



Exmouth Town Council –Newsletter

Newsletter 4

July 2009

Town Crier

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to our Town Crier, Garth Gibson and it is hard to believe that he is now not amongst us. We have been so used to him popping into the office, always cheery and bright and it seems inconceivable that he does not walk in through the door any more. The Town Council is setting up a memorial fund and you will see more in the Journal about this and it is hoped that Exmouth people will feel moved to give generously to provide a fitting memorial to a great character.

Exmouth Festival

The festival this year coincided with great weather and the result was that the formula which has developed over a number of years to create a great annual community event surpassed all expectations. Without support from people the festival would soon fade away. The Town Council's aim has been to develop the festival so that it brings people together in a positive and creative way. Also most events are free making them accessible to all ensuring that the Festival does not exclude anyone. The bucket collections are there because that helps to recoup the significant expenditure needed to run a festival of this scale and we have found that most people who are able, contribute donations freely for which we are very grateful.

The quality of events this year was excellent and, playing the numbers game, with over 2,000 people in the Manor Gardens for the Abba concert and over 2,000 for the Joey the Lips concert (Promoted in association with the Rotary Club of Exmouth Kite Festival) at the Imperial Recreation Ground, attendance numbers reached levels that have only been aspired to up until now. Thank you to all who took part and we look forward to you coming along, taking part and maybe even volunteering to help next year. Anyone wishing to offer to volunteer should contact Festival Organiser Chris Woods at Exmouth Town Hall.

Applications for Financial Assistance – Year 2009/10

Organisations wishing to make applications to the Council for Financial Assistance should apply by 17th October for the second round of grants to be determined by the Council's Finance Committee on 16th November 2009. Application forms and notes for guidance are available on www.exmouth.gov.uk or from the Town Hall.

Project Development Fund

For the second year Exmouth Town Council is offering grants for Community Projects. This year it will be based on projects which contribute to Arts, Leisure and the Environment of Exmouth. Application forms and guidance notes can be found on www.exmouth.gov.uk Local groups and organisations looking to develop a project may be interested.

Exmouth Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre project with its aspirational building on the Imperial Recreation Ground has been dealt some hard blows. First money allocated by South West Regional Development Agency was withdrawn. A common occurrence for this Government Agency which was faced with massive cuts in the money it had available to allocate for regeneration projects around the region. Then the possibilities for linking within the ASDA development evaporated when the company pulled out of its proposed scheme.

In the pot there is still £500k allocated by Devon County Council which was successfully bid for as a contribution from the sale of Exeter Airport. An opportunity has arisen to build a smaller but high quality centre beside Mamhead Slipway and a bid has been made for nearly £1m from the Coastal Towns Seachange grant fund set up by the Government to add to the sum available. This would provide a smaller centre with restaurant with interpretation for the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site and the Exe Estuary. This opportunity would be to provide an interesting visitor attraction linked to boat trips and improving footfall to businesses in the Marina area.

Whilst this project is not seen as an end in itself it would provide another interesting feature on the seafront for residents and visitors alike. It would provide real experience about what will work and what will not in such a centre in Exmouth helping to boost plans for a full Visitor Centre experience in due course.

Seagulls

The Town Council has committed to taking steps to help manage the seagull population in Exmouth in a way that will move birds away from the Town Centre and Residential areas where they are a nuisance. The Council accepted in principal that ways to deal with this should be investigated and reported back with potential costs and options for funding. Clearly this will take some time and will not be effective for this year but some steps may be pursued in time for next year's summer season.

Liverton Two Business Park

Exmouth Town Council welcomed plans to extend Liverton Business Park into the valley below the existing business park. This provides a very real and possible site for relocating businesses from prime town centre locations to enable investment which will have a beneficial effect on the town. The Journal reported fully on this on its front page week beginning 22nd June. Potential for moving the bus depot, Jewsons Builders Yard and the Post Office Sorting Office, and

Camperdown Depot are all possibilities for freeing up prime land to bring about improvements that Exmouth can be proud of.

Refreshment Facility – Manor Gardens

The Council supported the proposal by a private business to operate a small high quality catering outlet in the Manor Gardens for a short trial period this summer. It had been hoped that this would be up and running by now. However East Devon District Council the owners of the Manor Gardens have refused the application. The Exmouth Chamber of Trade and Commerce has been thinking about providing some sort of catering provision related to the Tourist Information Centre but is not in a position to deliver this in the short term so Exmouth Town Council is disappointed that the trial was not approved.

Speed Boats – Police Patrol Boat

The Police Patrol Boat will be out on the water again this year to help manage problems on the Exe. It is at this time of year that stealing from boats occurs and speeding of boats and jet skis. The Patrol Boat is provided to help reduce such problems. The perennial problem of speed boats harassing sailing craft, kite boarders and surf boarders causes a nuisance and danger to other river users. We call on all river users to observe the rules that relate to the estuary and to be considerate to other water users.

Does your Organisation want FREE Admin Help?

Side by Side is a small, supported volunteering project offering high quality, meaningful supported group volunteering opportunities for people living with severe and enduring mental ill health. Activities have included community horticultural work, such as tree planting and allotment work.

On Monday afternoons we have a group available to undertake *free* administrative support for non profit organisations with mail outs, collating newsletters, photocopying and envelope stuffing. The only things you would have to pay for are the materials used.

If you would like more information please contact:

Ellen Hunt
Project Support Worker
Side By Side Project
Ridgeway House
Ridgeway
Ottery St Mary
Devon EX11 1DT
Tel. 01404 549045
Email. Ellen.hunt@edvsa.org.uk

www.edvsa.org.uk

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

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