EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 24th February 2025 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 Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Bruce de Saram	BdS	Exmouth Community Association
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

Apologies

Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (StreetScene)

1. Welcome and Apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting, thanked PS for chairing the previous meeting and apologies were noted.

2. To agree the notes of the previous meeting held on the 27th of January 2025

PS proposed and GD seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 27th of January 2025, all members agreed that the notes were a true record.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting.

ETC is currently not expecting as a town or parish council to be significantly affected by the local government reorganisation, as it will primarily impact the district and county, which will come together into a new unitary authority. The council has looked at the experience of Cornwall, where, during the formation of the unitary council, town and parish councils were not significantly impacted at the outset. However, over time, there has been more devolution of assets and services, giving local councils a greater role in certain functions.

The Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) has requested that all member councils provide a one-page summary, outlining their community, the services they currently provide, and any aspirations for future services. This is to help DALC build an evidence base to lobby for a seat at the table in the unitary proposal discussions, ensuring that town and parish councils are part of the decision-making process rather than being excluded.

The deadline for submitting these summaries to DALC is the end of February. These summaries will contribute to the overall process leading up to the release of the draft proposals for the unitary authority, which are expected to be published by the end of March. DALC hopes to influence the draft proposals and ensure that town and parish councils are properly represented.

There is still some uncertainty and concern among local authorities regarding what the final structure of the unitary authority will look like. Multiple proposals are still under consideration, and until the details of these proposals are finalised and presented to central government, it is difficult for the council to form a clear response or strategy. There is a recognition that the situation is fluid, and the proposals might still change based on the lobbying and input from local councils and other stakeholders.

LB will provide further updates as the situation develops and the one-page document will be shared with members at the next meeting.

4. To receive an update on the Dinan Way extension

There are concerns about the sequencing and scheduling of the work, particularly regarding its impact on traffic during Easter and the summer period. DCC is aware of these concerns and is mindful of the situation and due to have a meeting with the contractors to address these issues, but there is no update indicating that the meeting has occurred yet. No further information or updates were available at this point.

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

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

To note that consultation on the East Devon Local Plan: Publication Plan (Regulation 19) is now live. Consultation closes at 9am on Monday 31st March 2025 and comments should be submitted by the date/time. EDDC is intending to submit the East Devon Local Plan to the Secretary of State in Autumn 2025 for examination

LB reported that social media if rife with people wanting to comment on site allocations however, in the briefing sessions with DCC the Reg 19 stage of the consultation process is very specific therefore the scope for ETC to comment on, for example, housing allocation sites is virtually non-existent.

LB has responded to an email received from a resident querying if ETC would be tabling an agenda item to discuss the consultation specifically in respect of town boundaries as the built-up area boundaries will change with the land allocations. It is significant to note that as a town council we are trying to understand what scope there is to comment on anything other than the 3 specific remits in the Reg 19 stage of consultation. i.e. whether the plan is legally compliant, whether its sound and whether EDDC has met the duty to cooperate.

Members were urged to look at the common place portal which shows that under each chapter tile it asks for comments on only the 3 specific remits. Evidence is required if you do not believe they have met all 3 remits.

To note that a public exhibition is being held on Thursday 6th March between 11am and 8pm at Bidmead Community Centre, 41 Littleham Road. Bloor Homes are preparing to consult the community on proposals for new homes and employment space for land allocated on EDDC's Local Plan as EXM0_17, opposite Liverton Business Park

As a stakeholder, ETC councillors have been invited to take part in some workshops on Thursday the 27th of February with the public exhibition taking place on Thursday the 6th of March.

ETC hopes to engage with the developer to influence community facilities that are needed to meet the growing needs of the town.

Rev SJ has spoken to the communications team at Bloor Homes and made them aware of the limited life of the civic cemetery and the need for a new cemetery or the existing cemetery to be extended. Bloor Homes and Clinton Devon Estates are now aware of this need and have invited SJ to attend the stakeholder workshop.

Members discussed the aspiration for a new road to be built to alleviate the congestion at Littleham Cross up to Sandy Bay. Although LB agreed that a new road would be advantageous it was explained to members that this would be highly unlikely as DCC does not have a capital budget to build a new road, they would need to wait for a funding bid for new roads to become available to apply for capital funding. DCC receive funding from central government, but this can only be allocated to existing road maintenance.

LB clarified that in the text of the Neighbourhood Plan it states that Devon Cliffs Holiday Park at Sandy Bay is a prosperous and successful site of chalets and caravans and an important element in the local economy and that a reappraisal of the road layout leading to this large site should be considered and especially a link to the present end of Dinan Way at Salterton Road. The Neighbourhood Plan supports the consideration of a new road between Sandy Bay and the completed Dinan Way.

As members were still keen to make DCC aware that a new access road to Sandy Bay is needed LB agreed to speak to the Exmouth Transport Partnership chairman to see if this could be added as an agenda item to the next meeting on the 1st of April.

6. **To note that an appeal hearing in respect of the decision by EDDC to refuse planning permission for the demolition and redevelopment of the Devoncourt Hotel has been scheduled for Wednesday 23rd April 2025**

   Members were notified that a hearing has been scheduled for the 23rd of April 2025.

   PS pointed out that if the appeal goes through EDDC could still refuse to give permission for building access through their car park.

7. **To note that EDDC will be carrying out a public consultation for the renewal and variation of the three East Devon Public Spaces Protection Orders. This public consultation will go live from the 3rd of March to the 28th of April. These include the 2024 Dog Control PSPO, 2023 Seashores and Promenades PSPO, and the 2023**

Control of Anti-Social Behaviour & the Consumption of Intoxicating Substances in Exmouth PSPO

Members were notified that the consultations will go live next week.

8. **To note that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on the evening of the 10th of March 2025 at Exmouth Town Hall. Guest speakers include Mat Helm, the new Sector Police Inspector for Exmouth & Ottery St Mary and representatives from the mayor's chosen charity for 2025 – Esteem Team**

LB provided a brief overview of guest speakers that will be attending the meeting.

9. **Street Scene update**

Members expressed concern that no Street Scene representative was present, and no report was received.

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

Flooding and Water Quality WP

GD reported that a pollution incident occurred on Friday the 21st of February, when the pumping station went out of action, resulting in raw sewage being pumped into the sea for 24 hours.

BdS and BB attended an internal conservative regional party meeting on Saturday to discuss SWW issues in Exmouth, which differed from those raised in North Devon. GD will raise this through the Flooding and Water Quality WP.

GD has also attended informal meetings with EDDC through Geoff Jung, ESCAPE and EA to ensure that SWW are providing the same information to them.

Placemaking in Exmouth Town & Seafront Group

AB expressed gratitude to GD for his contributions to the group.

GD announced that the next meeting will be on the 18th of March 2025, and mentioned changes in officers. There is a new concept being considered for Beach Gardens and Queens Drive space. Suggestions included the idea for Beach Gardens' car park to be removed and transformed into gardens with alternative parking being considered, a better walkway link between the Pavilion / Ocean and the beach, and Queens Drive Space being reimagined. Attendees at a recent workshop were keen to keep the popular playpark area and better utilise the area backing onto Madeira Walk.

Discussion took place about the limited number of disabled spaces (4) at the Pavilion car park, with members highlighting the need for more parking.

Health and Wellbeing Board (WEB)

TS informed members that the Health and Wellbeing Board has been dissolved, although there is a possibility it may be restarted in another form under East Devon in the future. TS thanked the WEB chair David Basset for his considerable efforts.

Hospital League of Friends

TS informed members about the new Hospital League of Friends website and encouraged them to visit it.

Festival & Events WP

The VE Day celebrations are moving forward with a short RBL commemoration service scheduled for Thursday the 8th of May in the Strand. Plans are also being discussed for entertainment in Manor Gardens and the lighting of the beacon at the Imperial Recreation Ground.

11. Any other business

BDS expressed gratitude to Zoey Cooper, the ETC Climate & Ecological Emergency Officer, on behalf of the Rotary Club for her excellent presentation: Exmouth Climate and Nature Climate Action Network (CANCAN).

12. Next meeting 24th March 2025

The meeting ended at 11:20