to provide transparency and encourage collaboration between stakeholders in Exmouth.
- Support initiatives to increase trees and wildflowers, increase green community projects, wildlife corridors, green rooftops, local growing schemes, work towards biodiversity increases (in our consultative planning role and in our environment policy).
- Enhance food justice by supporting projects that provide access to healthy food for all, especially low income communities (support projects like Mushroom, a food community network in Exmouth).

EXMOUTH FESTIVAL 2023

Exmouth Festival 2023 adopted the form of a fringe-style event and was spread across three stages in the town from July 28 to 31, with a big focus on participation and free workshops in clay, paint, collage, science, podcasting, DJing, beat-making, ceilidh dance calling and shuffleboard dance.



Manor Gardens, the "Festival Garden", was a secure family-friendly area with fabulous fun-filled music, theatre, circus workshops and shows, free art and science workshops, and the usual, great array of stalls, food, and drink. Monday was vintage day, with music from the 30s, 40s, and 50s, dance displays, and afternoon tea by Bumble & Bee. The Strand hosted popular community choirs, drama and dance groups on the Saturday, culminating in a Ceilidh, while Sunday revived the much-loved West Country Traditions day, with sea shanties and Morris dancing all day long. Sideshore was the spot for skate and sounds, with a solar powered stage, featuring indie, punk, electronica and soul, a pop-up skate ramp with pro-shows throughout the day, the Boom Bus drop-in sound workshops, plus crafts from the Creative Cabin, food and drink by Mickeys and Hang Time, and craft stalls.

We look forward to seeing you at Exmouth Festival 2024, which will be held from July 19th to 21st.

EXMOUTH WINTER FESTIVAL 2023



Our free festive, family-friendly event was back again in 2023 with a fun packed line-up that included a fire show and Ice Queen inside a life-sized snow globe. Hundreds of people flocked to The Strand in the town on Saturday, December 2, for a day of music and entertainment that included a fire show and the Christmas Tree light switch-on.

The fire and ice themed event, funded by Exmouth Town Council with support from the Deaf Academy, began at 3pm with live music. The popular children's lantern parade made a comeback with hundreds of local children led by drummers and a life-sized snow globe with Ice Queen made a phenomenal appearance.

For more information on the Summer and Winter Festivals please email the Arts Manager on: reception@exmouth.gov.uk

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE 2023

Exmouth Town Council and the Exmouth Branch of The Royal British Legion invited veterans, residents, local businesses, and organisations to join us for our annual Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service in the Strand on Sunday, November 12th, 2023.

Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. We remember the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.



The Parade was formed up by our Parade Marshal, Lt. (SCC) Sarah Andrews, on Imperial Road and proceeded along Victoria Road into the Strand for the commencement of the service which started at 10.59am with the sounding of the Last Post. This was followed by a two-minute silence marked by a bugler at 11am and then the traditional wreath laying ceremony.

We were delighted to see so many people in attendance to pay their respects and we extend our thanks to the Royal British Legion (Exmouth branch) for their involvement and to Exmouth Town Concert Band for providing the musical accompaniment.

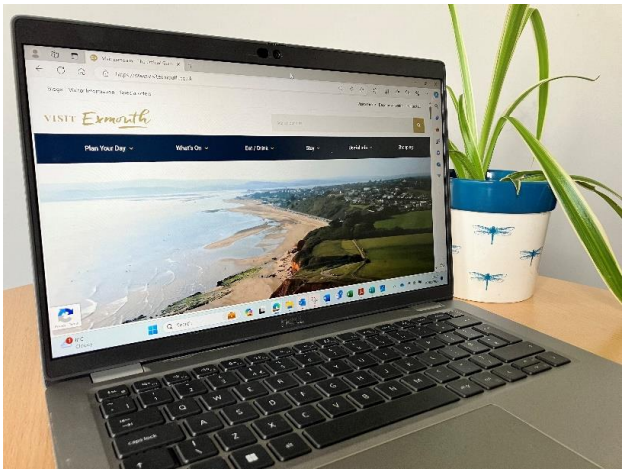
If you require any further information on Remembrance Sunday 2024, please contact Lisa Bowman, the Town Clerk, on 01395 276167 or by email at townclerk@exmouth.gov.uk

VISIT Exmouth

LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE AND HOSTS TOURISM SHOWCASE EVENT

Following the success of last year's event, Visit Exmouth recently hosted a Tourism Showcase event to highlight all the fantastic attractions, hotels, foodie destinations and things to see and do in Exmouth. The event was held at Ocean Exmouth on 28th February 2023 and was open to anyone who wished to meet and network with tourism businesses in and around Exmouth.

Exmouth Tourist Information volunteers were on hand to collect information on things to see and do in Exmouth ready for the new up and coming visitor season.



The event had over 20 exhibitors, including Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Pavilion, A La Ronde and Exmouth Beach Wheelchairs, to name a few.

The event also provided us with an opportunity to give an update on the Visit Exmouth marketing activity over the past 12 months and a platform to announce that our brand-new website is now LIVE!

The new site has user-friendly, streamlined navigation and member listings are now more visually appealing, with an array of features tailored to meet business needs. There's a new special offers section, plus you can submit your own events!

Next steps will be a big launch once all the listings have been checked and then the creation of inspirational content, adding more listings, increasing search capabilities, and including the ability for members to log in to review and update their listings.

EXMOUTH TOURIST INFORMATION

Our opening hours are as follows;
10am – 4pm Monday to Saturday in the summer
and 10am – 2pm Monday to Friday during the winter.

01395 8300550
45A The Strand, Exmouth EX8 1AL
exmouthtouristinformation@gmail.com



Allotments;
Bus Shelters;
CCTV;
Dinosaurs;
Exmouth Festival & Arts;
Festive Lighting: Seafront & Christmas
Footpath maintenance;
Gorfin Hall & Jubilee Clock Tower;
Local Grants;
Local Information Notice Boards: Magnolia Kiosk & London Road Inn Car Park
Planning: General & Neighbourhood;
Supplementary Town Maintenance (e.g. drains, graffiti, litter, overgrowth, weeds)
Tourist Information Service & Beach Wheelchairs.

If you need to speak to us about any of the above please contact us via our website www.exmouth.gov.uk or email us on reception@exmouth.gov.uk

Beaches & Seaside;
Benefits & Council Tax;
Community Safety;
Elections & Registering to Vote;
Environmental Maintenance & Dangerous Structures;
Food Hygiene & Safety;
Gardens, Parks & Recreation, Countryside, Trees, Memorial Benches & Cemeteries;
Housing & Homelessness;
Licensing (Events; Charity Collections, Pop-up Shops);
Litter, Graffiti & Fouling Clearance, Street Cleaning (Streetscene);
Local Information Notice Boards: Manor Gardens & LED Leisure Centre
Lost Animals;
Parking (public car parks);
Pest and Noise Control;
Planning & Building Control;
Public Toilets;
Recycling/Refuse (Kerbside) & Fly tipping reports Regeneration of Exmouth.

If you need to speak to EDDC about any of the above please contact via their website www.eastdevon.gov.uk or email on csc@eastdevon.gov.uk

Adoption & Fostering;
Flyposting & Unauthorised Advertising;
Highways (road/pavement maintenance, e.g. drains, potholes, verges, gritting, traffic & streetlights; licensing for roadworks, skips, scaffolding, etc.)
Libraries & Archives;
Parking (on-road);
Parking Permits for Langerwehe & Victoria Ways businesses and 7-day-stays;
Public Transport, Blue Badges and Bus Passes;
Recycling Centres;
Registration Services (Births, Marriages, Deaths);
Residential Homes;
Rights of Way; Exe Estuary Trail, Foot/Cycle paths;
Schools & Youth Services;
Social Services (Care Direct; Family, Children & Carers Support; Independent Living)
Trading Standards;
Traffic Management; Wildlife Guidelines.

If you need to speak to DCC about any of the above please contact via their website www.devon.gov.uk or email customer@devon.gov.uk

Your Councillors

BRIXINGTON WARD	AURORA BAILEY FRED CAYGILL MADDY CHAPMAN ANDREW COLMAN IAN KIRVAN CHERRY NICHOLAS	aurora.bailey@exmouth.gov.uk f.caygill@exmouth.gov.uk m.chapman@exmouth.gov.uk andrew.colman@exmouth.gov.uk ian.kirvan@exmouth.gov.uk c.nicholas@exmouth.gov.uk
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