EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 8th April 2025 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council
Sarah Kersey	SK	Transition Exmouth
Florence Lock	FL	Transition Exmouth

Apologies

Councillor Fred Caygill	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Colman	AC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Dan Wilson	DW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Catherine Causley	CC	East Devon District Council
Lou Doliczny	LD	Transition Exmouth

1. **Welcome and apologies**

TD welcomed members to the meeting, in particular the new attendees Sarah Kersey and Florence Lock from Transition Exmouth and apologies were noted.

2. **To approve the notes of the meeting on 4th March 2025 and any matters arising.**

The notes of the previous meeting were proposed for approval by MR, seconded by OD and agreed by all.

3. **To receive an update from EDDC.**

Please note that in the absence of an EDDC representative, ZC read out the update provided by Lewis Connor (EDDC) for the Climate And Nature Climate Action Network (CANCAN) meeting (8th April):

- The Climate team are currently finalising their next Climate Change Strategy as well as updating progress on the current Action Plan and formulating their next Action Plan moving forward.

- Currently working to finalise the East Devon CAN Workbook alongside creating a committed climate network amongst the Town and Parish councils within East Devon in collaboration with our Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Officer.
- Working to promote National Volunteer Week in June to celebrate all the exiting projects ongoing within the district.

TD asked OD if he had any updates from EDDC, in his capacity as District Councillor. OD spoke about the impact of BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) on planning. A discussion ensued regarding the role of BNG, how it works and its implications for Exmouth and SANGs (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces). LB mentioned that one of her Carbon Literacy pledges is to provide further information and clarification for Exmouth Town Council regarding the impact of BNG.

4. **To receive an update from Transition Exmouth.**

SK reported Transition Exmouth has been supporting the Mushroom Food Network with a grant application but unfortunately were not successful.

Ongoing support is being provided to the Active Travel Group.

Friends of the River Exe project is seeking heritage funding, allowing an 18-month extension and expansion of their work.

A new six month paid role focused on community engagement is being created. The role will promote sustainable living, help people take local climate action, support wider community outreach and will coordinate a team of volunteers. A large part of the role will include door knocking.

Transition has welcomed FL, a new trustee.

5. **To receive an update from ZC regarding an e-tuk-tuk/mobile eco hub.**

A presentation on the tuk tuk project was delivered at the Full Council Meeting on 7th April 2025 and received unanimous support from Council members.

Questions were raised by members at the Full Council meeting regarding storage, load capacity, tax requirements, warranty length and contingency plans if issues arise. It was agreed that ZC would investigate storage at Gorfin Hall or Pound Lane.

ZC has contacted Den at the Axminster workshop to arrange a meeting to discuss the tuk tuk's additional features (including a leisure battery and solar panels) and respond to some of the queries above. She will also explore fit-out possibilities and develop branding concepts, combining Exmouth Town Council branding with a strong eco-hut identity.

6. **To receive an update from Zoey regarding projects and resources for 2025:**

***Waste* – Exmouth cup (spring); reusable period products & nappies.**

The Exmouth Cup Scheme has been refreshed with updated branding and streamlined participation, now involving three cafes only: Postcards, Deli on the Strand and Harbour View.

All cafes have committed to making the Exmouth cup their default takeaway option and explaining its purpose to customers. The cafes have been provided with new promotional materials.
Postcards and Deli on the Strand are actively engaged: both offering incentives.

Harbour View shows lower engagement and has requested more cups than expected. Their performance will be reassessed once the new deposit bin is in place.

Two dedicated cup return bins are being installed, one at Harbour View and one outside Postcards. Each café will be responsible for bin management and cup cleaning.

The scheme is expanding to include event lending. Cups will be loaned to organisations such as the RNLI. Loan packages will include a briefing sheet explaining the scheme.

The reusable period products initiative is gaining traction, with five schools expressing interest in hosting workshops.

A session is scheduled for early July at the Community College, reaching 170 Year 7 students.

Plans are underway to provide each student with a reusable product sample to take home. Samples will be accompanied by an informative leaflet for parents/carers, highlighting the health, environmental and financial benefits of reusable products.

Overall, the project is progressing very positively with strong school engagement. An intern is joining on May 1st to research the barriers to using reusable period products. She is from Exeter Uni and this research will be her final dissertation project.

The reusable nappy scheme is going well. East Devon is running a community event on 16th April. A real nappy advisor will attend with trial nappy kits to promote and explain the scheme.

Samudra the Sea Serpent: Samudra has been taken back to Bath by the designer/sculptor for refurbishment and repainting.Originally intended as a recycling bin, but due to contamination issues and difficulties with waste collection, Samudra

will be recommissioned as a ‘storytelling’ sculpture. New plans involve relocating her to the Mallow (grassy area next to Sideshore) and transforming her into a storytelling sea serpent, featuring messages or short stories about the sea.

Tech Robot: will also be repurposed – likely as a storytelling throne where children or families can sit and share sea-themed stories. The robot will be removed from its current location at the compound as soon as Ruby returns with Samudra, and will no longer require storage.

***Energy* – retrofit project with Eco Advice.**

The retrofit project is now live, with four homes selected for full energy audits.
A range of typical local homes were chosen, including a small, terraced cottage and a 1960s/70s detached bungalow.

Preference was given to households ready to act (e.g. planning renovations), increasing the likelihood of follow-through. Home visits are being scheduled; however, thermal imaging is limited by current weather conditions, which require greater indoor/outdoor temperature differences.

The project received around 25 applications, thanks to strong local outreach and leafleting. Spare leaflets will be saved for potential future campaigns.

***Travel* – Exmouth Active Travel group; Visit Exmouth**

The Active Travel group met last week and has been formalised into key workstreams:

Research and Behaviour Change:– Investigating how to encourage reduced car use through walking, cycling car sharing and public transport.
Mapping and Routes – Identifying safer, off-road pathways and cycle routes around Exmouth.
Infrastructure Improvements – Exploring physical changes to make active travel easier and more accessible.

Although initial funding to develop a survey was unsuccessful, alternative funding options are being explored.

Discussions are focused on walking and cycling buses for schools. ZC has received feedback from schools and councils.

Members expressed concerns over declining bus services.

ZC and Annabelle have successfully revised the sustainability section of the Visit

Exmouth website.

Food – "I could never go vegan" film, "Green Table", August

The film screening "I could never go vegan" was a successful event held at Scott cinema with 77 attendees. The guest speaker Dr Alan Desmond was engaging and well received. Around 1/3 of the audience were non-vegans, many expressed willingness to go vegan after the film.
There was positive feedback received post event with follow up emails and feedback forms sent.

The Town Council is to adopt and run the local Film Festival every year. Future food/sustainability films could feature under this new festival framework. This will strengthen the partnership with venues and aligns with wider climate engagement goals.

The Plant-Based Exe-Change events are gaining traction (20+ attendees). Next is on Sunday 13th with a veg bingo

Draft plans to host a Green Table event on the Mallow with Sideshore (which would be a long communal vegan bring and share meal with stalls, creating a mini vegan festival atmosphere) are underway but ZC updated members that the plans may have altered so she needs to catch up with Nicky Nicholls for an update.

Nature – Tree Forum

The tree forum was initially scheduled for late April. Councillor Maddy Chapman requested a reschedule to mid-May due to the County Council elections. It was agreed that May 28th would be a suitable date.

Talks, training and PR

ZC has given talks recently to the Green Party, Rotary and Labour Party.

There has been limited interest in Carbon Literacy training with Sidmouth backing out for a more tailored approach to their local needs.

PR response to the Star Council Awards has been limited. Further outreach to local media is being considered to boost visibility.

ZC is networking with other award finalists in helping share ideas and build connections. Also with other councils (like Frome) who have climate and nature strategies.

The Council was mentioned in the Devon Association of Local Councils newsletter and the Coastal Community Network. Local press (The Journal) picked up coverage of the award win, including photos.

7. **To receive an update on other relevant matters from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives.**

No updates.

8. **Any other business**

The planned training initiative involving Anne Marie Culhane and the Met Office has been paused due to the lack of funding and time constraints. Anne Marie is currently focused on other projects and may revisit the training in September.

Acknowledgement of Council election candidates within the group was given with well wishes for the elections.

9. **Dates of next meeting:** 20th May 2025, 6pm – 8pm, in the Town Hall Chamber.