EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 12th August 2025 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council
Catherine Causley	CC	Exmouth Town Council
Lewis Connor	LC	East Devon District Council

Apologies

Councillor Andrew Colman	AC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Toye	AT	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council

1. **Welcome and apologies**

TD welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

2. **To approve the notes of the meeting on 1st July 2025 and any matters arising**

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

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

CC provided the following update:

- EDDC is undergoing internal restructuring, with the Environment Team set to move to a new directorate later this year (Governance).
- The team has been developing a bespoke Environmental Impact Assessment tool that also incorporates economic and social impacts for all new projects. It is currently progressing through the approval stages.
- Also, collaborating with housing colleagues to embed sustainability into housing improvements and ensure compliance with the Decent Homes Standard.

- So far this year, 28 individuals have completed Carbon Literacy Training. The team is also planning to participate in National Carbon Literacy Action Day this November, in partnership with the Carbon Literacy Trust.

- LC has been updating the website's environmental content, including new blog articles on topics such as plastic-free initiatives.

- The next phase of the EDDC Climate Action Fund has been launched to support businesses and community organisations with projects such as renewable energy and accessibility improvements. CC encouraged Members to share this information with groups that may benefit.

- Energy use per square metre is being assessed across council-owned buildings to help prioritise retrofitting and energy efficiency projects.

- Climate Forecast: The latest data indicates that East Devon is among the top-performing councils in the county. While some recent initiatives were not included in this review, they are expected to be acknowledged in future assessments.

CC updated members that the Climate Manager position is undergoing a new job evaluation process following an unsuccessful recruitment attempt.

4. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth

No update received from Transition Exmouth.

5. To receive an update from ZC regarding projects and resources for 2025

Energy

Retrofit Project Update

The four Exmouth homes have now received the 90-page reports. Each household has been offered a 30-minute follow-up call to discuss their report. Harry Bonnell (HB) has created a two-page summary for each house of the findings and the opportunity for savings, and he would like us to review the summaries and provide him with some feedback, with a view to both sharing with the households and sharing with a wider audience.

CC and TD offered to review the documents and ZC will circulate them after the meeting.

Householders are responsible for taking forward any recommended works and encouragement will be given to follow through with the changes, as they originally agreed.

CC offered for her house to be a case study as she has made considerable retrofit adjustments in the last couple of years.

Waste

Samudra the Sea Serpent and Storytelling Throne

Samudra and the Storytelling Throne are now installed on the Mallow, near Side Shore in Exmouth.

Informational signage will be created for both installations to explain their environmental significance and how and why they were made.

A launch event will be planned with a storyteller. Local schools will be invited to attend.

More features are expected soon on the Mallow (e.g. a sauna and additional installations), which will likely increase public interest and traffic.

Reusable period products

Workshops took place in five schools with mixed groups of boys and girls (mostly Years 5 and 6). Sessions were interactive and well-received, especially the period swimwear and menstrual cups, which sparked curiosity and engagement. More workshops are planned for the autumn, including at the Community College.

With Exeter Uni, Councillor Louise Venables has submitted a funding proposal to research the barriers to using reusable products and investigate ways to overcome these barriers.

The findings from Annie Trenoweth's (AT) recent research project will be shared at the September meeting. In order to promote the products and encourage survey participants, ZC and AT hosted an informational table in Tesco for two afternoons. Deputy Mayor Dianne Conduit kindly joined them for one of these sessions.

E-tuk

The vehicle casing is under construction which is expected to take 6–8 weeks. Once complete, it will be attached to the electric tuk-tuk base.

Focus now shifts to designing a functional, reusable-material-based interior — including storage, display areas, and interactive features. A small design group will draft 1–2 layout concepts to bring back to the working party for feedback.

A second-hand container costing just under £1,000 has been identified for secure storage at Gorfin Hall**.** Space has been measured and confirmed suitable.
A winch system may be installed to help move the tuk-tuk in/out of the container safely.

Community clothes swap

The next event will be held at Sideshore on Saturday, August 23rd from 4–6 pm, as part of Reuse Week and is sponsored by Recycle Devon. There's interest in making

the swap a regular event, possibly monthly, alternating between general clothes swaps and themed swaps (e.g. wetsuits, beachwear).

Attendance has been good, but many residents are still unaware of the events — more poster and leaflet promotions are planned. ZC suggested a dedicated clothes swap group may be helpful and has added a section on the council website for event info and updates.

Natural Environment

South West in Bloom

Exmouth's environmental initiatives, such as water butts and green bus shelter roofs, were presented to judges in the Sensory Garden. Feedback was very positive, with one judge inviting ZC to speak at the next SWiB conference. Printed materials and recent awards were shared to strengthen the presentation.

In Your Neighbourhood

The judge decided that in her role as Climate Officer for Exmouth Town Council ZC didn't meet the criteria for In Your Neighbourhood because "You are not a volunteer" and "Technically you are running a business". This was surprising as last year we won the Level 4 'Thriving' award.

Nature Town & Cities Accreditation

No progress has been made due to a heavy workload. The group questioned whether pursuing this accreditation is worthwhile at this time.

Transport

Community Bike Ride

The event will take place on 14th September starting at 9:30 AM at Sideshore with bike checks led by Mike Cherry.

Initial suggestions are for the ride to leave at 10:30 AM along the seafront, up the Exe Trail to A La Ronde (halfway stop for tea and cake), returning via a different route and finishing at Phear Park.

The event is supported by Tri-Hards cycling group. A planning meeting is scheduled to finalise all details and promotion. Information on the event including ticketing will be circulated after the meeting.

The event aims to encourage social, inclusive cycling. Potential future activities could include regular rides and bike skills workshops. Discussions are underway with Tri-Hards about securing funding for basic maintenance training, especially for those new to cycling.

Members discussed including tandems or adapted bikes e.g. cargo bikes with seats for people with a disability, mobility issues or visually impaired participants.

Brompton Bikes

Paul Osborne, EDDC has had a conversation with ZC about reinstating Brompton hire bikes at Exmouth Station platform. He asked if Exmouth Town Council might help fund the initiative.

Concerns were raised as follows:

- Supporting Brompton could disadvantage local bike hire shops.
- Booking limitations**:** Brompton bikes can't be pre-booked, leading to unreliability for users.
- Brompton is a private company, so any funding would require a competitive procurement/tender process.
- The scheme previously failed, likely due to limited visibility and access (bikes were only on the train platform).

Visit Exmouth

ZC went to a Visit Exmouth event at the Beacon Hotel and presented an update from the Town Council on environmental work and awards.

Businesses expressed interest in showcasing their green credentials. A suggestion was made to offer workshops focused on marketing sustainability, rather than formal training or accreditation.

LB mentioned “The Bude Way” campaign: five positive choices for sustainable tourism (e.g. travel car-free, buy local) and the potential to create an “Exmouth Way**”** or similar branding for tourism businesses to align with and use on their platforms.

6. **To receive a proposal from Exmouth Museum for another cigarette butt ballot bin**

Exmouth Museum emailed ZC to request a new cigarette ballot bin near the Exmouth Arms pub, located at the corner of Exeter Road.

The Exmouth Arms is supportive and keen to run a public competition to choose the question on the bin.

Although the original bins were focused on removing cigarette butts from the beach, busy pubs are seen as effective new locations due to high footfall and smoking outside.

A ballot bin costs around £350. Members discussed whether the pub or museum should contribute financially. It was agreed not to ask the museum or the Exmouth Arms for a contribution.

TD proposed, seconded by OD and all agreed that the Town Council will fund and install a new ballot bin at the requested location.

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

Exmouth Festival Sustainability Survey Results were sent out by Jess Magill, ETC Arts Manager to all staff and councillors.

LB provided some results as follows -

- 52% of attendees walked to the festival.
- 5% arrived by bus, 5% by train, and 5% by bike.
- Just 28% came by car or motorbike – seen as a positive shift in transport choices**.**
- 61% of attendees said the festival made them reflect on sustainability and their carbon footprint**.**

Members suggested using the data to create social media content and infographics to highlight these positive outcomes.

Compost toilets received positive feedback for being more pleasant than standard Portaloos.

Results and infographics to be shared with EDDC, encouraging broader adoption of sustainability practices.

Tuk-Tuk Idea for Library of Things

A suggestion was made to use the town council's tuk-tuk (when available) to support the Library of Things by offering item pick-up or delivery. This idea was also proposed to the Repair Café, but they preferred attendees visit in person to maintain its community and social focus.

Glenorchy Country Friday Market Concerns

Concerns were raised about the Glenorchy Country Market, which operates every Friday morning. The market is struggling due to a lack of volunteers (both for staffing and producing goods) and may close by the end of the year if the situation doesn't improve.

A suggestion was made to include a call for volunteers in the council bulletin to help raise awareness and support.

8. **Any other business**

Town Council Environmental Business Award

SG proposed an idea that the Town Council could take over the Environmental Award for local businesses, following the Chamber of Commerce's decision not to run it this year.

The idea is promoting sustainability efforts in the local business community. Shortlist three businesses from submitted entries and present a trophy to the winner and certificates to the runners-up, potentially during a ceremony at the council chamber.

LB presented the challenge:

- Low engagement from businesses has been an issue in the past, particularly with this award category.
- Although entry is free, lack of time and interest from businesses was cited as a barrier.

It was noted that officers are already stretched and taking this on could be resource=intensive.

ZC provided suggestions to improve fairness:

- Measuring improvement rather than just current performance.
- Nominating businesses instead of relying on self-submitted applications.

Members tentatively agreed to explore interest among local businesses to gauge demand and meet again in September to discuss feasibility.

9. **Dates of next meeting:** 23rd September 2025, 6pm – 8pm, in the Town Hall Chamber.