EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 25th November 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 Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Lou Doliczny	LD	Transition Exmouth
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)
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	Exmouth Town Council
Bruce de Saram	BdS	Exmouth Community Association
Geoff Skinner	GS	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 28th of October 2024

GD proposed and PS seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 28th of October 2024, all members agreed that the notes were a true record.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting.

DP reminded members of the Jingle and Mingle Community Showcase taking place on the 18th of December, which will have a Town Council presence featuring stalls from Visit Exmouth, Beach Wheelchairs, and Community Resilience. TS confirmed that three stalls have been booked for mental health matters. Out of 90 stalls, 40 have already been allocated, and further advertising will engage with the public soon.

GD announced that Gerry Mills has left EDDC. The previous Placemaking meeting on the 12th of November was cancelled, the next meeting is scheduled for the 10th of December 2024.

IC informed members that Churches Together are organising another Christmas Encounters event on the 23rd of December in the Christmas Village marquee.

PS urged members to attend the Beach Management drop-in event at the Town Hall Chamber on the 26th of November between 2pm and 7pm, which will discuss the sea wall proposals.

4. To receive an update on the Dinan Way extension

LB circulated an email on the 11th of November to ETC councillors providing a summary of the meeting that took place with County Councillors.

LB confirmed the procurement exercise has been completed and the contract has been formally awarded, the appointed contractor will be onsite in December with the main work starting in January 2025, they are expecting an 11 month build phase.

It was clarified that the funding earmarked for the gateway project which was abandoned and initially part of the Dinan Way project, would be used to reinvest in cycling and walking initiatives within the Dinan Way project, as it must still align with its original purpose. Discussions also covered the traffic management plan, including an embargo on utility works while the roadworks are in progress. LB confirmed that a stakeholder meeting will be held in December to discuss these issues further. The removal of a hedge at Lympstone Corner was also mentioned as part of the work.

There were also discussions about routes for static caravans, with further details expected in the future. AT from Transition Exmouth expressed support for increased investment in active travel and inquired about utility works in the area. LB clarified that the utility work would primarily affect the town area of Exmouth, except for emergency works. Additionally, diversions will be in place for work being carried out in Woodbury.

Members also discussed the park and ride service, which was previously considered but ultimately not pursued due to challenges like land availability and the question of who would operate the service.

IC raised concerns about the regular traffic issues on the A376, and members discussed the possibility of traffic lights during peak flow times. PS noted that Featherbed Lane is being used as a main route for buses and large vehicles since the Dinan Way work began, leading to potential congestion. DP confirmed that the Transport Partnership will feed this feedback into future discussions. LB mentioned that DCC will issue a press release about the contractor who has been formally awarded the contract for the Dinan Way extension project.

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.

BdS was not present at the meeting but reported that ECA like many community groups and individuals are focusing on the final stages of the Local Plan and its impact on Exmouth. DP encouraged members to keep an eye on updates. BB provided an update from the last Strategic Planning Committee meeting that he attended, where representations were taken from towns and villages for potential amendments. Members were informed that new government rules have not yet been received, so work is still based on the old regulations. Currently, site allocations for the plan remain unchanged.

6. StreetScene update

A StreetScene representative was not present at the meeting and no report was received.

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

Festival & Events WP

The Working Party is focused on the winter festival, which will take place on 30th November in The Strand from 3pm, and the Craft Your Christmas event at the Salvation Army from 10am. Members are also discussing where to light the VE Day 80th anniversary beacon on 8th May 2025.

Feedback from Remembrance Sunday indicated that the service was not clearly audible to spectators due to issues with sound. LB noted that the acoustics in the Strand were difficult, with the sound needing to be turned up halfway through the service. IC confirmed that from the market area, the service could not be heard. LB will feed the issues back to the working party during the wash-up meeting for the event.

Climate and Ecological Emergency WP

LV updated members that the working party is exploring a potential partnership for retrofitting and eco-focused initiatives. The group is also supporting the Exmouth Active Travel group and may transition to 6 weekly meetings rather than meeting monthly.

Town Maintenance Overview WP

The possibility of expanding its scope for weed clearance by collaborating with DCC and acquiring more equipment to help with weed extraction is being discussed.

Finance Committee

LB provided an update on the Finance Committee, noting that a meeting will take place later in the week to discuss the budget and grants for the next financial year.

Public Rights of Way WP

PS noted that Rodney Steps are being removed due to the high cliff erosion risk. Signage will be placed at Rodney and Sandy Bay to warn people of tide times and prevent them from getting stranded. IC suggested that similar signage should be placed at Orcombe Point.

Quality Council

LB confirmed that Exmouth Town Council (ETC) has silver quality council status and is working toward gold status, with the silver status expiring in May 2025.

Flooding and Water Quality WP

A consultation on bathing water reforms is currently being considered by the government looking at the fixed bathing water season dates, water quality, public safety and water testing areas, the deadline for the consultation document submission is the 23rd of December 2024. The working party is actively contributing to this consultation.

GD provided an update on SWW's efforts to improve water flow between the Maer and Maer Road treatment centre, pipework is expected to finish by March/April.

Additionally, there have been manhole flooding issues on the Maer and flooding in the Imperial Road car park due to bad weather which has caused significant overflows into the sea. Issues have caused some households losing water.

EA have a number of investigations with SWW currently taking place and there are 750 registered ongoing cases between the solicitors representing the public who are working to hold SWW accountable for the damage caused to businesses and organisations. DP emphasised the need to keep SWW accountable for these issues. Leigh Day (Solicitors) are engaging with residents on the 9th of December at Sideshore.

Exmouth Transport Partnership WP

The next meeting is scheduled for the 3rd of December, where buses and trains are expected to be discussed.

Health and Wellbeing Board (WEB)

TS confirmed that Exmouth MIU will remain closed on Saturdays, but extended hours will be introduced in the New Year. Saturdays will be used for staff training.

8. Any other business

LV will be attending the Wild about Devon Forum on Friday and invited members to forward any issues that could be raised at the forum. IC requested an update on the dead trees, but no update was available.

LB acknowledged the confusion surrounding the residents parking letters recently issued by DCC, IC had been asked to clarify the meaning of the letter by a resident in the affected zone. LB agreed that the letter was unclear and difficult to understand and will address it with DCC Councillor Richard Scott.

DR reported that it was noted in the weekly newsletter that the Sailing Club who run a disabled sailing group have recently won an award from the Royal Yachting Association and the King.

DR updated members that the scouts used to use Sanctuary Lane but hope to engage with Exmouth Camp facilities in the future. DR also provided an update on the Sea Scout's building, noting that the roof has been replaced, but there is still a funding shortfall. They are looking for additional funds and hope that EDDC, as the landlords, will approve renting out the building to other organisations to generate revenue. PS suggested Omaze as a possible source of funding for the Scouts Association. DP

requested a site visit for members to see the new building, DR confirmed that an official opening ceremony will take place in due course.

PS raised concerns about lorries continuing to cause issues on Warren View which has also been affecting Exeter Road, they are making a mess, leaving potholes, and dust on resident's cars and houses. DCC is monitoring the situation, and LB will inform Richard Scott that trucks are still being used, despite previous reports that it had stopped two weeks ago. LB informed members that the EDDC enforcement officer threatened a stopping order if they did not keep to the planning restrictions.

Transition Exmouth are trying to work out how to connect groups within Exmouth, LB will arrange a separate meeting with LD to discuss this further outside the working party meeting. LB explained the reason why COLP was formed and reminded members that meetings should focus on matters that fall within the Town Council jurisdiction. AT encourages other organisations to join the working party.

LB explained that the Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Group met with EDDC's Angela King to ensure the plan aligns with the Local Plan. The group is working on policy improvements, but the plan cannot move forward until the emerging Local Plan is formally adopted. IC and LB discussed the need for tighter language in the housing policies to ensure that the plan is implemented as intended, IC confirmed that the policies put forward were scrutinised by EDDC and LB agreed that they were exemplar. Members continued to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan in detail.

9. Next meeting 16th of December 2024

LB will not be able to attend the next meeting, a decision will be made nearer the time whether to go ahead with this meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11:43am