



Exmouth Town Council –Newsletter

Newsletter 2

April 2010

Help Decide Exmouth's Future

Change is all around us. Is it something that happens to us or can we do something about it?

The choice is to stand back and let change happen or to engage as a community and be involved in the processes thus helping to shape a great future for the town. In Exmouth there is real evidence of a positive approach to meeting the challenges ahead.

There are three important strands of work taking place now:-

(1) The Exmouth Master Plan

An Exeter firm (LDA) has been contracted by East Devon District Council and Devon County Council to work with the community to develop a master plan focusing on the Royal Avenue and London Inn Sites. This, when complete, will be used to invite private sector investment which will improve the retail heart of the town and provide improved services for the town. Have a look at www.exmouthmasterplan.co.uk and complete the questionnaire or comment on twitter to make sure your views are included.

(2) Local Development Framework (LDF)

This is the work being carried out by East Devon District Council which the Government requires it to do, with community engagement, to look at all of Exmouth and how it will be allowed to grow and develop in the future. The pressures on the town are enormous when it comes to providing for affordable housing, employment, travel, leisure, health, education and much more and the LDF replaces the Local Plan in looking forward into the next decades to meet these needs in terms of land use planning.

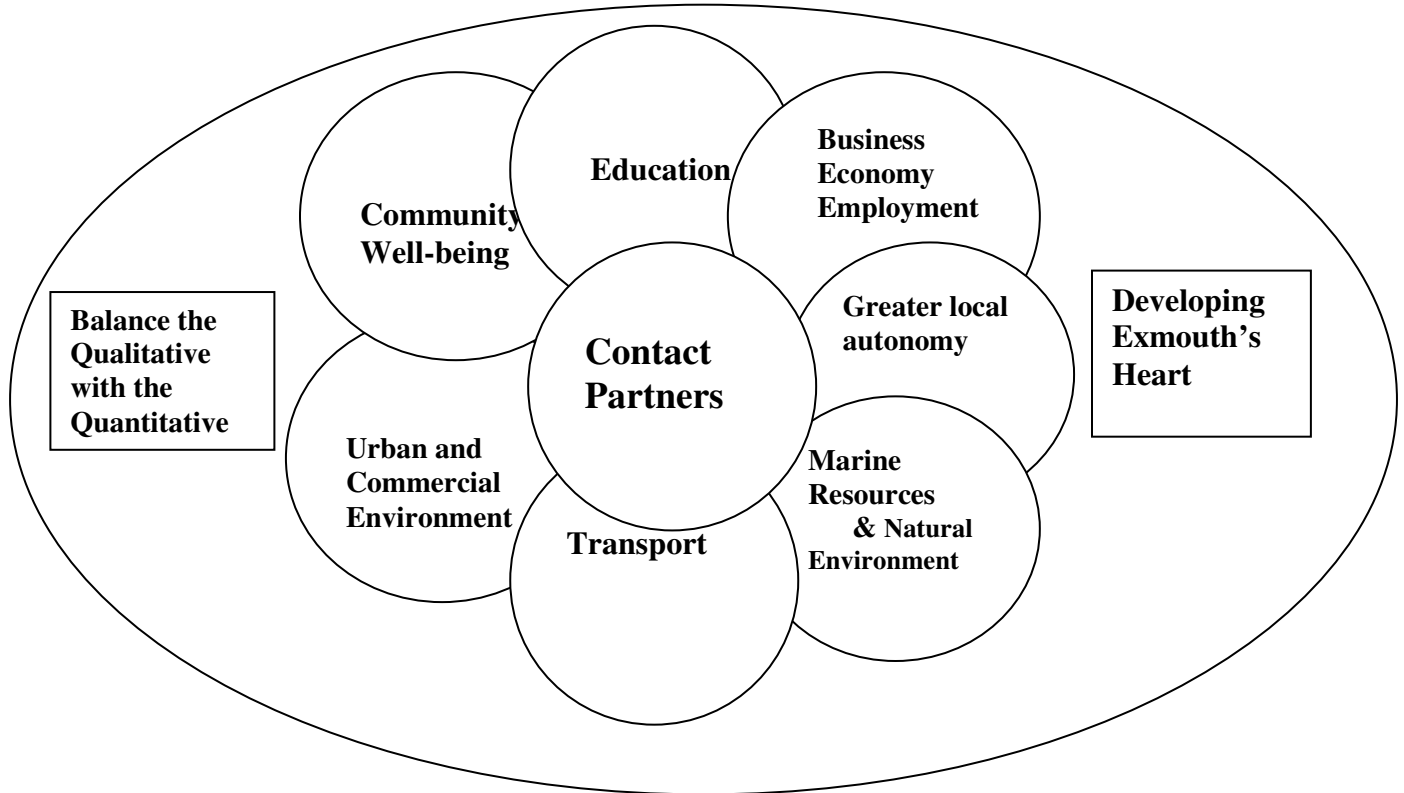
(3) Exmouth Community Plan

Exmouth Town Council with the Community Organisations Liaison Panel is leading the work to create a plan from community level which gives clear guidance as to how the people who live here see Exmouth's future. This looks more widely at what people would like to see in the future and will help to inform decision makers what local people think in a very clear way.

These plans all involve community engagement which means we will all be able to take an active part in deciding how we would like Exmouth to progress in the future rather than only reacting to what others think.

Exmouth Community Plan

The Community Organisation's Liaison Panel has already produced a strategy document and action plan to start the process of developing our own Exmouth Community Plan. The following diagram illustrates the key strategic areas. It is planned to create key stakeholder groups including community representatives for each of these key areas.



Community Planning is a complex balancing exercise in some ways between the 'Nice' and 'Necessary' and between 'discussing' and 'doing'. We want the Community of Exmouth to be involved in the deliberative process that will create an inspirational and realistic Plan. This in turn should enhance our town and attract investors who are sympathetic to the place we call Exmouth. An important theme emerging from discussions, so far, is the need to look after our environment and also to behave in a way which has the least impact on the environment possible. Using these themes the idea is growing of building a 'Sustainable Economy' for the town where people can earn a living and plan towards reducing dependence on oil and its derivatives. The question arises as to how best we can utilise our wonderful natural environment in a way that creates great opportunities for leisure, community and employment.

To begin this process we will be asking you some key questions about the town. Interestingly the questions COLP devised are similar to ones devised independently by LDA for the master planning exercise. They are subtly different though and with 36,000 residents in Exmouth the more responses we obtain, the better informed we will be of what people think.

We particularly encourage all of you who do not normally respond to this kind of thing to spare 5 minutes of your time. Or discuss it with your friends and family and let us know your thoughts. We are often concerned about consulting the older age group, the disabled or the young but equally it is often those in work and busy with family life that we do not hear from. So we want to hear from absolutely everyone.

In next week's Journal and the following week's Herald you will find a questionnaire. Be a part of helping to decide Exmouth's future by completing this questionnaire and returning it to the Town Council offices at the Town Hall. We will then collate your answers and let you know the findings. Your responses will help us to plan the next steps in taking the community plan forward.

Mayor's Charity Ball

Friday 2nd July is the new date for this year's Mayor's Ball. Tickets are now on sale at the Pavilion. The best way to enjoy this event is to book a table with friends or with your club or organisation. It is a fun filled evening with excellent live dance band Limited Company back by popular demand. It is open to the public so please feel welcome to come along and enjoy a great night with us.

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

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