EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th August 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 Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Mark Devin	MD	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman (note taker)	SD	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Graham Deasy (ex officio)	GD	Exmouth Town Council

1. **Welcome and apologies**

IK welcomed members to the meeting.

2. **To approve the notes of the meeting held on 9th July 2026 and any matters arising**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 9th July 2026 were proposed for approval by SG, seconded by MC, and agreed by all.

Matters arising –

CJ confirmed that the boots issue is resolved. A pair was ordered for the team to try, no concerns were raised, and the full order has now gone ahead.

Members discussed vehicle renewals, with leases ending at staggered points from early next year. To avoid holding more than three vehicles at once, a clear renewal plan is needed. Members will review options at the September meeting, including buying the current vehicles, leasing new ones, or purchasing new replacements. Second-hand vehicles were considered unnecessary, and electric vehicles are not feasible until charging arrangements at the compound are confirmed.

CJ will gather pricing and availability information before going on leave, with reception monitoring incoming responses. Feedback from the town maintenance team suggests the Berlingo has been very reliable, the Transit remains essential for heavy waste collections, and the Ranger's issues stem mainly from intensive stop–start watering work.

Some strimming at Marley Road and Brixington Lane has been completed, though weeds remain on the footpath between Gorse Lane and the bus stop. IK will provide a photo to help locate the exact area. Tagging reported previously is still pending.

CJ also confirmed the Magnolia Centre bench proposed for replacement is the one formerly located opposite Costa, near Vodafone. The matter is going to full council, and CJ has contacted Street Scene to help purchase the bench; otherwise, it will be purchased directly once approved.

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

No new incidents have been reported, and recent warm weather and busy public areas appear to have reduced activity. Apart from the couple of tags noted after the previous meeting, nothing further has been seen.

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

CJ explained that grass cutting has been delayed because the ground is too dry and cutting would create dust rather than improve the verges. The situation will be reviewed again in early September, depending on rainfall.

Any areas where visibility becomes an issue can be reported to Devon County Council, and small sections may be handled by the town maintenance team rather than bringing in contractors.

Concerns were raised about the bank opposite Lidl; CJ confirmed it is already scheduled for its autumn maintenance, carried out with volunteers under an ecologist's guidance.

CJ also noted that annual cuts for Marine Way Bank and Lambeth Walk are due from September to October. One quote has been), with another pending.

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

CJ reported on recent town maintenance activity following the festival. The week after the event was largely spent clearing down, organising equipment, and relocating items into storage containers now that Town Hall rooms can no longer be used for holding materials.

The team has continued with essential grounds work and has carried out road sweeping in Brixington Lane, Cheriswood Avenue, Brook Meadow, Brixington Drive and Langstone Drive. Watering duties also continued, and despite staff leave, Pound Lane was completed to a high standard given the heavy overgrowth and the challenges posed by parked cars close to the bank.

Further work has included strimming along Brixington Lane towards Knapps Cross, cutting back hedges near the Lidl bus stop, and cutting back overhanging vegetation on footpath 10 at Bapton Close. This week, the team plans to revisit the Lidl bank

and tidy grass pushing through the railings, ahead of the main grass-cutting programme starting in September.

They will then return to roadway clearance in Broadmead, Green Park Road and Fraser Road. August staff leave continues to be managed so that core tasks can still be covered.

6. To receive an LGR update

Members received an update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). East Devon District Council has confirmed that the Community Asset Transfer programme is delayed due to severe staffing shortages, including the loss of five out of six StreetScene area managers. This has halted site assessments, legal work and due diligence. A revised plan is expected at the end of August.

CJ noted that Exmouth will move into the new Exeter Unitary Authority, meaning decisions affecting Exmouth may need to progress faster than in other parishes. She asked EDDC for clarity on whether public toilets are still intended for transfer, as Exmouth must plan budgets and undertake due diligence. She also proposed joint due diligence to speed up progress, but no response has been received.

Some members reiterated that ETC should only take on costly assets like toilets if paired with income-generating assets, such as car parks. Concerns were raised about liabilities linked to larger sites, and the need for full information before accepting any transfers.

Members agreed that, for now, ETC must continue with business as usual, planning only within current capacity. If toilets are eventually transferred, contracting out the work initially may be necessary until staffing and compound arrangements are clearer.

7. Any other business

Members noted that travellers had forced entry into Brixington Park by cutting through a gate; the gate has been re-secured but there is little more that can be done beyond monitoring the situation.

IK raised widespread complaints from residents and visitors about the dirty town centre, including filthy pavements and heavy weed growth. Members agreed StreetScene's staffing shortages are affecting routine cleaning. Several main roads and roundabouts also have severe weed issues. Members agreed ETC cannot take on full responsibility but may intervene on individual worst-affected sections where weeds cause visual or drainage problems.

A suggestion to support a volunteer offering to clean the Strand and other town centre areas was discussed, but members noted ETC already contributes heavily to town-centre maintenance and cannot continually replace higher-authority responsibilities.

A query was raised about a gate between Redgate Play Park and St John's Road that is sometimes locked. Ownership and responsibility are unclear; it may be East Devon District Council or a private maintenance contractor. Further investigation is needed.

8. Date of next meeting

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