



Exmouth Town Council –Newsletter

Newsletter 11

September 2011

Exmouth Festival

Carla Hiley has been appointed as the new Exmouth Arts Manager with the principal role of organising Exmouth Festival. She will start with us on 3rd October. Some great candidates were interviewed for the job. Carla shone through with her enthusiasm, experience and commitment to Exmouth. We wish her well as she takes on this exciting and challenging post.

Tour of Britain 2011 – Exmouth Big Cycle Weekend

11.30pm Thursday 15th September

As I write this the sun is shining and the race has already left Exeter. One of the great sporting spectacles is happening in Devon and is due to finish here at around 3pm - it is a big day for Exmouth. The seafront is transformed into a cycling race track, Raleigh Rotary Club has provided stalls on the Beach Gardens, entertainers are lined up ready to entertain the crowds and the excitement is building. The finish line is in place by the clock tower, the winners platform is bedecked in the best floral arrangement provided on any stage of the race this year.

Work started at 5am to bring in all the offices, hospitality area, secure the car parking and prepare Exmouth for the biggest event of the year. Devon County Council, East Devon District Council, Exmouth Town Council, Leisure East Devon, Exmouth Rotary and Exmouth Raleigh Rotary Clubs, Createx and Spoken have come together to work in partnership to put on a range of entertainments, events and stalls to ensure that Exmouth's hosting is second to none.

4.00pm Thursday 15th September

The race is over the prizes awarded for the stage, the sun is still shining and everyone has had a great day on Exmouth Seafront. The race organisers are delighted with the way they have been received by Devon and Exmouth and the course has been excellent. The last sprint down Carlton Hill around the sharp bend with a dash to the finishing line at the clock tower has been welcomed as a brilliant finish allowing for tactics to be played out to the last.

10.30pm Thursday 15th September

The evenings entertainment is completed with an excellent show by The Exmouth Shanty Men supporting the brilliant Show of Hands. Encores all round and a very happy end to an amazing day for Exmouth. Exmouth once again is put on the map on ITV4 with local TV news coverage and radio. Never let it be said that Exmouth does not get the coverage it deserves. It doesn't

come automatically without the town being confident and willing to do things for itself and today we can be proud of all the people who have dug deep to make this happen.

Saturday 17th September

The last event of The Big Cycle Weekend was put on by George Nightingale of Spoken at his own expense will have happened by the time you read this. Well done George for taking this on and for the time effort you have put in. Let's hope that by the time this is being read it will be possible to report that this final event in support of the Tour of Britain has also been a great success and well supported.

Master Plan

The consultation period is over and the questionnaires are in. Now begins the painstaking work of analysing all the information and up-dating the master plan to take account of the many views expressed by the public. The District Council with the Town and County Councils will consider the amended plans which will then be adopted as policy for the next 20 years. Further work will then be carried out to take forward the priorities in the plan and to make sure that the way the town changes in the future is carried out with care and sensitivity.

Local Development Framework

The wider Planning Policy document currently being worked on is the Local Development Framework the name of which will revert to Local Plan. This has to conform to national planning policy which is currently being radically reviewed. This is controversial as this is seen by some to be creating a charter for development on green field sites. East Devon District Council is under pressure to allow in the plan, space for the construction of around 15,000 new units. Of that at least 2,500 will be expected to be built around the seven towns in the district. Exmouth Town Council has put its case to the EDDC Local Development Framework Panel that we should see improvements in infrastructure before allowing even more housing in the town. Exmouth cannot say no but has resolved in principle that it does not wish to see development in the St Johns Road area. That leaves it looking at land in Littleham running from Pankhurst Close and below part of Douglas Avenue, and Goodmores Farm Brixington. Other sites within the town also could cumulatively provide around 1,000 homes. The Council finds itself in the position of having to accept the least worst option for housing growth over the next 15 years. Without this growth we are told that further price inflation can be expected in the private market and that it will not be possible to pay for 'Affordable Housing'. If £10,000 levy for community benefit is charged against each new house this would provide around £10m. There lies the dilemma. Even that amount falls far short of the cost of all capital works needed for community benefit.

The Regeneration Work in the town should release more capital to provide more benefits whether they be affordable housing, completion of the Dinan Way Link, improvements to the Town Centre. These are difficult times for sure and will need real creative thinking to keep the town moving forward without damaging the essential character which makes it special.

Allotments Exmouth

The Allotments at Pound Lane and Hamilton Lane are fully let with waiting lists for both areas. We are lucky in Exmouth to have such large areas of land devoted to allotments but demand is high with people recognising the benefits of home grown produce. Exmouth and District Allotment Association manage the allotments and are working extremely well to ensure that the

allotments are well managed. Anyone not using their allotment cannot expect to retain it as it is important that all the plots are productively used. If you wish to put your name on the waiting list then contact the association. The new website is www.edaa.org.uk.

Rolle Exmouth Ltd

The Rolle Centre is the new name for Rolle College to reflect that it will be a centre for the community. Rolle Exmouth Ltd is close to signing an agreement with the University of Plymouth to safeguard the site for the next 3 years and to initiate uses of the part of the site around the Owen, Dawe and Administrative buildings. Once that agreement has been signed then the company will for the first time have the opportunity to bring new uses onto the site which will benefit Exmouth for many years to come. Discussions continue with Exmouth Community College to be a prime user of the site. The move to Academy Status has brought big responsibilities and new opportunities for Exmouth Community College but there is no time to lose, so we hope that the future of The Rolle Centre, will be closely intertwined with the College. Of course other important uses are also being pursued which will include community, leisure, arts and beneficial business uses which will support the town. A call will be made on the Community very soon to buy shares in the project. Exmouth Town Council has already committed £30,000 starter funding to get the project of the ground. Roy Pryke Chairman of Rolle Exmouth Ltd says 'What we are doing as a company is for Exmouth and its people and there is no other reason to be doing this. It is a project much like 'Village SOS but on a bigger scale' It is an important part of regenerating the town and we will need strong support from many many people to make this happen. It is a great challenge for Exmouth as a whole and I expect Exmouth to rise to the challenge with us'.

For more information – contact the Town Clerk on 01395 276167, visit the Town Hall or contact your Local Councillor visit www.exmouth.gov.uk for all contact information.

Any comments or views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Exmouth Town Council. The newsletter is edited by the Town Clerk.