EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th June 2026 at 10am via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Dan Wilson	DW	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies
No apologies noted.

1. **Elect a chair**

MC proposed, seconded by OD 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.

3. **To approve the notes of the meeting held on 7th May 2026 and any matters arising**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 7th May 2026 were proposed for approval by SG, seconded by MC, and agreed by all.

Matters arising –

Item 2

The traffic islands at Littleham Cross have now been fully weeded, improving the appearance of both the central reservation and the junction edges, which is especially welcome during the busy holiday period. Thanks were given to the Town Maintenance team and to CJ for coordinating the work.

Concerns were raised about the hedge at St Johns Way/Dinan Way, which is still overhanging the road and affecting visibility. Grass-cutting teams cannot reach the

area properly because of the overgrowth. Highways' last inspection in April reported no safety defects, and they will not take action during bird-nesting season unless the issue is deemed a safety risk. Budget cuts also mean they no longer spray weeds. Members expressed frustration at the inconsistency of Highways' approach, noting that other hedge work has recently been carried out despite nesting season. It was agreed the issue may need to be reported again, possibly with photographs to show the extent of the problem.

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

The remaining graffiti reported at the previous meeting has now been removed, and thanks were given to the Town Maintenance team for completing the work. Very little new graffiti has appeared recently, possibly because the good weather and busy evenings have reduced opportunities for tagging. Graffiti on the privately owned retaining wall on Bradham Lane is still in place, but as it is not offensive and the wall belongs to a private owner, it is their responsibility to remove it. No further action is planned by ETC.

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

CJ reported that Idverde had completed the May grass cut, and while many areas looked good, members raised concerns about inconsistent strimming. Several locations including Moorfield Road, Bystock Road, Higher Marley Road, Bunn Road and Pines Road had long grass left around posts, trees and streetlights, and some previously requested areas had been missed entirely. It appeared the operator was working alone without the usual follow-up team, which may explain the patchy results, and members felt a different or less familiar crew may have been sent compared with the strong performance in April.

Concerns were also raised about the rewilded bank opposite Lidl on Dinan Way, which looked unhealthy this year despite normally being managed annually with ecologist support. CJ will ask local ecologist Hannah to inspect it for rare species or other problems. She will also raise all maintenance concerns with Idverde, check additional locations, and arrange site visits, with members offering to accompany her if helpful.

6. **To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work**

CJ reported steady progress on town maintenance, including work on the forty flower towers, summer planting across several roads, and installation of hanging baskets and troughs. The team had faced challenges during the hot weather, and an issue with incorrect road-sweeper brushes was resolved after the supplier agreed to replace them. Options for improving the appearance outside the Town Hall were discussed, including new brackets or bespoke stands for hanging baskets, though costs will need consideration.

Members also reviewed possible sites for a new compound, concluding that Pound Lane remains the only realistic option to monitor. Additional concerns were raised about weeds in several locations along Exeter Road, Jubilee Drive, and the footpath between Gorse Lane and Bystock Road where overgrowth is affecting appearance and accessibility. CJ will arrange for these areas to be addressed, with some help offered from IK for cutting back vegetation if the team can handle disposal.

7. Any other business

Vehicle leases were discussed, with CJ confirming that Lisa Greenway manages servicing, MOTs and communication with the leasing companies. She is still awaiting confirmation of the return dates and required vehicle condition. The vehicles were delivered at different times due to post-COVID delays, and although they are all on five-year leases, it is still unclear whether they must be returned at the start or end of year five.

IK reported that the footpath between the new crossing at Brixington Lane/Gorse Lane and Jubilee Drive had become dangerously overgrown, obstructing pedestrians and hiding the bus stop flag. After he contacted Devon County Council again, contractors fully cut back the vegetation and restored safe access.

Members also discussed repeated enquiries from the TARA residents' association about road sweeping and weed control in the Avenues. CJ explained that only part of the area falls under Town Council responsibility, but residents continue to contact her due to mixed messages. There was frustration that some residents report issues but do not address simple tasks themselves. It was agreed that CJ would speak with Councillor Graham Deasy so he can reinforce the correct information at future TARA meetings.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 10:00am via Zoom.