

Climate Change TAFF
Notes of Meeting, Wednesday 21 August 2019, 1600
Exmouth Town Council Meeting Room

Attendees

TD	Tim Dumper	Councillor/Chair	Exmouth Town Council
BB	Brian Bailey	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
FC	Frank Cullis	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
OD	Olly Davey	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
SG	Steve Gazzard	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
DP	David Poor	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
MR	Michael Rosser	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
AT	Andrew Toye	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
LB	Lisa Bowman	Town Clerk	Exmouth Town Council
NS	Natasha Smart	Note-taker	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

AC	Andrew Colman	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
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Notes of the last meeting

1. LB reminded members that the notes of the last meeting of the Climate Change Task and Finish Forum (TAFF) on 11 July 2019 were approved at Full Council on 5 August 2019. Full Council also approved and adopted the Terms of Reference for the TAFF.

Summary of relevant actions by working parties and committees

2. LB explained that she has been pulling together a summary of relevant actions relating to the TAFF's remit from existing working parties and committees. She has approached respective chairpersons and, to date, received updates from TD (Exmouth Transport Partnership, Quality Council and Planning) and Councillor De Saram (Flooding and Land Drainage). LB plans to chase the other chairpersons before the next meeting and then collate all the detail of the existing work going on or planned within Exmouth Town Council (ETC). She envisages that this summary will then form the basis of a final report to Full Council about the Council's response to the Climate Change emergency, likely to be presented at the 11 November meeting.

3. TD invited members to provide their thoughts on relevant information from their respective working parties and outside bodies. Key points from the discussion are as follows:

- **Public Rights of Way:** Although the WP has not yet met, LB commented that the Definitive Map Review is taking place (with a public meeting on 2 September), which will provide an opportunity to review existing rights of way in the Parish of Exmouth as well as consider possible new ones. LB further explained that ETC has delegated authority (including funding) from Devon County Council (DCC) to maintain the existing rights of way;
- **Exmouth Community Transport:** LB commented that ETC provides a £5,000 grant towards this;
- **Festival and Events:** LB commented that ETC is trying to ensure that all ETC-organised events are plastic-free (eg Exmouth Festival used reusable

cups). SG added that EDDC has now made this a condition of events held on their land;

- **Exmouth Wildlife Group/Wild Exmouth/Devon Wildlife Trust:** There was some discussion about Millennium Wood and its usage, as well as the fact that planting trees is one of the simplest ways of reducing CO2 emissions. LB commented that the Neighbourhood Plan puts a lot of focus on community action to improve the Valley Park area/green spaces and plant trees. ETC provides Wild Exmouth with grant funding of £12,000, which demonstrates the Council's support for wildlife initiatives. Since ETC does not own any land, however, if we wanted to plant more trees we would need to partner with another organisation to facilitate this. DP commented that he has a potential conflict of interest relating to the Millennium Wood as his house backs onto it. He further mentioned that Wild Exmouth and Devon Wildlife Trust own sites next to each other there and therefore work closely together on woodland management;
- **Allotment Association:** LB explained that there are numerous beehives on Exmouth's allotments, which is an initiative being promoted through the Allotment Association;
- **Community Resilience:** LB explained that the Exmouth emergency response plan, outlining how Exmouth as a community will respond to climate-related and other emergency events, is nearly ready and that the working party will be meeting again soon to finalise it.

Any other achievements known or planned

4. The following points were raised:

- TD highlighted the work of the Plastic Reduction Working Party, which has been in contact with Surfers against Sewage, in relation to plastic in the marine environment. BB suggested inviting Gareth Bourton from EDDC/SUEZ recycling centre at Greendale to a future meeting: members agreed that it would be better for him to attend the Plastic Reduction WP;
- BB raised the idea used in other European countries of a plastic bottle return/refund scheme. TD commented that the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is already campaigning for a scheme like this;
- LB highlighted the Schools' Environmental Conference on 25 September, which will focus on various aspects of environmental awareness;
- LB also commented that ETC uses solar power. ETC has a unilateral agreement with the Liverton Solar Park and has received just under £21,000 to date, which is used for the benefit of the community, such as Wild Exmouth and the Communities Together Fund;
- TD mentioned the Customer and Communities Improvement Fund (CCIF) bid to improve facilities in the area of Exmouth station, such as a drinking water fountain and bicycle storage;
- SG reported a success for the Plastic Reduction WP with the installation of two recycling bins in the Magnolia Centre. LB commented that Chetna Jones (CJ) is in contact with StreetScene regarding town and beach recycling;
- LB commented that the Waterfront Working Party has been campaigning for 2-minute beach clean boards to be installed at the seafront.

Working with other councils

5. The following points were noted:

- LB explained that she has not yet spoken to EDDC's John Golding (author of the climate change strategy paper). Members agreed that a useful next step would be to invite him to the next meeting to help give the TAFF a steer on how he views ETC's role in the climate change emergency;
- TD reported that he had not been appointed as DALC's representative on the Devon County Environmental Response Group (DCERG – a working group of DCC), as he had previously thought would happen, because that group is officer-only. So he had not yet had a chance to meet DCC's Doug Eltham (who TD believes chairs the group);
- LB explained that the District and County Councils have greater statutory responsibility for climate change, so ETC needs to understand their role and then how ETC fits into this. She commented that there is debate at national level about the role town councils can take in climate change, and that advice is gradually filtering down from NALC. LB further reported that she and CJ recently attended an SLCC meeting which included an agenda item on climate change. It was clear that councils are looking for guidance on this. Since she and CJ were able to share examples of ETC initiatives, however small, it was evident that ETC was perceived as a council already making some progress compared to other councils.

Partnership with Transition Exmouth

6. TD reported that it is still unclear whether Transition Exmouth will continue after its September AGM, so a final decision on its future will be known after that. Roger Gibson of Clean Street Exmouth has created a new organisation, 'The Green Network', which is working with other environmental groups and looks ready to take over from Transition Exmouth if it does not continue.

Update on Carbon Footprinting Workshop

7. OD reported back on the Carbon Footprinting Workshop he recently attended. He summarised main points from the workshop, which included the key message that it is possible to calculate your own carbon footprint (which is measured in CO₂ equivalents). There is guidance available online about this, including government tables which give the CO₂ equivalent of using a gallon of diesel, for example. The aim is to then reduce your usage by changing behaviour, such as using a vehicle less. As long as you calculate your CO₂ usage in the same way each time, you can then compare data on a regular basis to work out any reduction. OD further reported that DCC has set up various groups to look at this issue and hopes to have a final plan ready by late 2020. He also commented that the stated 2050 target is viewed as 'at the latest'.

8. LB commented that it would be a good idea for ETC to track its carbon footprint. Members briefly discussed how ETC could reduce its CO₂ emissions and calculate the reduction, for example by cutting use of the two ETC vehicles. BB suggested that it would be possible to convert ETC vehicles to liquid petroleum gas (LPG), which has very low carbon emissions. BB stated that it would be much easier to convert existing vehicles, which are less expensive to run and currently more convenient to run on LPG, than to change to electric vehicles. MR raised the issue

that Exmouth creates more carbon emissions outside of Exmouth (for example by buying goods from China) so he would be keen to tackle this aspect also.

Update on Feel Good Minifest

9. Due to time being short, TD did not provide a full account of the Feel Good Minifest on 20 July, which was organised by Dawn Andrews at The Ocean. However he did briefly mention that it included clothing exchange as well as sessions run by Catharine Causley and Emma Carnell, which TD attended and which included tips for reducing carbon footprints.

Preparing for the report to Full Council

10. LB suggested that, based on the two meetings of the TAFF so far, there is enough information on ongoing initiatives to provide the basis of a report to Full Council. LB shared the 'councillor's workbook on acting on climate change' produced by the Local Government Association, and suggested that a lot of the initiatives discussed by the TAFF so far could be framed in the report for Full Council under the workbook headings, such as Leadership, Economy, Housing and Planning, Environment and Transport etc. Members agreed to each fill in the workbook and bring completed workbooks back to the next meeting.

Future structure for working party

11. TD clarified that, as a Task and Finish Forum, the main priority of this group is to produce a report for Full Council recommending the way forward, and to get this agreed. He mentioned two possible future outcomes: establishing an Environment Committee; and/or including an agenda item at each meeting (or requirement within terms of reference) for every committee and working party to consider the environmental aspect of their actions/initiatives. LB mentioned that this second method is how ETC has approached Neighbourhood Plan strategy.

Membership, co-option and youth involvement

12. TD summarised that there is already youth involvement with primary schoolchildren (at the forthcoming Schools' Environmental Conference). LB commented that the names listed on the agenda (Sarah Allen, Jess Nicholls, Emma Carnell, Catharine Causley) are all active on environmental issues so it would be good to involve them, for example by showing them the draft report or partnering with their respective organisations.

Priorities and next steps

13. LB provided an update on how much a dedicated Exmouth climate change website would cost. She reported that a similar website for the Exmouth Festival had cost c£700 from Copyrite, so she would expect a similar price. She explained that if the publicity campaign includes a public roadshow or similar event, the hire for a mobile trailer for 2 days would be c£1500. The roadshow could be used to gain traction in the community and launch the website. FC commented that we should consider bringing in climate change experts to help man any event. LB commented that it might be possible to secure the assistance of some of the experts who are involved in the Schools' Environmental Conference in September. TD commented that Transition Exmouth/The Green Network might also be willing to help.

14. Members discussed the need for/levels of information about climate change/carbon emissions to put into the report for Full Council and agreed to revert at the next meeting with suggestions for how Exmouth can reduce its collective carbon footprint. LB suggested establishing CO2 emissions data for East Devon from EDDC to then compare East Devon's results with national results.

15. TD outlined how he thought the TAFF should proceed next, firstly by looking at/including existing ETC initiatives, then considering what can be shared with the community. Members agreed that it is important to pitch the publicity/website so that it is relevant for the community (and not viewed as preaching) and that it gives residents simple ideas for making changes as well as the tools to make those changes. LB commented that, in legislation terms, there is little that ETC can do, so ETC's greatest role in the climate change debate lies in advocacy and leading the community towards the best way forward.

16. TD concluded that the role of the TAFF is to consider a local response to climate change, rather than a global one. SG commented that members need to keep in mind that a TAFF only exists for a short time and that it is important to focus on producing a report for Full Council on the way forward. TD asked LB to summarise all existing and planned ETC initiatives on climate change for the next meeting, to form the basis of the report to Full Council (on 11 November).

Date of Next Meeting

17. Thursday 19 September 2019 at 1400.

Climate Change TAFF: Actions Progress

Description of Action	By	Date Added
Approach Transition Exmouth for clarification on whether it will continue as an active organisation and, if so, whether it would wish to become a TAFF partner	TD	11/07
Discuss TAFF membership with Councillor Lynne Elson	TD	11/07
Invite Deputy Town Clerk Chetna Jones to next meeting to outline plans for Schools' Conference	LB	11/07
Invite representative from Exmouth Community College to future meeting to discuss climate education	TD	11/07
Invite Doug Eltham to future meeting to advise on ETC carbon footprint reduction	TD	11/07
Include expert invitee brainstorming session on next agenda	NS	11/07
Seek updates from ETC committees and working parties on existing climate change initiatives	LB	11/07
Bring useful information/links to next meeting	ALL	11/07
Invite John Golding to discuss EDDC climate change strategy	LB	21/08
Complete the councillor's workbook and revert at next mtg	ALL	21/08
Bring ideas for reducing Exmouth carbon footprint to next mtg	ALL	21/08
Summarise ETC initiatives as basis for Full Council report, by next mtg	LB	21/08

Completed Actions

Description of Action	By	Date Completed
Finalise draft TAFF TOR	LB	21/08
Put forward recommendation to Full Council to approve and adopt TAFF TOR	LB	21/08
OD to attend Carbon Footprinting Workshop, 23 July 2019; LB to book place	OD/LB	21/08
Get a quote for producing a publicity campaign and website	LB	21/08