EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th June 2025 at 10am via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Dianne Conduit	DC	Exmouth Town Council (left 11.20)
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Sam Dorman	SD	Exmouth Town Council

1. **To elect a chairperson**

OD proposed, seconded by DC that IK be re-elected as Chair of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party. No other nominations were received, and all members agreed that IK be re-elected as Chair.

2. **Welcome and apologies**

IK welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above.

3. **To approve the notes of the meeting held on 15th May 2025 and any matters arising therein**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 15th May 2025 were proposed for approval by DP, seconded by SG, and agreed by all.

Matters arising:

Item 3 - Graffiti

SG confirmed that he had written to Geoff Jung at EDDC regarding the graffiti on shelters and seating across areas of Exmouth. SG received a reply to say that graffiti removal may be scheduled but it's not a high priority compared to other areas. The idea of using offenders for graffiti removal was previously attempted, but the probation service decided that they would not operate in this area however recently officers have made contact to review this. Members discussed the response and felt this was vague neither confirming nor denying that action would be taken.

DC suggested following up to ask for more specific details about the schedule, including where and when it is being done. Members discussed the ongoing issues with the lack of communication with EDDC causing frustration, staff shortages and

agreed the need to explore new approaches and available resources to improve outcomes.

Item 5 – Road Sweeper

CJ provided an update regarding the Town Maintenance team using Camperdown depot for waste tipping and road sweeper cleaning.

The depot is allowing tipping of only specific waste types – strictly road debris and weed waste. Green waste is not permitted and is now taken to Knowle recycling centre via permits from Devon County Council.

Streetscene were initially concerned over whether the necessary permits were in place, but these have been addressed.

The Town Maintenance team completed an induction and a basic health and safety check to use the depot.

Camperdown depot is also providing facilities (including water) for cleaning the road sweeper daily, with increased frequency of waste disposal in wet weather. Water usage is estimated at around 100 litres per wash. They will monitor the waste quantities and types and intend to draft a formal agreement including associated costs, which will then be reviewed and possibly taken to Full Council. Until that formal agreement is submitted, operations continue with informal approval from Camperdown depot.

4. **To receive an update on graffiti within Exmouth**

IK reported some recurring graffiti tags and will email CJ with the details. The Town Maintenance team may not be able to address graffiti removal for 1-2 weeks due to current workload.

ACTION(s):

IK to email CJ with details of graffiti.

5. **To receive an update on grass cutting**

Idverde have been out this week after delays due to the weather. Positive feedback was given on the quality of work, especially on Marine Way.

IK reported some missed areas as below -

- Littleham Cross – verge outside McCarthy & Stone flats and opposite the flower bed were not cut.
- Bronte Court on Salterton Road – small grass strip missed.
- Dinan Way bank between Shakespeare and Byron Road – small strip at bottom left not cut again.

- Dinan Way by Bunn Road – A 7–8-foot section was left uncut, possibly due to past complaints from a resident. Some poppies present, but most of it is weeds and could have been trimmed.

IK said he would email CJ with the reference numbers of the missed areas and asked CJ to report these matters to Idverde and request they revisit the areas of concern and cut the grass.

Idverde have strimmed around posts and barriers, but edges of verges show overhang not addressed by ride on mowers. Members requested that edges are stimmed as per contract, ideally 3 times per year.

In the Withycombe area around Moorfield Road and Green Close, SG requested that waterlogged areas should be left. A request was made to resend the contract area maps to members.

Members commended East Devon District Council for improved and more frequent grass cutting in their own areas this year.

ACTION(s):

CJ to ask Sam Dorman to resend the contract area maps.

IK to email CJ with reference numbers of missed areas to provide to Idverde .

6. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work

The use of the road sweeper was temporarily halted due to waste disposal issues. Since then, the team has resumed work and made significant progress in the Halsdon area.

The brushes on the sweeper appeared worn after two weeks, however this was a misunderstanding - the brushes were fine and did not need replacing yet. The team reported stability issues when going off curbs with a heavy load. The company clarified the machine is stable but the feeling inside the cab is misleading. Familiarity and confidence will improve with time.

The team have started with the sweeper from the bottom of Hulham Road and covered Seafield Avenue, Iona Avenue, Featherbed Lane, Elmfield Crescent and are now around Byron Way and Shakespeare Way. The team are focussing on roads, not side alleys, footpaths or up against walls due to the potential damage and the machine's limitations.

Residents have raised concerns about areas previously swept manually not been cleaned now. A response email has been drafted to manage expectations. The team intends to follow up with manual sweeping in areas the machine cannot reach during quieter periods..

The GPS tracker is currently not functioning, and the company is assisting with troubleshooting.

The team have been planting in flowers beds, hanging baskets and filling the flower towers. This combined with dry weather has required significant time for watering.

Focus will soon shift to grass cutting and preparations for the judging of the town's In Bloom competition on 22nd July, following the Exmouth Festival.

Concerns were raised that the maintenance team are often diverted for odd jobs, impacting core duties. CJ reminded members these jobs are specified in the job description and the role is very different to the original man with a van concept.

The sweeper is due for its first (50-hour mark) service. Minor issues like possible water leakage are being monitored. Town Councils logo vinyl's for the sweeper are delayed, CJ will follow up with the supplier.

The team are currently learning the capabilities of the sweeper, how long it will take to complete a road and whether it can access all parts. Going round all the zones once will help determine a better understanding. A request was made to share the sweepers schedule with Councillors to help respond to resident queries. It was agreed that the above explanation be provided for now and to manage expectations.

There is significant overgrowth around the rose bed in the Magnolia Centre particularly worsening after recent rain. Footpaths especially on Marley Road and Brixington Lane are becoming obstructed by overgrown weeds. Some residents are voluntarily strimming small sections near their property. Plans are underway for local volunteers to clear parts of Gorse Lane with strimmers.

7. Any other business

Two post mounted litter bins have been removed near Dinan Way and Cheshire Road in the past two weeks. No replacements were installed, despite the area being heavily used. Residents have raised the issue multiple times and emails to District councillors and Street Scene have gone unanswered. Since the bins have been removed, dog waste and litter have been left on the ground or tied to the leftover posts. It's unclear if posts left in place signals a replacement.

Member discussed this being formally logged via customers services at EDDC, CJ will follow up with the appropriate EDDC contact and inquire about any replacement plans. OD offered to escalate the matter to Jeff Jung if no progress.

Date of Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting is 17th July 2025 at 10am.