EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Public Rights of Way Working Party

Notes of the Zoom meeting held at 4pm on Wednesday 12th February 2025

Present

Mark Williamson	MW	ETC Councillor, Chair
Andrew Toye	AT	ETC & EDDC Councillor
Olly Davey	OD	ETC & EDDC Councillor
Louise Venables	LV	ETC Councillor
Elizabeth Deasy	ED	TARA
Heath Nickels	HN	P3 Co-Ordinator
Jan Gannaway	JG	Active Travel Exmouth & Sustrans
Chetna Jones	CJ	ETC Deputy Town Clerk
Lisa Greenway	LG	ETC notetaker

Apologies

Sam Jeffcoat	SJ	DCC PROW Warden for Exmouth
Ross Hussey	RH	Footpath Volunteer

1. Welcome and apologies

MW welcomed members and apologies were noted.

2. To approve the notes of the meeting on the 11th of September 2024

LV proposed, OD seconded, the accuracy of the notes from the 11th of September 2024 which were approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

As discussed in the previous meeting HN and RH have both walked FP11 and have confirmed that it was passable when walked in Sept/Oct. RH provided an update on FP11 with supporting photo's that was circulated to members prior to the meeting in his absence.

LV has walked all the footpaths and reported that FP11 is muddy where the crossing is located on the Half Moon Field but pointed out that this is a seasonal issue.

It had previously been queried by SJ if any ETC/EDDC funding was available for FP2 as DCC did not have any funding left to make improvements. This was raised at a S106/CIL meeting where the Town Clerk pointed out that CIL funds can only be used for capital projects and not for maintenance of existing FP's. CJ confirmed that grant money is available as part of the P3 Scheme and the working party may wish to consider a grant bid for maintenance work. More information is needed as the work on FP2 would be outside the scope of the town maintenance team and it is unclear if ETC can submit a grant bid to assist SJ with his request.

LV mentioned that FP2 is extremely muddy and a section of FP6 was closed, this was noted in the annual survey that FP2 was closed for several years while work on the Plumb Park development was taking place and although it has re-opened due to increased footfall it is very muddy, hence FP2 failing.

Contractors are working on a new walkway leading to Donkey Hill. LD raised concerns that runoff from the area is making FP2 almost impassable, it was suggested that Plumb Park contractors are approached to address this issue. There was discussion about the importance of making sure developers are aware of issues relating to footpaths.

Work on new signs for the Bapton Valley multi-use footpath was progressing. CJ confirmed a design and print team were lined up and JG and HN were thanked for providing photos and wording. Once the size of the new signs is confirmed by EDDC and the unspent funds returned to ETC work will recommence.

Although previously requested, the maintenance schedule for Long Lane has not been received from DCC. However, the Community Payback Team has cleared the brambles and vegetation encroaching onto the path.

There was also a suggestion to install shared path signs on Bapton Valley due to more cyclists using the path. CJ will raise this with EDDC as the landowners to install more signs along the path.

4. To review annual P3 forms and survey for submission as part of the P3 Scheme

The annual survey was circulated to members prior to the meeting, and it was agreed to submit the appropriate forms to DCC before the deadline. DCC had stated earlier that a grant of £3,000 was awarded to Exmouth Town Council.

Grant bids for additional funding can be requested from DCC and it was agreed to apply for resurfacing work on FP11 by St George's Field and to include the small section (approx. 5 metres squared) by the crossing at Half Moon.

5. Update from the P3 Co-ordinator on current state of footpaths

Most footpaths were passable but as suggested earlier some were very muddy.

HN was thanked for his continued work on reviewing the public rights of way.

6. Update from DCC Public Rights of Way warden

SJ was unable to attend and therefore provided the report below, which was circulated to members prior to the meeting:

FP1 Coast Path has now been trimmed right back along its full length from Foxholes Hill to Sandy Bay. This will provide a much wider space for walkers and reduce the problems of the muddy surface.

Two new 'coast path via Exe Estuary Trail' signs have been installed at either end of King Georges Field to direct walkers along the Exe Estuary Trail.

Various fallen trees have been cleared on the paths between Green Farm and Douglas Avenue.

The Exmouth to Budleigh trail has been swept of leaves and various dangerous trees felled.

The steps at Rodney Point have now been dismantled as a result of them falling into disrepair and the cliffs failing a geotechnical survey preventing their rebuild.

7. Any other business

LV has walked all the footpaths but could not find FP21. MW suggested that as footpaths 20 and 22 are located at the docks/marina the footpath could have been lost when the marina was developed.

JG has produced a new map on Getting Around Exmouth to show designated cycle paths and unsuitable paths for cycling in different colours. Paths that are not a recognised cycle path but there are no obvious reasons that they cannot be cycled have also been colour coded.

OD mentioned that when planning permission for new developments is submitted through the EDDC Planning Committee they always look for trees as there is a need for biodiversity net gain and a requirement that any new development should not increase surface water runoff.

Members discussed other footpaths that could possibly benefit from extra funding such as the area below the railway line in King Georges field. As agreed earlier CJ will request additional funding for this project.

8. Next meeting – 10th September 2025

The meeting closed at 17:18