



## **Exmouth Town Council –Newsletter**

**Newsletter 8**

**March 2011**

### **Exe Estuary Patrol Boat**

The Exe Estuary Partnership has stepped into the breach to launch the Exe Estuary Patrol Boat back onto the water from just before Easter. Volunteers have come forward and will soon be out on the water to create a presence which will be designed to make sure that people on the water take care of each other and do not behave in a way that will cause distress to others. The volunteers will be reminding people on the Estuary of the rules which apply and encouraging them to observe them. Whilst this is a purely voluntary effort funded largely by clubs on the estuary it is hoped that the Patrol Boat will provide reassurance and order on the estuary.

The service was originally an initiative of the police and has been revived through the efforts of Exmouth Town Council working with the Exe Estuary Partnership and Exeter Harbour Authority. The service will be in operation for the summer season after which it will be reviewed and continued if there is still a demand and need.

The volunteers will be the eyes and ears of the various regulatory bodies on the estuary and will be reporting any activity which may need to be followed up formally.

### **Devon County Show**

The Exmouth 'Come to Life' – stand will be at Devon County Show for the second time this year. It will be in a different location and all the lessons we learnt from our first appearance last year will be applied. It is intended to wow the show once again with a terrific stand which will put the name of Exmouth before a wide audience. Only a few plots left within the Stand.

### **TV Appearances**

Exmouth and the Estuary continue to feature in television programmes such as Country File and River Cottage with products such as the splendid Exe Mussels. Through the efforts of local people it is amazing what a reach Exmouth has and the old cry that Exmouth is never recognised is surely put to bed.

### **Festoon Lights**

The festoon lights on the seafront will be replaced completely with light emitting diodes (leds) before Easter. These are low energy, brighter and longer lasting than existing bulbs as can be

seen from the test strings down by the Pavilion. Anyone wishing to sponsor a string of lights will be welcome to do so – just contact the office at the Town Hall.

### **Annual Report**

A copy of the Town Council's annual report can be obtained from the Town Hall or on line [www.exmouth.gov.uk](http://www.exmouth.gov.uk) under Town Council agenda's section.

An extract from the report shows some of the things the Town Council has been dealing with over the last year.

- Provision of landscaping on highways – East Devon District Council has ceased to fund these services. A tendering exercise resulted in a keener price from the District Council and private sector contractors not being able to compete with the District Council's price. We have at least been able to test the District Council service against the market and find it to be very competitive. EDDC Streetscene will continue this service in 2011. The Town Council will also be paying for the 3d Flower displays and is seeking sponsorship to help offset the cost.
- The Town Council has taken on the seafront festoon lights and by Easter 2011 the lighting will have been changed to LED's, which will be brighter, cheaper to run and should be longer lasting - removing the many gaps that soon appear with conventional tungsten light bulbs. This should provide savings long-term and reduce what were previously considerable running costs.
- The Clock Tower on the seafront has now been handed over to Exmouth Town Council as a transfer at no cost from East Devon District Council. Inscriptions on the stone plaques will be improved soon. The cost of maintenance will now be funded by the Town Council.
- Rolle Exmouth Ltd – The Town Council has budgeted for up to £30,000 to support Rolle Exmouth Ltd in its ambition to secure part of the Rolle Campus for the development of a new Rolle Centre for business start-ups, education and training and community use.
- Bus Shelters - The Town Council is currently looking at ways to enhance the maintenance and cleansing of bus shelters with a private advertising company.
- Exmouth Town Council is budgeting for providing its own reactive resource for enhanced cleaning, town maintenance and enforcement against dog fouling. This will ensure cleanliness in the town is a priority. I have met with other local Councils to see if shared working could help to fund this endeavour.

### **Town Meeting**

The Town Meeting was attended by some 70 electors. This will be reported elsewhere in the Journal by reporters so I will not go in to detail here other than to say that issues raised by electors included:-

- Use of the new proposed building in the Strand and request for a Town Poll which was made by the requisite number of electors;
- Cycle track on the seafront opposite Morton Crescent and need to overcome conflict with pedestrians;
- New pedestrian crossing signals at the end of Exeter Road;
- Speeding issues;
- Gatherings of youths in the Strand and anti social behavior;
- Toilets seasonal closing;

- Bowling Alley delays in completion;
- Powers of Town Council

### **Elections**

The elections will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> May for the District and Town Council. It is now 4 years since the last elections and I can truly say that the Councillors have worked hard for the town whatever their views or political persuasions. It takes courage to stand up for what you believe in, in a public forum. It is a difficult job where decisions have to be made which will make some people happy and enrage others. Even at local level there are few thank you's and many criticisms despite all the significant time spent representing the town. Contrary to popular opinion there is no personal gain in being a Town Councillor other than the desire to work for your community, to help others and to help shape the town in a positive way for the future. Town Councillors, although entitled to a small basic allowance of £305 a year have all agreed not to claim this to date. They therefore really do receive NO financial benefit from being Town Councillors.

As Town Clerk I would personally like to record here my thanks to all Town Councillors who have served over the last 4 years for their dedication and commitment and time. Those that do not stand again will just stop being Councillors with little thanks coming their way.

Our Councillors do their bit and we hope that you will support the people who are put forward as candidates for the next elections by taking a little time out of your day on 5<sup>th</sup> May to vote. One of the most important duties for any of us in the community is to vote at elections. Without the electorate exercising their rights our democracy is weakened. YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT so don't waste it!

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