# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
# Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 23rd September 2025 in the Town Hall Chamber

**Present**

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| Councillor Tim Dumper | TD | Exmouth Town Council (Chair) |
| Councillor Olly Davey | OD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Graham Deasy | GD | Exmouth Town Council (ex officio) |
| Councillor Nicky Nicholls | NN | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Mike Rosser | MR | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Louise Venables | LV | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Dan Wilson | DW | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Andrew Woodward | AW | Exmouth Town Council |
| Lisa Bowman | LB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Zoey Cooper | ZC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Annie Trenoweth | AT | Exmouth Town Council (intern) |
| Lou Doliczny | LD | Transition Exmouth |
| Adrian Toole | AT | Transition Exmouth |

**Apologies**

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| Councillor Steve Gazzard | SG | Exmouth Town Council |
| Catherine Causley | CC | East Devon District Council |
| Lewis Connor | LC | East Devon District Council |

1. **Welcome and apologies**

TD welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

2. **To approve the notes of the meeting on 12th August 2025 and any matters arising**

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

3. **Annie Trenoweth (intern) to present the findings from her research in the barrier to using Reusable Period Products.**

AT presented her findings from her research on young adults in Exmouth using reusable period products including: reusable pads, period underwear, period swimwear and menstrual cups.

From the findings regarding environmental impact, it was found that menstrual cups can reduce waste significantly (0.2 tonnes/year vs. 6,000 tonnes/year from disposable tampons).

AT provided members with the following survey results:

- 50% of participants used reusable products for at least part of their period.
- Only 10% used them exclusively.

The main barriers from the results were lack of knowledge, concerns about internal use of the menstrual cups and inconvenience when out and about.

The most popular product from the results was period underwear, followed by reusable pads. Only 40% would consider using swimwear, mainly due to trust concerns.

The overall attitude was generally positive toward discussions about menstrual products, with little stigma associated with them. Most people agreed on the need for education and promotion in schools.

ZC and LV noted the research has supported a funding application for further work. TD emphasized parallels with other eco-products facing similar barriers (e.g., lack of awareness).

AT was thanked for her valuable research and internship contributions. She offered to share the full results with the council. Members expressed interest in continuing work in this area and staying in touch.

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

Update received from LC via email.

- The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan are still awaiting publication.
- The Climate Change Manager position is still under review for an increase in salary to expand the pool of applicants with hopes for the Climate Change Manager to be in post before Christmas.
- CC is now on leave until November and LC is back from leave.
- We are currently looking at several projects with SWEEG including working out our carbon savings from the green waste collection and composting scheme for our Streetscene Team. We are also developing a tool to help identify carbon and cost savings of changing lighting fixtures to allow easier decision making for our Non-Domestic Asset Team.
- We are also hoping to participate in Carbon Literacy Action Day that aligns with COP30, trying to get as many of our officers and members carbon literate.

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

Transition Exmouth's AGM was held last Thursday, which was well attended. During the AGM, NN and LV gave a short presentation on the success of the Eco Hub and NN said a few words regarding the statistics.

Transition's secretary (Sarah Kersey) has stepped down. There has been interest from other volunteers in this role.

The Community Engagement Freelancer role has been re-advertised with a deadline of 29th September. There's strong interest from quality applicants, and there's optimism about a successful hire this round.

Matthew Waldron has been appointed Treasurer, bringing professional accounting experience. Having previously expressed interest at a local community event, his appointment is both timely and well-suited.

A new, user-friendly online membership system is now live on the Transition Exmouth website, offering free membership to promote inclusivity, while still welcoming donations. AT has been appointed as Membership Secretary. There are also plans to split admin duties to improve efficiency.

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

**Christmas Event and/or campaign**

ZC provided a recap of the highly successful Christmas event at the Salvation Army Hall last year. It was well attended by families and packed with crafts and activities, although it felt overcrowded at times.

This year's options include a stall at the Winter Festival on 29th November or repeating the standalone "Craft your Christmas" event. Members preferred the standalone option. Various venues and activities were discussed, with the 22nd November and the 6th December proposed as possible dates. NN, LV, DW, AT, and TD volunteered to help. TD agreed to reach out to the Glenorchy Country Market to find out if they would like to be involved. ZC will confirm a venue with volunteers before setting up a meeting about the event.

**Energy**

Retrofit Project Update

Harry Bonnell from ECOE Advice has finalised findings for the four houses. The working party needs to decide how to share these - options include leafleting, a talk, or a workshop. There's potential to link this with the *People of Power* portrait exhibition and video, showcasing local energy 'heroes' alongside the property data. ZC suggested hosting the exhibition at Sideshore and/or the library and will

coordinate with the artist Polly Meyrick. Members were supportive of the idea. Suggestions were made for pop-ups in schools as well.

## Waste

Signage for Samudra the Sea Serpent and Storytelling throne

Work is in progress regarding signage for Samudra and the storytelling throne. ZC will notify members once the signage is ready so they can view it in its place.

Maggie Irving will run a series of comedy workshops at Sideshore and the workshops will have an embedded sustainability theme, incorporating the Samudra and The Throne. ZC is planning to launch an event for the storytelling throne when the weather improves, which will involve storytellers and local schools.

Reusable period products

ZC has contacted additional schools not reached previously. At the community college, assemblies will now be delivered via their new house system rather than by year group. ZC is coordinating with Matt who is the new Exmouth Eco's Lead. The project is active and progressing with ongoing school engagement.

E-tuk

The E-tuk will not be ready until next year. ZC needs to register it and obtain a licence plate as electric vehicles now require a road tax. The interior setup still needs to be finalised.

Community clothes swaps

The next Community clothes swap is this Saturday at Sideshore from 3pm – 5pm. This will be the last event at Sideshore for now. The next swap will be 28th October from 6pm – 8pm at Sea Dog Art café. Future events will be held monthly at Sea Dog Art café on Tuesday evenings to build consistency and momentum. The plan is to return to Sideshore when the weather improves.

Cigarette butt ballot bin

A new ballot bin is being installed in Sheppards Row, following strong community interest. The community held a competition to choose the ballot question with many entries submitted. Three potential questions were drawn at random; the winning question compares two cigarette brands: JPS vs Seniors.

The community plans to hold a photo shoot when the bin is installed. This brings the town's total to 5 ballot bins.

## Food

ZC invited ideas for the next steps in the food campaign, following previous activities like film screenings, Q&As, events, and supporting the Plant-Based Treaty. LV had a

a variety of suggestions, with a preference for shifting the focus to health, affordability, and accessibility - particularly around fruit and vegetables.

- **PBHP UK Funding**: small grants (up to £250) from Plant-Based Health Professionals UK to support workplace initiatives promoting Veganuary. Membership is required (but it isn't limited to professionals). Promote January's campaign via social media and perhaps run free food/leaflet stalls in the Strand for maximum visibility.
- **Food Expo**
- **Food/climate film** with guest speaker.
- **Supporting Local Businesses**: support and promote local businesses in offering and highlighting plant-based options.
- **Engaging Farmers**: explore opportunities to involve farmers in a constructive way.
- **Health**, **Affordability** & **Accessibility**: a challenge, plant-based starter kits, and tips for quick, affordable meals.
- **Partnerships**: the Plant-Based Treaty group are open to helping with promotion and resources.

It was agreed to promote Veganuary and use their content to share recipes, promote a healthy-eating lifestyle and bust some myths about plant-based food.

**Transport**

A planned community bike ride was cancelled due to bad weather. With a shortage of trained bike leaders in October, rides will resume in spring.

A traditional "Beating the Bounds" walk is being planned for May to mark the Town Council's 30th anniversary. Members highlighted the need for family-friendly walking events**.**

The Imperial Hotel grounds are a potential venue for an Active Travel Day in spring, featuring creative displays and performances.

Efforts to promote walking and cycling to school are ongoing, with interest in engaging schools and parents to overcome barriers. Concerns were raised about the lack of safe infrastructure, especially in Brixington. Members discussed lobbying Devon County Council and the new Combined Authority for improvements.

A new park-and-ride scheme near Sowton is under review, aimed at easing A376 congestion.

**General news/communication**

DALC talk

ZC will attend the DALC Conference next Wednesday to give a presentation on the Town Council's green initiatives that earned us the Star Council Award.

Visit Exmouth initiatives

ZC is collaborating with Rons Boatman on Visit Exmouth initiatives. They will be encouraging local businesses to adopt more sustainable practices and helping them improve how they communicate and promote their sustainability efforts.

Exmouth CANN groups

The Exmouth CANN (Climate and Nature Network) meets every six weeks at Sideshore. About 25 Exmouth groups are represented. The group aims to provide transparency on climate and nature initiatives in Exmouth while offering mutual support, advice and encouragement. The group is chaired and notes taken by reps from Sideshore, ETC or Transition Exmouth. Notes are circulated by ETC.

Each CANN group adds an update to a shared document ahead of each meeting. The meeting time is reserved for highlighting key activities, introducing new members, pitching ideas, asking for advice and/or support.

It was agreed that a CANN update should be a regular agenda item in the CEE WP meeting. Transition declined to make the update, and so ZC will provide a summary of the CANN notes per meeting.

It was agreed that each CANN group would be invited to join a CEE WP meeting. ZC will invite Craig Jolly from the Mushroom Food Alliance to November's meeting.

Online forum for schools

ZC is working on setting up an online forum for schools to discuss eco challenges and climate action plans. Invitations have been sent to known school contacts; only a few responses received so far. ZC planning to follow up with the remaining schools next week.

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

No updates to report.

8. **Any other business**

The Tree Forum is planned for 8th October however; the Chair is unavailable on that

date so the forum will be rescheduled. ZC will follow up to arrange a new date.

People, Planet, Pints event – an informal networking event to discuss eco and sustainability topics. The next events are Thursday 25th September and Thursday 23rd October at 6pm at the Grapevine. Register in advance on Eventbrite to receive a token (worth £8) for a free drink or snack.

9. **Dates of next meeting:** 4th November 2025, 6pm – 8pm, in the Town Hall Chamber.