



EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT 2008

1. Introduction by the Mayor – Joy Whipps

When it was first suggested that I should put myself forward as Mayor, my immediate reaction was “no”! That responsibility was one I decided I could well do without. However I was persuaded to at least think about the opportunity and given some time to do so. Actually it was a whole weekend – not a lot of time. After a couple of sleepless nights and hours of discussion with my husband Alan and my sons, I decided to put myself forward and was duly elected!

I do admit that I still sometimes have to pinch myself to remind me that I am the Mayor of Exmouth. I am extremely appreciative that very few people have had this opportunity. It is indeed a great honour and privilege to be Mayor, of what I believe to be the best Town in East Devon, Exmouth.

Of course along with honour and privilege comes responsibility. The Mayor is the leader of the Town Council and undertakes the role of Chairperson at full Council Meetings.

The Mayor also represents Exmouth and Town Council at various functions locally and throughout the county of Devon which I endeavour to do to the best of my ability.

Exmouth is not just another seaside resort, Exmouth has a wonderful sense of community. This community spirit was one of the first things that struck me when I moved to Exmouth. Prior to moving to Exmouth I was living in a close-knit community in a Somerset village and I was very fearful of losing that community feeling in a “town”.

However I need not have worried; the people of Exmouth were extremely welcoming and within a few short months I realised that I never wanted to live anywhere else!

We are extremely lucky to live in Exmouth and are in danger of taking all that the Town and surrounding environment has to offer for granted. For example, not only do



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

we have the sea, a wonderful beach and beautiful countryside, Exmouth has a number of excellent organisations.

This year I have had the pleasure of attending a kaleidoscope of events and functions ranging from the first Exmouth Kite Festival, the annual Exmouth Festival, open days, charity fund raising events, degree ceremonies, local amateur operatic and dramatic productions, attending civic functions, meeting members of the Royal family and participating in 100th birthday celebrations.

To the Exmouth Rotary Club I am delighted to have been part of the first Kite Festival and look forward to this becoming an annual event. Thank you for raising the profile of Exmouth and including me in the weekend.

To the organisers of the excellent Exmouth Festival, which this year has grown to involve other parts of Exmouth which has not been included before, thank you so much for your hard work and dedication. As Mayor I really appreciate your efforts to put Exmouth on the map and at the same time give Exmouth's residents a really fun time during the Whitsun holiday.

The British Legion organised a visit to Exmouth for Russian veterans from the Arctic Convoy from World War 2. The Russian veterans' visit culminated in their participation in the Remembrance Day celebrations which was a memorable occasion. The Russian visit itself was very successful and the veterans enjoyed their visit as much as we enjoyed entertaining them. My thanks go to the British Legion for all their hard work in arranging the visit of the Russian veterans, and for making the visit such a success. I thank the British Legion for inviting me to take part in some of the functions organised for the veterans.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organisations who have invited me to take part in their various functions over the past year. It has given me the unique opportunity to meet a great number of interesting and fascinating people. I have always been warmly received and made most welcome. Many of these people work selflessly and quietly behind the scenes in support of their organisations and in many ways are the unsung heroes of Exmouth.

The future of Exmouth relies on the young people of today. I am heartened by the work undertaken by the numerous youth organisations operating within Exmouth and this has prompted me to direct the Mayor's charitable giving this year to local youth organisations.

I would also like to thank the Exmouth Town Councillors for giving me the opportunity to become Mayor and believing that I could do the job.

Last but not least I would like to thank the Town Clerk, John Wokersien for his expert guidance and support to me as Mayor. To all the staff of the Town Council for all their help and good humour over the last year. To Garth Gibson our excellent Town

Crier who has been a pillar of strength to me at the various functions we have attended. To Tony Collins who has in such a short space of time made quite an impact on Exmouth. Also to my husband and sons, without their love and support I would not be able to function as Mayor. Thank you.

2. Achievements in 2007/8

‘The Council’s Mission

Here is a reminder that the Council, like all organizations has a mission and this is summed up in the following words:-

- To improve the quality of life for Exmouth residents, the experience of visitors and build on the characteristics which make Exmouth special.

To go with the Mission is the Town Council’s slogan:-

- ‘Exmouth Naturally – Arts, Leisure and Environment’

The slogan sums up so much of what Exmouth aspires to be and future changes should take account of this.

Over the past year some of the achievements of the Town Council include running of Exmouth Festival, Hosting a seminar for Coastal Towns to develop joint working to help create a recognition for the need to invest in our Coastal Towns, strong involvement in the continuing promotion of Exmouth Interpretation Centre project, removal of hundreds of items of graffiti throughout the town, removal of flyposting, provision of flower towers and financial support for Exmouth in Bloom displays, effective consultation on hundreds of planning applications, leading the improvements to the Town Centre CCTVC system, provision of Christmas Lights with Exmouth Chamber of Trade and Commerce and local businesses, leading the community safety group dealing with boy/girl racers, assisting many people to access local government through its modern and welcoming reception at the Town Hall and giving face to face contact with ‘the Council’.

This year is marked by the adoption of a blue print for future development of the Town Centre, agreement to implementing a local projects fund, support and involvement in driving forward regeneration schemes for the town.

Town Management promoted and partly funded by the Town Council is growing from strength to strength under the guidance of Town Manager Tony Collins who is fulfilling the brief for the job with enormous commitment and energy. This is important to ensure that businesses in the town are brought up to speed with regeneration proposals and able to take advantage of new opportunities which will arise.

The Town Council was awarded this year with a certificate of achievement by East Devon District Council for its growing and developing Festival which is this year linking with Exmouth Rotary Kite Festival to put on a spectacular concert by Joey the Lipps on the Imperial Recreation Ground.

3. Organisation and Accountability

The Town Council has 25 elected members returned from 5 wards each with 5 members. The Committees of the Council are Planning, General Purposes and Finance. Working Parties are set up as required. Examples include Public Rights of Way Working Party, Exmouth Public Transport Partnership, Christmas Lights Working Party and Summer Festival Working Party.

The public can raise issues and concerns at public question time at each Ordinary Council meeting.

All meetings of the Council and its Committees are open to the public and press except where expressly excluded by resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. The public have the right to ask questions and make statements immediately prior to the commencement of each Council Meeting.

4. Councillors

The Councillors for Exmouth Town Council are as follows:-

BRIXINGTON

Mr T A Cope (Trevor)	LD
Mr M Ackland (Michael)	Cons
Mr D Chapman (David)	Cons
Mrs M Chapman (Maddie)	Cons
Mr D Nicholas (Daryll)	Cons

EXMOUTH TOWN

Mrs P Graham (Pat)	LD
Mrs M Hardy (May)	LD
Mrs EE Wragg (Eileen)	LD
Mr S Gazzard	LD
Mr I Stewart (Ian)	LD

HALSDON

Mrs L M Elson (Lynne)	Con
Mrs V Duval-Steer (Vivian)	Con
Mrs J Whipps (Joy)	Con
Mr R Turner (Richard)	Con

Mrs P Stott (Pauline) Con

LITTLEHAM

Mr K Harper (Ken) Con
 Mr J Humphreys (John) Con
 Mrs S Sutton (Sandra) Con
 Mr B Walker (Brian) Con
 Mr M Williamson (Mark) Con

WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH

Mrs J Mitchell (Jean) LD
 Mr M J Mitchell (Malcolm) LD
 Mrs B O Taylor (Brenda) LD
 Mr R J Taylor (John) LD
 Mr S C Wragg (Steve) LD

Details of addresses and telephone numbers for Councillors can be obtained on request from the Town Clerk and are available on the Exmouth website and at the library and on notice boards within the town.

5. Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships of Committees

Mayor	Councillor Joy Whipps
Deputy Mayor	Councillor Daryll Nicholas
Chairman Finance	Councillor Sandra Sutton
Vice-Chairman Finance	Councillor Vivian Duval-Steer
Chairman General Purposes	Councillor Pauline Stott
Vice-Chairman General Purposes	Councillor Maddie Chapman
Chairman Planning	Councillor Lynne Elson
Vice-Chairman Planning	Councillor Brian Walker

6. Town Council Officers

Town Clerk John Wokersien
townclerk@exmouth.gov.uk

Town Manager Tony Collins
townmanager@exmouth.gov.uk

Assistant to the Town Manager Suzanne Birkett
tmassistant@exmouth.gov.uk

Office Manager and Members Services Valerie Shaw
 Officer
officemanager@exmouth.gov.uk

Summer Festival Organiser (Part Time) Nicky Nicolls
nicky@exmouthfestival.org.uk



Administrative Assistant –Accounts (Part Time) admin@exmouth.gov.uk	Julie Gregory
Secretary (Part time) admin@exmouth.gov.uk	Selma Barrett
Receptionists (Job Share) reception@exmouth.gov.uk	Valerie Holland Rons Boatman
Caretaker (Part time) and Town Maintenance Officer	Ted Breeze

All officers can be contacted via Town Clerk, Exmouth Town Council, Town Hall, St Andrews Road, Exmouth EX8 1AW. Tel:01395 276167 Fax:01395 276168 or email at the addresses shown under name.

You can also view information about the Council on the official website www.exmouth.gov.uk. This also provides information on nearly everything relevant to the Town from Doctors to Play Groups, from Swimming Clubs to Wildlife of the area.

7. Finance

The precept was set at £283,304 for 2007/2008 equating to a precept of £21.75 for band D properties. For 2008/2009 this has been increased to £315,637 equating to a precept of £24.05. The Town Precept continues to be amongst the lowest for the larger Town/Parish Councils in the District and indeed in England.

The Council has complied with the Audit Regulations and appoints a professional internal auditor. Accounts for the previous year have been certified by the District Auditor.

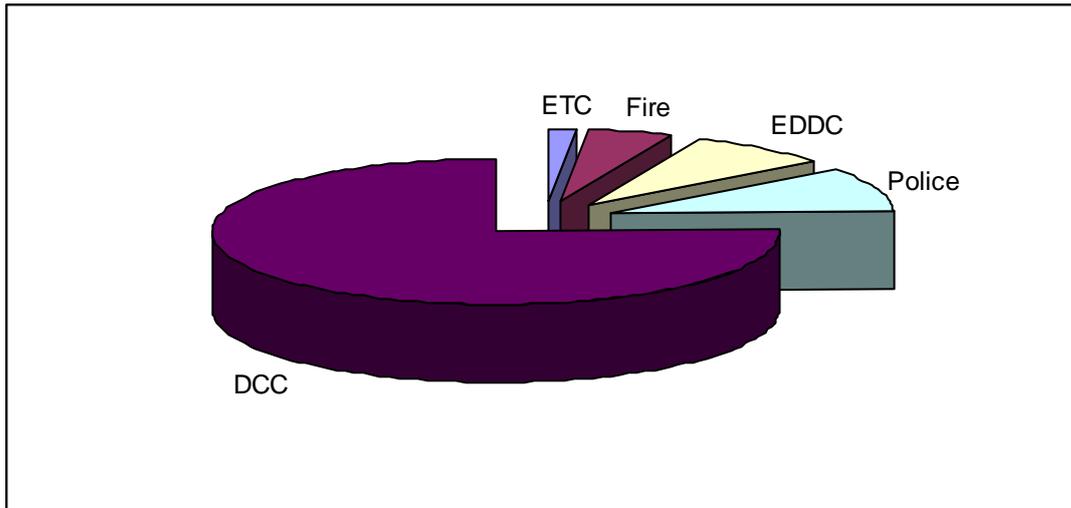
8. Council Tax

Council Tax for the three Local Authorities responsible for Exmouth were at the following levels in 2007/8:-

- £21.75 for Town Council;
- £113.16 for East Devon District Council;
- £1023.93 for Devon County Council;
- £131.56 for Devon and Cornwall Police Authority;
- £63.45 for Devon Fire Authority
- **£1,359.85 in total**

Council Tax Share based on a band d property per annum





Precept raised in 2007/8 for Exmouth Town Council was £283,304.

9. Community Safety

Under S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act Town and Parish Councils with District and County Councils have responsibility with the police and other bodies for public safety. In Exmouth the Exmouth Action Group meets regularly and has objectives to deal with pressing issues in the town. A S30 dispersal order in the Town Centre has proved to continue to be significant in reducing disorder problems in the Town.

The CCTV Control Centre has been upgraded to digital operation to extend its future life for many years to come. The number of convictions and prevention of escalation of trouble in the Town Centre particularly at night continues to be impressive helping to keep the peace in a potentially volatile environment.

10. Summary of Audited Accounts for 2006/7

Item	Expenditure	Income
	£000	£000
Festival	22	11
Town Management	26	10
Town Maintenance	36	3
Administration	123	18
Grants	27	0
Accommodation	30	0
Tourism	10	0
Gorfin Hall	5	8
Other Services	53	0
Total	332	50

11. Other Legal Requirements

The Council is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998, The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Model Scheme), and has adopted a resolution under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and promote racial equality between people of different racial groups. The Council has taken all necessary steps to comply with the code of conduct for councillors.

John Wokersien
Town Clerk