EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Section 106 & CIL Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10.00am on Tuesday 15th April 2025 in the Chamber, Town Hall, Exmouth.

Present

Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Cherry Nicholas	CN	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Nick Hookway	NH	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Joy Whipps	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Melissa Wall	MWA	East Devon District Council
Dave Cook	DC	East Devon District Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Town Clerk
Mollie Carey	MC	Executive Assistant

Apologies

Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council

Welcome and apologies for absence.
PS welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

To note the minuets of the last meeting held on 12th August 2024.
Members agreed that the minutes were a true representation of the meeting.

To note that the Town Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Annual Financial Report for 2023/24 has been published in accordance with Regulation 62A of the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 (as amended) (CIL Regulations)
This was noted by members.

To receive an update on the S106 balances held by East Devon District Council for play from EDDC's Section 106 Officer, Melissa Wall, and the status of associated play park projects which are being overseen by Dave Cook, EDDC's project engineer.

MW and DC provided an update on the Section 106 funds held by East Devon District Council relating to play provision in Exmouth. A funding allocation of £93,000 was approved during the 2020/21 financial year for play-related improvements linked

to The Maer and the seafront area. However, a final decision on how to utilise these funds has been postponed pending further clarity regarding the redevelopment of Queen's Drive. The site remains a strategic location for play provision in Exmouth and is likely to require future investment. The existing £93,000 allocation could significantly contribute to any future enhancement scheme at this location.
DC advised that he has an upcoming meeting with EDDC Officer to discuss proposals for Queen's Drive. While some aspects of the redevelopment remain out of the public domain at this stage, initial discussions are underway to explore potential funding sources for the public-facing elements of the project once further details are released.
It was confirmed that the £93,000 allocation is not restricted solely to The Maer or any fixed site, providing flexibility for the funding to be redirected to Queen's Drive if appropriate.
Councillors also reported receiving numerous comments from residents, both directly and via social media platforms such as Facebook, calling for the reinstatement of the Maer play area. This feedback highlights the ongoing community interest in improved play facilities in the area.
In parallel, Exmouth Cricket Club has expressed interest in expanding their facilities and may wish to utilise land close to the former Maer play site, due to a shortage of pitches. This is an additional consideration in discussions about future land use in the area.
It was further noted that the land behind the former Maer play park is currently underused and is being considered within the broader place-making plans for the Queen's Drive Estate. Although these proposals are not yet in the public domain, significant planning work is ongoing.
In terms of wider funding availability, an additional £216,000 remains allocated for general open space and play improvements across Exmouth. Separately, a ringfenced amount of £28,400 is available specifically for enhancements at Phear Park, which must be used within that location.

To receive an update on the S106 balances held by East Devon District Council for open space / sport and to consider:

The scope to deliver a pump track (this project came third on list of community sports vote projects in 2019): It was confirmed that the pump track project, which ranked third in the 2019 Community Sports Vote, remains under consideration. The list of proposed projects from that consultation is still being worked through, and Members acknowledged the pump track's continued popularity within the community.
Officers noted that the open space funding currently available is flexible in its allocation and can be used for a variety of purposes, including play, sport, allotments, or general green space. Rather than allocating funding into strict categories, the focus is now on identifying projects that are deliverable and align with community priorities.

Although the pump track is still being considered, Members discussed potential constraints relating to available space and parking. It was noted that a new play area is planned for the same vicinity, which may limit options for locating a pump track on that site.
Officers also acknowledged that the cost of delivering a pump track would vary significantly depending on the scale and design. A small-scale installation could be relatively low-cost, while a larger design (such as one covering half an acre) would be considerably more expensive. No specific budget has been confirmed for the pump track at this stage, and further consideration will be needed to assess feasibility.
In conclusion, the pump track project remains a live proposal from the 2019 consultation. Officers and Members agreed that it continues to warrant attention, subject to available funding, site suitability, and further design and cost exploration.

The scope to match fund a disabled hoist for Exmouth swimming pool (see email attached): Members received an update regarding a request from LED for support in funding a new disabled hoist at Exmouth Swimming Pool. The existing hoist has reached the end of its operational life and is no longer usable. LED had planned to replace it with a like-for-like model at a cost of £12,000, fully funded by them.
However, following consultation with their Leisure Officer, LED have identified a more advanced and inclusive hoist system currently in use at Sidmouth Swimming Pool. The upgraded model enables independent use without staff assistance and includes a specialist waterproof wheelchair, allowing users to transfer themselves directly into the water. The total cost of this enhanced system is £30,000.
LED has committed to funding 50% of the cost (£15,000) and is seeking a match-funding contribution of £15,000 from Exmouth Town Council to enable the project to proceed.
Members discussed the merits of the proposal, noting the importance of providing accessible year-round swimming opportunities for disabled and elderly residents. It was acknowledged that swimming may be one of the few suitable forms of exercise for many individuals with mobility limitations, and that this equipment would offer greater dignity, independence, and inclusion.
It was also noted that the funding, if approved, would be allocated from the existing open space and play provision budget, which may impact other sports vote projects.
Members were supportive of the proposal and suggested that, if approved, the Council's contribution should be publicly acknowledged in collaboration with LED. It was also suggested that the availability of the hoist be promoted during periods when the beach wheelchair unit is closed, helping to maintain accessible options throughout the year.
Members agreed to allocate £15,000 from the S106 Open Space and Play Provision budget to match-fund the installation of an enhanced disabled hoist at Exmouth Swimming Pool, subject to the remaining funding being secured from LED.

Furthermore, that the Council works with LED to ensure appropriate public promotion of the investment, and that the availability of the equipment is actively shared with the community, particularly when the beach wheelchair service is not in operation.

The scope to support Withycombe Raleigh Common football pitches (this project came seventh on list of community sports vote projects in 2019)
This proposal ranked seventh on the original community sports project list from the public vote. It has recently resurfaced as a priority, with local clubs expressing strong need for improved facilities due to a lack of pitches and changing facilities.

A funding request of approximately £40,000 has been made to enhance the football pitch provision. There was discussion about the importance of following the order of the sports vote list, particularly given the Council's public commitment to prioritise projects based on that consultation.

Councillors noted the project's alignment with the playing pitch strategy, especially in the context of increasing demand from women's and youth teams who lack proper facilities. It was suggested that any support should be developed in tandem with wider playing pitch strategy work and upcoming infrastructure needs assessments.

The scope to support a proposed community garden and wild space initiative in Littleham (see proposal attached)

This is a proposed new initiative, aiming to create a shared green space focused on community gardening, biodiversity, and inclusive access. The idea emerged as a desirable future project under the broader remit of "open space" funding, which now allows for more flexible interpretation including play, sport, allotments, and general green infrastructure.

A discussion took place about the proposed location in Littleham and Members supported exploring this initiative further, subject to further due diligence.

Date of next meeting.
MC will arrange a meeting date July.