



## **Exmouth Town Council –Newsletter**

**Newsletter 3**

**May 2009**

### **Annual Town Council**

The Annual Town meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009 resulted in the following main appointments being made to the Council:-

- Mayor Councillor Darryl Nicholas
- Deputy Mayor Councillor Sandy Sutton
- Chairman of Finance Committee Councillor Joy Whipps
- Chairman of Regeneration and General Purposes Committee Councillor Pauline Stott
- Chairman of Planning Committee Councillor Lynne Elson.

Other appointments will be accessible from the Town Council's website shortly or can be obtained from the Town Hall.

### **Adoption of the Rifles**

Former Mayor Councillor Joy Whipps says 'It was my proudest moment as Mayor to stand before the Rifles, Veterans and Cadets to present the Scroll adopting the Rifles by the town of Exmouth'. On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 11.45am a Parade of nearly 200 troops, veterans and cadets formed in the Strand for the adoption ceremony. This reaffirmed the previous adoption of the Devon and Dorset Regiment in June 2002.

### **Regeneration**

#### **The Strand**

Devon County Council has conducted a full consultation on proposals for investing in the The Strand. The opportunity to improve the whole area of The Strand using both County and District Council land with investment from both authorities is welcomed by Exmouth Town Council. By creating a pedestrian friendly, well designed space this will create a more desirable area as a retail environment and public space more suitable for set piece public events and festival performances. It will be designed for business, leisure, arts and people as a way to improve the vibrancy of Exmouth's heart.

### **Royal Avenue and London Inn**

The Asda site tested, in detail, assumptions about the site, public opinion and practical possibilities. The immediate outcome was that Asda walked away but with all the work that has been done this provides new opportunities. The Exmouth Project Development Board is now reviewing the way ahead which will be put to the three councils for authority to move forward. The two locations being looked at are London Inn site and Royal Avenue area with a view to a development brief being commissioned to rework the possibilities on these sites taking into account all of the considerations identified through the Asda process.

Questions to be asked will include what is financially feasible, what quality uses will be available for these sites, what will meet the economic needs of the town and how will this meet the social needs of the town also? The need to improve the Public Transport Hub around the railway station has come forward as an important part of any future development which generally seems to have public support. It will be important that all three councils sign up to the way forward and are clear about what they want to achieve. Optimism continues that it will still be possible to find solutions that will help Exmouth to be a strong town for the future, performing well in the market place and an attractive seaside town which is a great place to live and to visit.

### **Exmouth Project Development Board**

There has been some discussion about the purpose of this recently created Board and concerns about the fact that it is not open to the public and press. So what is the Board for? It is made up of two councillors from each of the Councils, representatives of bodies such as English Heritage, and Exmouth Town Management and some business representatives with special skills in bringing regeneration projects to fruition. As a board it gets its authority from the three Councils but is charged with the responsibility for taking forward and delivering projects on the ground. It has to find ways to achieve and problem solve and to overcome funding problems in a market where both public and private funding are tight. In a nutshell it is about turning strategy and planning documents from the Local Authorities which have been through public consultation into reality. Without a vehicle to project manage, these documents are likely to gather dust on shelves without any chance of achievement. It is intended therefore that the Board will make things happen and make sure that all the necessary steps are taken which will demonstrate the reasons for development and be clear that the benefits really are worth the 'Cost'.

### **Community Organisations Liaison Panel**

The Town Council has agreed to consult on proposals to set up a quarterly Community Organisations Liaison Panel. If a format can be agreed it is considered that this will provide a conduit for stronger communication between the Council and local organisations to help foster mutual understanding. Open communication and dialogue it is believed will lead to clearer understanding of the options ahead for Exmouth within the constraints which exist and help the Project Development Board to be able to move forward with confidence that the steps it is taking generally have the wider support of the community.

### **Promotional brochure aims to boost inward investment into Exmouth**

Exmouth is moving forward despite the recession. The evidence is contained in a new brochure co-ordinated by East Devon District Council to promote the town to potential commercial investors. The message is: "Exmouth is open for business!".

'Build your future in Exmouth' is a 12-page A5 colour leaflet celebrating some of the major projects that are already making progress or are about to start, as the town attracts both public and private funding for meaningful regeneration within its triple offering of Leisure, Arts and Environment. The main audience is businesses large and small that may be considering opening a new Operation in the town – or firms that may not have thought of Exmouth until now. But the leaflet also serves as a record for people closer to home that Exmouth is open for business despite the credit crunch and has a bright future ahead of it.

Copies of the brochure are available from the Town Hall and from the Chamber of Commerce.

### **Phear Park – Lucombe Oak**

Exmouth Town Council is working with East Devon District Council to safeguard the fallen Lucombe Oak in Phear Park. Local Councillors have been so impressed by the natural play provided by the tree, with children able to clamber and climb over it, that they want to see it preserved and only the highest boughs lopped off to be turned into items for play. The tree has been a feature of the park for over a decade and the opportunity to extend its use in situ rather than chop it up for disposal was considered to be too good to miss. Clearly natural decay will eventually take its toll but it is hoped that for now children will be able to see the fallen oak as part of the natural processes and just enjoy the fun of clambering all over it. Owners of the park East Devon District Council will make the decision about this taking into account Safety considerations and the views of the local Councillors.

### **Crime Figures**

Exmouth Action Group monitors crime figures in the town and notes that in all but one area recorded crime figures continue to fall. This is good news for the town. It is also pleasing to know that after a report from a member of the public the perpetrators of recent damage to bus shelters in Salterton Road have been caught and will be prosecuted. A small reward will be paid to the member of public concerned as an appreciation of their public spiritedness.

### **Exmouth Festival and Exmouth Kite Festival**

Exmouth Festival with over 100 events most of which are free is about to burst onto the Exmouth scene once again. It is a great time for community involvement and interaction with lots of opportunities to take part, get involved and just to be entertained. Remember to buy your tickets for the Joey the Lips Concert on the Imperial Recreation Ground on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. This will be a great arena event where the band play from a raised stage in a tailor made marquee. Last year we had some 800 people who had a great evening. This year with a support band and grand finale fireworks it is an event not to be missed. Our aim is to see 2,000 people making the atmosphere electric. Bring picnics and just come and enjoy the atmosphere. Buy your tickets at knock down price in advance at the Town Hall or Tourist Information Centre or at [www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk](http://www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk).

After you have danced the evening away just enjoy the ambience of Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival over the weekend. The best ever Exmouth Kite Festival with more kite display teams than ever. Almost two weeks of great festival events – come into town and enjoy Exmouth at its best.

The success of all the festival events depends on you, the people of Exmouth turning out in droves. The more people who attend, the greater the buzz and atmosphere. It is up to all of you who live in this great town to make the festival weeks in 2009 the best ever. Just pick up the programme already delivered to your home and mark at least three events which appeal to you and make sure you don't miss out.

For more information – contact the Town Clerk on 01395 276167, visit the Town Hall, contact your Local Councillor or visit **[www.exmouth.gov.uk](http://www.exmouth.gov.uk)**

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