

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Notes of 16th meeting, 10.30am Wednesday 14th December 2016, Exmouth Town Council, 44 Rolle Street.

PRESENT

Roy Pryke	RP	NPSG Chairman
Ian Cann	IC	NPSG Vice-Chairman
Rob Masding	RM	Transition Exmouth (TE), & Exmouth Town Ward Councillor
Bruce de Saram	BdS	Exmouth Littleham Ward Councillor
Pat Graham	PG	Exmouth Town Ward Councillor
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Halsdon Ward Councillor
Tim Clatworthy	TC	Exmouth NP Project Administrator
Rev. James Hutchings	JH	Churches Together

1. APOLOGIES

Mark Williamson	MW	Champion of Neighbourhood Planning for East Devon, & Littleham Ward Councillor
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Clerk
Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Withycombe Ward Councillor

2. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

The notes of the 15th meeting held on Wednesday 21st November were received as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

a) Next NPSG meeting Wednesday 11th January 2017, 10.30am at ETC. Future meetings will probably continue to take place on the second Wednesday of each month. 2017 Full Council dates yet to be ratified, but TC will inform NPSG once this is done.

b) Community engagement in public locations: To be postponed until the appearance of the Draft Outline Plan plus attendant exhibition and video – probably March 2017. PG suggested these engagements coincide with an outreach event at the Community College, maybe taking an entire year-group at a time. RP suggested Francis Williams' ideas on how Exmouth should develop might also be included, partly perhaps in the Exmouth Journal.

c) Access Strategy Mapping: RP and IC to meet John Petty and Jan Gannaway on 20th December.

d) 'Community Assets throughout the Town': this document (originally prepared by PG) had already been circulated by email and hard copy. Members to make their comments at next NPSG meeting.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Julie Gregory's factsheet of all NP expenditure (from the start of the Plan) was provided to members. TC to enquire from LB how much (if anything) NP would be contributing to ETC's purchase of digital mapping.

5. PROGRESS REPORT FROM DOP (DRAFT OUTLINE PLAN) GROUP

Having between them read almost all the original completed Survey 1 forms and been impressed by the ideas and passion of many of the comments, RP and TC recommended that NPSG members also read the originals. This was in part (1) so any member asked about them (e.g. at an outreach event) would be familiar with their content, and (2) because the strength of feelings expressed was found to be encouraging and motivating, and helpful in progressing our Plan. This would hopefully also enliven thinking and discussion in the general public, and it was suggested that members forward to TC any comments they found to be ingenious, persuasive or in any way particularly impassioned that could be used in any outreach event. TC has numbered and batched up all the original surveys with an explanatory cover-sheet for NPSG to collect and read.

IC suggested that suggestions from the surveys which were unlikely to be actionable within the lifespan of this NP be added as an appendix.

RM and PS have now talked with Helen Bennett (who had originally contacted NPSG some months ago) and she agreed to being a witness on Wildlife/Biodiversity/Wild places of Exmouth, her areas of especial interest.

I. SUGGESTED CONTENT OF DRAFT OUTLINE PLAN – document circulated previously

RP pointed out that the 'vision' statement has been altered from DCT's original report to now include the environmental aspect in light of contributions by DOP Group. It now reads:

“Exmouth aims to be a friendly, welcoming, safe, clean and vibrant town, protecting our environment, building on our traditional seaside heritage and balanced with an aspiration to be forward thinking – a great place for all, young and old, to live, work and visit.”

The meeting then read briefly through the 3 previously-circulated DOP documents on the Environment. RP asked if NPSG would later read these in greater depth and send in their comments to TC as soon as possible. Transition Exmouth's input was covered mostly in the Climate Change document. BdS suggested use of colour – even in our draft version – to aid readers' understanding. PS passed around a copy of Exeter St James' draft NP (March 2013) for comparison with our own ideas – accessible via www.exeterstjamesforum.org. It was thought they probably had had assistance from LDA. It was agreed that the format of Lympstone's NP was particularly good and offered a good model to follow.

II. NP DOP (1): NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – document circulated previously

- a) Technical terms: A glossary was suggested to explain technical terms, e.g 'Ramsar' (fyi, Ramsar identifies wetlands of international importance, especially those providing waterfowl habitat.)
- b) Editing: Paragraph numbering and duplication need to be corrected, e.g. AONB occurs twice, at paragraphs 4 and 6, and Interpretation Centre at both 8 and 10.
- c) Commons: It was pointed out that Woodbury Common should be properly known in the plural as Woodbury Commons, as other local Commons, e.g. Dalditch Common, form part of Woodbury Commons.
- d) Interpretation Centre: There was a suggestion that the interpretation centre be included in the new watersports centre, though this was not currently a land-use issue, as no land has been specified.
- e) Allotments: the fact that there was always a waiting list demonstrated they were needed. We were informed that there were two local landowners sympathetic towards allotments. TE's view was that all new housing estates should have their own allotments. MW to be asked if he is ready to provide information in collaboration with PS. Paul Berman, Allotments secretary, has been asked to provide his comments with up-to-date information.
- f) Green wedges: RP: CDE have set out plans for land they own. IC: Some of their plans are for land outside the building area, though there is nothing going against our wishes for a green wedge/valley park/access from Littleham to seafront. Under section 13 there should be 4 bullet points, not 3: add National Trust + Courtlands. KB has agreed to add this.
- g) Sustainable Energy: (28, Policy EN8): IC thought that solar farms and wind turbines in particular would be detrimental to the local landscape.
- h) ENPIG: Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group: will be set up after DOPG. ETC and EDDC will enact recommendations from ENPIG.
- i) Trees (EN5, ENA2): KB wondered who would plant the suggested trees. IC proposed we ask people at the exhibition where they thought we should plant more trees. PG: TE have planted trees by Bapton Brook.

III. NP DOP (2): BUILT ENVIRONMENT – document circulated previously

Most of the policies in this document are derived from Ward Consultations.

PG: DCC are very difficult re. painting the traditional lamp-posts. IC has highlighted two traditional manhole covers with DCC.

PG wondered what we could effectively do to safeguard heritage items; IC said we should ensure every planning application has permission for change of building, and that this issue is for Councillors to chase the relevant officers.

IV. NP DOP (3): CLIMATE CHANGE – document circulated previously

Significant contributions have been made by TE (Transition Exmouth) and will be incorporated into policy documents.

6. REPORT ON MEETING WITH TIM SPURWAY, 21ST NOVEMBER (attached)

RP commented that TS had also suggested using colour (see BdS comment above) especially for display purposes, perhaps not so much in the document. It was recommended we ask Roma Patten as a witness for the "Getting About" section.

7. REPORT ON STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (attached)

It was acknowledged that as concerns Exmouth's economy NPSG was a bit thin on up-to-date information, and that more stakeholder information from the Chamber of Commerce/Town Team was needed, especially from JT and Jill Elson. KB suggested eco-tourism, visitors' centre, Stuart Lines and the fishing trade as lines of enquiry.

RP suggested we ask Rob Murray (EDDC Head of Economic Development) to contribute to the economy plan, though he is currently on paternity leave. Rob Murray's input could follow introductory information from Nigel Jump. KB

pointed out that any planner we made use of would normally be talking to individual set-ups, in particular areas earmarked for new growth, eg Goodmoore's.

It was a matter of disappointment that Davey Court was now lost to Exmouth; the original plan had been that DCC would replace it with a 100-bed unit, but in the event it had just been sold off for housing, and similar applies to the Doyle Centre.

8. FEEDBACK FROM CHRISTMAS CRACKER

RP and IC expressed their thanks to all who helped out, especially Derek Parsons and his 2 lads, and of course Town Manager Suzanne Birkett. It was noted however that on the day 2 out of 3 visitors had asked, "It's about the seafront, isn't it?" PG pointed out that it was very useful having a map on the stall, to show how much of the seafront is planned to be built on. RP thought that SES were ¾ of the way to getting what they wanted and that greater familiarity with the Cabinet report would be reassuring for them. PG said that unfortunately some communications she receives from SES contain incorrect information.

9. REPORT ON PRODUCTION OF NP VIDEO

Members agreed that Outpost Pictures' quotes seemed reasonable and were grateful to DCC for waiving the filming permit charge.

PS said that EDDC were thinking of erecting a large mobile screen in the Strand which we might be able to make use of. It was agreed this would be an effective attraction and that we should advertise it early on Youtube and other social media. RP wondered if local pubs could have a CD version of the video; IC thought it better to save this till the referendum. PS suggested it should be shown at schools and to groups such as the W.I. RM asked if we were actually buying the copyright that would allow us to legally distribute the video. **TC to check this.**

10. REPORT ON GRANT APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS

Our grant application should go in early 2017; **our bid needs to be included in ETC budget for 2017. LB should be approached.**

Consultants: LDA were considered our first choice, but as they have experienced problems with other councils also attempting Neighbourhood Plans, they have offered us a reduced-rate, occasional service rather than a fuller, more continuous service. We can approach them when we have identified more precisely what we would need them for. RP asked for recommendations if anyone knew of alternative consultants.

11. AOB

There was no other business.

12. NEXT MEETING 10.30am Wednesday 11th January, ETC Meeting Room.

The meeting closed at 12.40pm.