



Exmouth Town Council –Newsletter

Newsletter 29

July 2008

The Strand – Consultation

A whole day was spent on consultation meetings and meeting the public in the Strand on 25th June. The County Council had organized this with the support of East Devon District Council and Exmouth Town Council. Notice of intent to update the Strand and turn into a Town Square of world class standing was given and participants were asked for their thoughts on what they would like to see in a completed scheme. Many ideas were put forward and will provide the basis upon which plans can be drawn up with a view to implementation towards the end of 2009.

In September 2008 the plans will be brought back to another meeting with the community to see how well they reflect the views put forward. Once these are refined and the implications for traffic and parking have been taken into consideration funding will be sought from the District and Town Council to match that put in by Devon County Council towards the scheme.

The Consultation generated much interest and enthusiasm and appreciation was expressed for involving the community in putting forward their ideas at the inception of the design process.

Questions included – How will Asda be involved? Answer – This will be a public sector scheme funded by the Local Authorities in partnership and is not dependent on the Asda Scheme going ahead.

The Royal British Legion representative asked whether the war memorial could be moved? Answer – it could be and this would have clear advantages for memorial services and parades in the future by improving the arrangement within the Strand which is currently restricted by the brick planters.

The consultation meetings were divided into sub groups and worked on developing thinking towards something special for the centre of the town.

Beat Retreat

The Royal Marines will perform their annual Beat Retreat on Monday 30th June at 8pm at the Estuary Side Car Park. This is open to the public with a collection being made for the Chairman of the District Council's chosen charity. This is always a moving and special ceremony which we are privileged to have in our town every year.

Exmouth Festival - Season of Sundays – The Lymptone Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines

Not to be missed - On 27th July at 7pm the Band of her Majesty's Royal Marines CTCRM will perform from the Performance Stage in the Manor Gardens. This will be the third 'free' concert to be provided. Although free, for those who can, we request a contribution to be made in the collection buckets available on the day. The collection goes towards the costs of the festival and ensures that we can continue to organize a continually improving and excellent festival for Exmouth every year. This is a great concert every year and we would like to see a huge turnout not only to hear the best of military bands but also to support our forces who are involved in tough campaigns for which many are paying the ultimate sacrifice.

Exmouth in Bloom

Judging takes place in Exmouth for South West in Bloom during the second week of July. Judging for the Britain in Bloom national competition takes place in August. All displays are now in place including the wonderful fish and elephants provided by East Devon District Council.

Exeter Road

Town Management continues to work actively with Exeter Traders to build on the excellent promotional work recently carried out and visible for all to see in the stunning banners along the full length of the road. Current initiatives being worked on include a promotional Exeter Road Shopping leaflet and sustainable carrier bags. Exeter Road businesses are celebrating the existence of independent local shops with a whole variety of retail offer which makes Exeter Road and Exmouth special and unique.

Tourist Information Centre - Funding

The Town Council has agreed to fund the Tourist Information Centre to the tune of £5,000 for this year. A further review will take place in the Autumn which will allow the new Joint Management Committee made up of three Town Councillors and three members of the Exmouth Chamber of Trade and Commerce to further explore business planning opportunities. It will depend on the outcome of this further work as to whether a further £5,000 will be requested to keep the TIC going. One thing which has significant acceptance amongst Councillors is that a Tourist Information Centre for Exmouth continues to be an important part of generating income for the economy and that its loss would not be something that anyone would relish. A recent study showed that the Exmouth TIC runs at considerably lower costs than most others which are largely supported if not run by their District Councils. The ratio of private/public funding is about 60:30 which is better than most other TICs. One notable factor is the lack of

National contribution to Tourist Information Centres in general in a Country which depends significantly on tourism within its economy.

Grant Funding

The Council's Finance Committee has supported local organisations in its most recent round of grant funding. For the first time it has agreed to three year agreements with organisations such as Centre Stage being granted £3,000 over three years, Citizens Advice Bureau £6,000 over three years and Age Concern £2,250 over three years. Other annual grants include £400 to Bay FM our aspiring Community Radio Station and Littleham Leisure Centre £600.

The next round of grants will be determined on 10th November 2008 for organisations based in or providing service to Exmouth people. Application deadline will be 17th October with a further amount of £2,775 provided in the budget for allocation.

Post Office St Andrews Road

Exmouth Town Council has objected strongly to the proposed closure of St Andrews Road Post Office within the consultation period.

Future Meetings

The future meetings of the Council include:-

Council – 7th July – 7.30pm

Planning – 14th July – 6.15pm

Regeneration and General Purpose Committee – 14th July -7.30pm

Planning – 28th July – 6.15pm

Finance Committee – 28th July – 7.30pm

Planning – 11th August – 6.15pm

Planning – 18th August – 6.15pm (if required)

Planning – 1st September – 6.15pm

Council – 1st September – 7.30pm

All at the Town Hall, Exmouth.

Exmouth Festival Organiser

Nicky Nicholls our Festival Organiser has taken maternity leave and will be absent from the Festival for about one year. We wish her well with her new addition to the family when it arrives. In the meantime we are delighted to welcome Chris Woods as our Interim Festival Organiser. He has been very involved this year as an active volunteer and has already proved his talent for organisation. He is looking forward to the challenge of delivering another first rate festival in 2009. He will start work with us at the beginning of August.

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.