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 Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	East Devon District Council (StreetScene)
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

Apologies

Bruce de Saram	BdS	Exmouth Community Association
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	Exmouth Town Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

PS welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. To agree the notes of the previous meeting held on the 24th of February 2025

BB proposed and PS seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 24th of February 2025, all members agreed that the notes were a true record.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting.

No matters arising.

4. To receive an update on the Dinan Way extension

The planning schedule is going well with the project on schedule to complete by the end of 2025 providing no delays occur. Traffic lights were removed at the weekend to help with the traffic flow so hopefully this will be put in place going through the summer season. 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.

BB urged members to contact Wendy Harris at EDDC should they wish to attend the next meeting on the 19th of May.

6. To note the one-page summary submitted to DALC

The Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) 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 was 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. A copy of the one-page summary was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

7. Update from the Annual Town meeting that was held on the 10th of March 2025

The Annual Town meeting included guest speakers Mat Helm, the new Sector Police Inspector for Exmouth & Ottery St Mary and representatives from the mayor's chosen charity for 2025, Esteem Team.

Members discussed issues of online bullying and bullying at Exmouth Community College especially on the bridge that divides the upper and lower sites, this issue has caused rising anxiety in school children that Esteem are now working closely with as well as the parents. PS is aware that teachers are stationed on the bridge to try and alleviate the issue.

8. Street Scene update

AGR apologised for not being able to attend the previous meeting.

AGR reported that several BBQ bin fires have recently occurred although they do have more bins available to replace damaged ones.

The sand levels are in a good state which will minimise road closures. EDDC have employed 2 seasonal workers this year to keep areas clean via litter picking along the beach and the Maer.

Travellers appeared at the Maer Road car park on Thursday however, they were removed on Sunday.

AB was impressed by EDDC staff who empty the bins along the beach on a regular basis and enquired if more bins could be provided at Queens Drive, AGR will pass the request onto EDDC property services however, he is aware that extra bins are scheduled to be installed.

IC queried the status of the dead/stressed trees that he had previously reported along the estuary and around the car park at the amusement arcade. AGR will follow this up with Paul Feely as he previously requested that EDDC landscaping who manage the trees in the car park replace them, while the estuary trees are under the jurisdiction of Kier as part of the flood defences.

DR reported that more trees have been planted at the Imperial Recreation Ground and BB confirmed that the Tiny Forest trees planted in Carter Park are thriving.

GS raised concerns of pigeon feeding taking place in the Strand which has resulted in bird mess all over the pavements, AGR was unsure who could enforce the stopping of the feeding but confirmed that a deck scrub will take place shortly and will be completed by the 8th of May in readiness for the VE Day commemoration service.

The Gate to Plate that took place on Sunday the 27th of April was a success, TS was impressed by the EDDC litter pickers who were out early in the morning making sure the Strand was free from litter.

TS raised concerns that children have been climbing on the war memorial and people are using it as seating. Members discussed different ways of stopping this such as signage or cordoning off with a chain, AGR will investigate this further as the memorial is a listed building and would require planning permission for any changes.

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

Exmouth Community Association

BdS provided a brief summary in his absence that ECA are looking at the emerging Local plan and in particular Exmo-17-Land to the South of Littleham.

S106 & CIL

During the last S106 meeting it was confirmed that Brixington Park will be completed this year and the disability poolpod to help disabled people into the swimming pool will be replaced.

Wildflower areas in Littleham were discussed near the school but members would need to investigate who owns the land to seek permission before anything goes ahead.

Playparks are being updated, and new play equipment is being installed at Sideshore.

Town Maintenance WP

After many demonstrations and negotiations, the working party recommended that the Town Council hire a road sweeper with weed removing attachment to combat weeds and manually sweep and collect the detritus and waste.

The new machine will be delivered on the 1st of May and after some initial training and trialling to familiarise its use, the plan is to ensure it is out in all seasons. Exmouth will be divided into zones and the machine will work in each zone and hopefully repeat the process at least two or three times a year.

Festival & Events WP

The VE Day celebration schedule for Thursday the 8th of May has been finalised, starting with a picnic in Manor Gardens from 3pm with entertainment provided by the Liberty Sisters, a short RBL commemoration service in the Strand at 6pm followed by the ringing of the church bells at 6.30pm. The proclamation will be read at 9pm at the Imperial Recreational Ground followed by the lighting of the beacon at 9.30pm.

Climate and Ecological Emergency WP

LV was pleased to announce that the Town Council won the NALC Star Council Award for its proactiveness in climate response.

An electric tuk-tuk is in the process of being purchased for climate related projects and ongoing projects within the working party include reusable period products and reusable nappy scheme.

The Exmouth Cup Scheme has been refreshed with updated branding and streamlined participation to 3 cafes only – Postcards, Deli on the Strand and Harbour View.

The retrofit project is now live, with four homes selected for full energy audits, a range of typical Exmouth homes were chosen.

Flooding and Water Quality WP

GD has drafted a detailed report which will be circulated to members after the meeting.

Churches Together

TS reported that Open Door experienced a devastating flood from the flat above a couple of weeks ago which forced it to close, it is expected to be closed for a further 2 weeks. Local churches are helping by covering Open Door public services.

Hospital League of Friends

The next AGM will take place on Thursday the 8th of May at 5pm and will include a talk from Admiral Nurses. All are welcome to attend.

10. Any other business

No other business.

11. Next meeting 12th May 2025

The meeting ended at 11:15