

Exmouth Town Council

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 9.30am on Monday 25th November 2019
in the Chamber, Town Hall

1. Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Councillor
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey (ex officio)	BB	Exmouth Town Councillor
David Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Jennifer Wellington	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Nick Christo	NC	East Devon District Council Street Scene
Rev. Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together

Apologies

Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Councillor
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association

1. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on the 28th October 2019 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Due to other commitments, AB felt that she could not take on the role as Vice-Chair. PS was nominated, proposed by DP and seconded by AB, and was duly elected as Vice-Chair.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy

The Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy had been positively received by Exmouth Town Council (ETC) and work will continue in line with the strategy.

5. Street Scene Update

NC provided the following update:

- Peter Blyth's update regarding the naming of Blenny Bay signs was clarified and NC confirmed that maps showing Blenny Bay will be shared with group members. Concern was raised that East Devon District Council (EDDC) made decisions on Exmouth matters without consulting with the local community who have the knowledge, the Blenny Bay signs were a good example of this. It was agreed that lessons can be learnt from this and that EDDC should be asked to inform ETC of proposed changes prior to implementation. ETC can then raise matters in the appropriate Working Parties.

Action: NC/PB to forward the Ordinance Survey Map which mentions Blenny Bay to CJ to circulate to COLP members.

- Street Scene are working on the winter programme, with all winter bedding now planted. ETC pay the equivalent of one seasonal staff member to enable additional grass cutting in the summer and street cleaning/weeding in the winter.
- Pulling back the sand from the seawall is continuing to minimise the risk of sand being blown onto the road. An application has been applied to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to pull-back the sand from the area by the Stuart Line Cruise hut.
- More environmentally friendly alternatives to chemical weed sprays are being used, including trialling a solution consisting of vinegar, epsom salts and eco-dish soap. Street Scene are also looking at their carbon footprint and the chemicals they use in other areas of their work to see where changes can be made. Additionally, the use of electric vehicles in the leased Street Scene fleet is also being implemented, with 4 out of the 14 vehicles on order being electric. The use of using LPG gas is also being investigated.
- The robotic mowers have worked reasonably well, with just two vandalism incidents reported since their installation.
- NC reminded members that Street Scene are responsible for any surface debris such as leaves or litter on the pavements and roads, and Devon County Council (DCC) are responsible for blocked drains and gutters.
Action: Members to report any blocked drains to DCC via their website or through their Customer Service Centre.
- New general waste bins, to replace the Big Belly bins along the seafront will soon be installed and have an in-built 'fire extinguisher' function. New recycling bins (excluding glass) will also be installed next to these new general waste bins.
- Due to safety concerns, the News Year's Eve event application by local businesses in the Strand was refused.
- NC has been in talks with the Thelma Hubert Gallery in Honiton regarding a mural project at Gunfield Gardens.

PS and BB expressed they're thanks to Street Scene for cleaning the beach shelters and Pavilion Garden shelters of graffiti.

Outstanding Street Scene actions – an update is required by the next meeting:

- **Action:** SK to chase PB regarding the litter picking boards as requested by PS.
- **Action:** SK to investigate options for wooden barriers at the Imperial Recreation Ground.
- **Action:** NC to find out if the benches by the Imperial Recreation Ground are due to be put back to their original positions once works are completed.

6. COLP links to other Exmouth Town Council Working Parties

Information on work being carried out by the many other working parties of ETC was provided as this closely worked with the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy.

Exmouth Transport Partnership (ETP): The following information was provided via email by TD and was read out at the meeting by CJ:

As Chair of ETP, TD thanked RP for all her work and support, in particular for public transport in Exmouth, but also for the wider community work through the ECA, as she prepares to move away from Exmouth.

Roma had led a project developing a business plan for the proposed transport interchange which is not yet complete. She will be handing this over and TD will report further at a later date.

Still awaiting feedback on the funding bid for improvements around the railway station for updated signage, more bike racks, better lighting and better bus information.

TD agreed that he will work with the Taxi Operators' representative to try to provide better taxi rank facilities (and access) at the back of the station.

A discussion was had resulting in feedback to the Climate TAFF on ways of reducing the carbon footprint of transport around town.

Detailed feedback was given to Stagecoach on problems that had arisen recently.

Climate Change TAFF: The following information was provided via email by TD and was read out at the meeting by CJ:

This group holds its final meeting on 28th November 2019, with a report being taken to the December Full Council (on the 9th December). This will consider the way forward in ensuring that:

1. The Council reduces as quickly as possible its own carbon footprint and use of substances and practices leading to damaging pollution,
2. Facilitates ways of giving local information, advice, tips etc. to the people of Exmouth to enable the town to move quickly in the same direction, e.g. a user-friendly website,
3. To recognise the part that Transition Exmouth, as a partner in this work, and its associated individuals and groups plays, and will continue to play, in Exmouth's ecological progress, and
4. To network and coordinate with Devon County Council and their developing Carbon Reduction Plan, and EDDC, who are also taking action.

John Golding, EDDC's Lead Officer for the Climate Emergency response has been invited to the meeting on Thursday but TD is awaiting a response.

As part of the group's work, the TAFF have been talking to other Committees and Groups. As Chair, TD would welcome any input from COLP, or its constituent organisations.

Plastic Reduction Working Party (PRWP): A waste audit was undertaken on the 24th November of the on-street recycling bins that had been installed in the Magnolia Centre. The audits are to help gather evidence to promote better on-street recycling. Early indications showed that the waste collected had some degree of contamination. Therefore, it was anticipated more education, in-line with the communication received regarding kerbside collection, would be required.

Additionally, PRWP are investigating the possibility of installing drinking water bottle filling stations.

Waterfront Working Party: A project which will provide beach wheelchairs on Exmouth seafront was given the go-ahead by the Town Council. A crowdfunding page has been set-up to raise money will go live week beginning 2nd December.

PS added that if 25% of the cost can be raised through Crowdfunding then DCC, EDDC and other organisations grants can be applied for to cover the remainder of the £30,000 cost to deliver this project.

Festival and Events Working Party: Programmes for the Christmas Fayre on 6th December 2019 will be printed and distributed soon. Electronic versions have been circulated to COLP members to be displayed on their organisation's websites and/or to be circulated to their members.

The event had been advertised earlier than last year, with businesses made aware of the event and encouraged to get involved by staying open in the evening.

Action: Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer to help with marshalling during the lantern parade was asked to contact CJ.

At a recent meeting with DCC Councillors, ETC were informed of the various DCC projects:

- DCC's plans to update the Magnolia Centre were explained. Although subject to change, the plans are to move paving slabs from other areas of the town and reinstall them in the Magnolia Centre to replace those which are broken. The areas where the paving slabs are to be removed will be tarmacked. Bollards may be installed at the Church Street side of the Magnolia Centre to stop vehicles from mounting the pavements.
- Damaged paving slabs on Exeter Road are to be replaced. IC raised several concerns and CJ asked that they be emailed to her, in order that she can provide the information to the County Councillors and local Neighbourhood Highways Officer. The importance of using the DCC 'Report It' website or Customer Services was discussed, as well as why ETC were unable to pass on details of general public to DCC due to breach of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It was suggested that by reporting in this way, a reference number would be generated, and the issues can then be tracked. DP added that it was worthwhile letting the County Councillors know of these actions taken. Other members additionally added, 'Only use the DCC website and not the County Councillors' and, 'No point in contacting ETC as it has only one voice'. Whilst these may be essentially true, it must be stressed that, where possible, ETC and County Councillors will help but ultimately the most productive course of action is to report it via DCC Customer Services or the DCC website.

Additionally, heavy rain and flooding on the main Exmouth to Exeter road which caused major traffic problems recently were discussed. DCC Highways were aware of these concerns.

IC updated members of a recent meeting he had with the Environment Agency, Keir and the Exmouth Historic and Archaeological Society about the Victorian bollards at the end of Morton Road. He was assured that the bollards would not be moved and would be incorporated into the new pedestrian area. A new lamp standard may be installed to replace the current one, which will be more in keeping with the area. The matter was being discussed with DCC Highways and EDDC Planning.

7. News Update from EDDC

Members were asked to note the press release regarding Hemingway Design's recent public exhibitions at Ocean, a link to the press release was included in the agenda.

8. 3 Year Review of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) – Control of Dogs

Members were informed of the review of the PSPOs in Exmouth and noted the deadline for any comments by ETC, with evidence, was 2nd January 2020.

NC explained that Dog Wardens do patrol the seafront in peak seasons but that more education is needed to ensure the public are abiding by the rules of the PSPO.

Recommendation: IC proposed, seconded by TS, that COLP recommend to the Town Council that the beach dog ban areas be extended to low tide, removing the current loophole.

8. Agenda items requested by members

No items requested.

AOB

Celebrating Trees

Two events helping to shape the future treescape in Exmouth, organised by EDDC and Wild Exmouth, were positively received over the weekend of the 23rd and 24th November. The event on the 23rd, held at Phear Park and Marpool Scout Hut, was well attended. The tree planting event on the 24th, held at St. John's Playing Field was also well attended with 120 trees being planted.

IC added that the mature trees being removed from alongside the Estuary Car Park due to the Tidal Defence Scheme will be replaced with other mature trees once the work is completed. The experimental tree planting that was started 35 years ago on the Maer will inform the trees species selected for the replanting due to their resistance to strong winds and sea air.

Phear Park Café

The café at Phear Park is now open.

Remembrance Sunday

DR congratulated the Royal British Legion (RBL) for the Remembrance Sunday Service on 10th November 2019. TS will pass on the thanks from COLP to the RBL.

Health and Wellbeing Board

DP has been appointed onto the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Tidal Defence Scheme

A newsletter explaining the progress of the Tidal Defence Scheme will be published soon and will be circulated to COLP members.

Keir will be laying ducts for mains services from the Scout Hut to the EDDC car park, enabling the Scouts to have mains services to their Hut in the future.

2020 Dates

Meeting days and times will remain the same. However, as it was agreed to try and encourage more youth organisations onto COLP.

9. Dates of future meetings (Chamber Room at 9.30am unless otherwise stated):

No meeting in December.

Next meeting will be January 2020, date TBA.

The meeting finished at 11.18am.