Exmouth Town Council

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TREE FORUM

Purpose: The purposes of the Group are:

- ensure that all Exmouth tree activity is recognised, understood and shared with the wider Exmouth community to reduce duplication of effort and encourage collaboration and best practice
- bring together stakeholders to access free and low-cost trees
- maximise our impact on maintaining, protecting and planting trees

As concluded in the final report from the Tree TAFF (20/09/2021) the Town Council's major impact should be working with local organisations and residents on action in the town, and in providing funds to assist other bodies with approved tree-related work, such as looking after the existing trees and encouraging planting. In this, it should build on existing relationships with EDDC's Tree service, the Countryside Team and DCC.

The priority for Exmouth Town Council therefore is to initiate, propose and support tree projects through publicity, advice, advocacy, and where possible, finance. The Town Council should also ensure that the various initiatives are well publicised and supported.

Stakeholders: Exmouth Tree Wardens, EDDC Arboriculturists, DCC, Wild East Devon, The Woodland Trust, Clinton Devon, Devon Wildlife Trust, The National Trust.

Membership: Six members + representatives from EDDC, Exmouth Tree Wardens, EDDC Arboriculturists, Wild Exmouth, The Woodland Trust, Clinton Devon, Devon Wildlife Trust, The National Trust.

Quorum: Three members

Power: Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006; Highways Act 1980, s.96

Delegated Authority: No

1. Terms

1.1. The Council's Standing Orders apply to all meetings of the Tree Forum.

1.2. The Forum shall be appointed on an annual basis at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

1.3. The first order of business of the first meeting of the Forum after its annual appointment will be to elect a Chairman. The Forum Chair will be a Town Councillor and external stakeholders

will not have Voting rights.

1.4. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council shall be Ex-officio, non-voting members of the Tree Forum.

1.5. The Climate and Ecological Emergency Resilience Officer will call bi-annual meetings of the Tree Forum.

1.6. Meetings shall not be open to the public.

1.7. Members of the Forum will receive an agenda and supporting papers in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

1.8. Meeting notes will be published in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

1.9. Members of the Tree Forum must be familiar with Exmouth's Town Council's current Climate Plan. The Climate Plan should be referenced as part of any decision-making process.

2. Responsibilities

2.1. Provide a mechanism for transparency and discussion on tree issues between local community groups, landowners, EDDC, ETC and other stakeholders, that goes beyond the Tree Forum notes.

2.2. Promote greater understanding in our community of the values of trees.

2.3. Propose and support, where possible, any projects or initiatives that landowners may wish to pursue, through publicity, advice, advocacy and, if possible, some finance.

2.4. Signposting to other organisations e.g. Woodland Trust who may be providing trees for free/low-cost.

2.5. Supporting other organisations with community and public events / roadshows.

2.6. Build on existing relationships with EDDC's Tree Service.

Adopted by Exmouth Town Council on 13th May 2024.

Reaffirmed 18th May 2026
Review date: May 2027