

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

NOTES OF A MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING PARTY HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 3.30 P.M.

Present:

Cllr. A Greenhalgh (Chairman)	Cllr. Jeff Trail
Terry Knights (P3 Coordinator)	Jean Pettit
Jan Gannaway on behalf of John Petty	David Dadd (P3 Volunteer)
Sue Cody (Office Manager)	

Election of Chairman

P3 Coordinator Terry Knights proposed seconded by Councillor J Trail that Councillor Alison Greenhalgh be re-elected as chairman. She asked those present to introduce themselves and welcomed new members to the group. David Dadd who had helped with P3 duties where he had previously lived had volunteered to assist Terry Knights and had taken responsibility for overseeing a number of public footpaths.

Apologies: Cllrs. Robert Masding, Brenda Taylor & M Williamson, John Petty, Lisa Bowman & Geoff Morris

Notes of the Last Meeting 23rd April 2015.

These were accepted and signed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from the last notes and not included in the current agenda

- **Queens Drive** – an email had been received to say that there would be no interference with the Rights of Way or cycle path that currently runs along the seafront when the Queens Drive Road alignment is carried out.
- **Solar Lighting** – Jan Gannaway showed concern that cyclists would cycle along the Estuary Trail once lit with solar lighting without lights on. Red bulbs would produce less light pollution and more animal friendly. Reflective strips along the side could assist cyclists as opposed to solar lights but the lights had been purchased from the Parishes Together Fund and had been bought to aid the travelling of young cyclists from the Community College in the early evening.

Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Terry Knights

Terry had carried out some minor general maintenance work over the summer and the contractor had carried out some hedge cutting. A question was

raised as to whether Terry and any volunteers were insured whilst attending the overseeing and maintenance of public footpaths. Sue would contact Ros Davies at Devon County Council to clarify the situation. Terry had given David Dadd, new volunteer, Footpaths 2 & 5 in the Littleham area to oversee in order to cut down Terry's workload as personal circumstances were currently putting pressure on his availability time wise.

The chairman asked if volunteers could be encouraged through advertising or perhaps Leisure East Devon could encourage people to walk the footpaths as part of getting or staying fit. She also suggested that the town could celebrate our footpaths by putting on the 'Beating of the Bounds' which would also encourage footpath awareness.

The chairman thanked Terry Knights for his update and his commitment as P3 coordinator.

Town Council Website

Exmouth Town Council had recently added the Rights of Way Working Party under its home page – www.exmouth.gov.uk/rights-of-way-working-party/ . Once the link was entered there was a 'Report a Problem' section specifically designed to direct everyone wishing to do so to the correct recipient at Devon County Council.

Numbering of Public Footpath posts

Devon County Council intended to provide numbering on posts in the near future which would aid reporting and identify that the path was a genuine Public Right of Way.

Signage along Plantation and Madeira Walk

A request was made for signage for visitors walking along the seafront to direct them to Madeira Walk. The chairman would be meeting Nick Christo, Manager of EDDC Streetscene, to look at possible signage for Madeira Walk, Plantation Walk and The Maer. Countryside boards had been erected on The Maer but there was no signage about the nature walk and no signs to depict the walk behind the bowling alley. It was unclear as to whether Gunfield Gardens was still accessible as the gates had been closed to deter groups of undesirables gathering.

Right of Way along the seaward side of Queens Drive

Richard Spurway, DCC Public Rights of Way Warden, had confirmed that there would be no additional Rights of Way created on the seafront once the Watersports Centre had been built.

Ownership of the cycleway behind donkey field along Marine Way

Richard Spurway, DCC Public Rights of Way Warden, had confirmed that the cycleway was maintained by Devon County Council but the land it crossed and the adjacent land were owned by East Devon District Council.

Items for Information

a) **Starcross Ferry in respect of transportation of bicycles**

Members of the group were made aware of the increase in usage in 2015 of the Starcross Ferry by cyclists using the cycle trail which linked Starcross with Exmouth via the circular Estuary Trail. The owners, Jerry and Mark Rackley, had identified a need for a better ferry which would cater for the transport of that volume of cycles and wished to liaise with Devon County Council in respect of funding. Alongside this the steps to access the ferry were difficult to climb when carrying a cycle and a suggestion was made that investigations be made into the special tramway similar to which existed in London for transporting cycles over the railway. The topic of the Starcross Ferry would be discussed as an agenda item at the Exmouth Transport Partnership at 10.00am on 22nd October 2015.

b) **Provision of handrail between Oldfield and Long Lane**

A request had been made by a local resident via Councillor Mark Williamson for the provision of a handrail onto Long Lane via steps from Oldfields. Exmouth Town Council did not hold funds to support the installation of handrails and as there was an alternative route nearby it was felt unnecessary and may set a precedent for other requests should an exception be made. Councillor Mark Williamson to respond to the resident with the group's decision.

Note: Keith Mills was now the new DCC Highways Officer for Exmouth.

c) **Planning permission – 15/1222/MFUL Lower Halsdon multi-user path between Exeter Road and Exe Estuary Trail**

EDDC's Development Management Committee had approved the application on the 6th October 2015. There had been an objection from Lypstone Parish Council as the extension of the path could encourage even more cyclists through Lypstone village. This had been an increasing problem with cyclists speeding and young child cyclists using the centre of the road and putting themselves and pedestrians in danger. Sustrans were in the process of undertaking an educational approach to the hazards of fast cyclists and a suggestion of reckless type cycling signs be erected along the Exe Estuary trail. There had also been incidents of speeding cyclists along seafront cycle path which is situated next to the pedestrian path. On some occasions pedestrians had strayed dangerously onto the cycle path.

d) **Exmouth circular walks**

Explore Exmouth had now produced 8 circular walks in leaflet format and an electronic version was available via www.devon.gov.uk and entry in the search box: - Explore Exmouth circular walks. Leaflets to be made available to the public.

Any other business

Signs have been appearing on posts near footpaths, often in housing estates

on joining pathways, stating that the paths are for the shared use of pedestrians and cyclists. One sign was present on the Bapton Valley path which ran behind the school. No members at the meeting could identify who was responsible for erecting the signs.

The new proposal for the Marks and Spencer food hall on the old bus station site may have an impact on the pedestrian/cyclist shared path that currently existed on the Marine Way side of the building. Sustrans had been advised by the Town Clerk that they invited to be involved in the access strategy for the new proposal. There was to be a public consultation session at the Town Hall on Friday 16th October 2015.

Date of the next meeting

Please note the next meeting would be held on **Wednesday 27th April 2016 at 3.30 pm** in the Committee Room of the Town Hall.