



EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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Exmouth Town Council
 Town Hall
 St Andrews Road
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ANNUAL REPORT 2010

1. Introduction by the Mayor

This year has arguably been the busiest year yet in the life of Exmouth Town Council since its inception. For three reasons:-

- (1) The investment which is happening in Exmouth;
- (2) The changes being forced by the severest public expenditure cuts in our lifetime;
- (3) The uncertainties caused by the tainted Local Government Review process.

Last year we were aware of the huge upheaval caused by the banking crises. We saw the pressures being put on businesses and residents by the recession. The immediate effect on Public Services was not evident as budgets are set one year in advance. The severity of the financial crises in addition to loss of income to the principal councils is now having a devastating effect. It is clear that serious cuts are being made and it is likely that the effects will be felt for many years.

The direct implications for our Town from the cuts this year are:-

- Rolle College funding from Learning and Skills Council withdrawn and Devon County Council not prepared to step into the breach;
- University of Plymouth selling off all its assets in Exmouth to fund a 'World Class University' in Plymouth and help with its own funding crises;
- RDA withdrew pledged funding for Visitor Centre Scheme;
- District Council withdrawing funding for casual staff to provide flower displays within the town;
- District Council bus shelters of which there are 17 left unmaintained;
- Esplanade decorative lights potentially allowed to fall into disrepair until they are



- removed;
- Littleham Toilets closure;
- Stress on street scene services and no money for improvements where called for by the public.

This is only the tip of an iceberg as EDDC have cushioned this year's cuts by withdrawing £600,000 from balances. The Town Council has raised its precept this year by 11p per week to ensure that it can cover funding for those services which are important to Exmouth and would otherwise be lost. It has also set aside £30,000 to help with finding a solution for Rolle College site which would benefit the community. Significant work is being made by community led initiatives to ensure that every opportunity that arises is grasped to try and find some success out of what has been a dismal situation for Exmouth.

The good news is that the Strand Enhancement Scheme is progressing to provide us with a modern and high quality space in the heart of the town. This will provide an exciting new focal point within the town centre, that will act as an exciting space for arts, music and activities. This will improve the attractiveness of the town centre, drawing in additional footfall and spend - supporting our businesses. The Master Planning work has commenced for the London Inn Car Park and Royal Avenue Sites which will encourage investment in the town centre to raise the quality of offer within the town and provide jobs. It has taken hard work and persistence to ensure that these regenerative projects have been funded by both the District and County Councils and to ensure that Exmouth is seen as a priority for action.

The Government has announced its decision on the Local Government Review to create a Unitary Exeter City Council within its own Boundaries. After all the uncertainty over the last few years this decision is perplexing to say the least. The County Council will be making a legal challenge in the courts in late April. The expectation is that the review will not be confirmed before the election.

This year the Community Organisations Liaison Panel has been formed and this has created greater cohesion between the Town Council and local representative groups. We see this as an excellent opportunity for community engagement in a way not tried before and will be of great assistance in helping to shape Council policy for the future.

As Principal Councils are become increasingly under pressure, the question for Town and Parish Councils will be how much they wish to become involved in direct service provision for their areas. Is it an opportunity for more local autonomy? Exmouth Town Council will no doubt be exercised by that question significantly over the months and years to come.

2. Achievements in 2009/10

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.

Our achievements as a Town Council over the year include the following:-

- Success in helping to ensure that the Strand Scheme goes ahead;
- Success in helping to ensure that the Master Planning work for the Town Centre goes ahead;
- Starting up the Community Organisations Liaison Panel and supporting the open , transparent and hard working ethos of this new initiative;
- Making £20,000 worth of grants with the project fund to help local groups and clubs achieve new initiatives and projects;
- Exmouth Festival;
- Promotion of Town Management and its many successes including The Christmas Cracker and New year Events;
- Largest funder of Christmas Lights;
- Supporting the Jurassic Coast Team in their work to protect and promote the wonderful coast upon which we are the Western Gateway;
- Support Exe Estuary Partnership to reconcile the uses of the Exe Estuary and protect the natural value which it represents;
- Work on community safety with local organisations and the police;
- Keeping graffiti and fly posting under control;
- Providing flower towers and giving strong support to Exmouth in Bloom resulting in winning the Coastal Towns category for South West in Bloom,
- Influential in ensuring that the Gateway Visitor Centre will happen;
- Strong administrative and financial support for community work to save part of the Rolle Site for uses which will benefit the community.

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, Regeneration and 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 (Daryl)	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. A copy is attached to this annual
/ report.



5. Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships of Committees

Mayor	Councillor Darryl Nicholas
Deputy Mayor	Councillor Sandy Sutton
Chairman Finance	Councillor Joy Whipps
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 townmanager@exmouth.gov.uk	Tony Collins
Assistant to the Town Manager (Part Time) tmassistant@exmouth.gov.uk	Suzanne Birkett
Office Manager and Members Services Officer (Part Time) officemanager@exmouth.gov.uk	Sue Cody
Summer Festival Organiser (Part Time) exmouthfestival@googlemail.com	Chris Woods
Administrative Assistant –Accounts (Part Time) admin@exmouth.gov.uk	Julie Gregory
Secretary (Part time) admin@exmouth.gov.uk	Mandy Westlake
Receptionists (Job Share) reception@exmouth.gov.uk	Valerie Holland Rons Boatman
Town Hall Security and Town Maintenance Officer (Part time)	Ted Breeze
Gorfin Hall Caretaker (Part time)	Tony Lynch

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 £315,637 for 2008/2009 equating to a precept of £21.75 for band D properties. For 2009/2010 this was increased to £398,670 equating to a precept of £30. The precept continues to be one of the lowest for the larger towns and villages within East Devon.

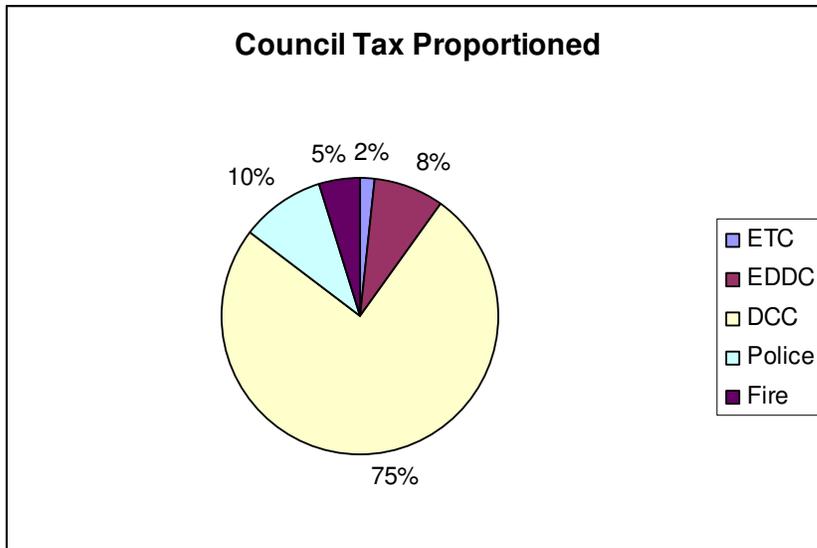
The Council has complied with the Audit Regulations and appoints a professional internal auditor. Accounts for the previous year have been certified by the District Auditor.

8. Council Tax

Council Tax for the three Local Authorities responsible for Exmouth were at the following levels in 2008/9:-

- £24.05 for Town Council – (Equates to £315,637)
- £118.24 for East Devon District Council;
- £1,063.89 for Devon County Council;
- £142.19 for Devon and Cornwall Police Authority;
- £66.58 for Devon Fire Authority
- **£1,414.95 in total**

Council Tax Share based on a band d property per annum



Precept raised in 2008/9 for Exmouth Town Council was £315,637 compared to £283,304 in the previous year.

9. Budget Requirement for 2009/10 compared to 2008/9

2008/9	Services	2009/10		



		Total Spending	Total Income	Net Spending
£000		£000	£000	£000
28	Town Management	52	24	28
27	Town Maintenance	33	4	29
117	Administration	138	14	124
28	Grants	30	0	30
35	Accommodation	33	0	33
80	Other Services	81	9	72
315	Total	367	51	316

10. 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. Councillor Steve Gazzard is the Town Council's representative on this group with the Town Clerk.

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