

Festival and Events Working Party
Notes of Meeting, Thursday 16 January 2020, 1400
Exmouth Town Council Meeting Room

Attendees

JW	Joy Whipps	Councillor/Chair	Exmouth Town Council
AB	Aurora Bailey	Councillor	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
PM	Paul Millar	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
CH	Carla Hiley	Arts Manager	Exmouth Town Council
CJ	Chetna Jones	Deputy Town Clerk	Exmouth Town Council
CN	Cherry Nicholas	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
NS	Natasha Smart	Admin Team/Notetaker	Exmouth Town Council
TH	Trevor Huggons	Steward	Exmouth Festival

Apologies

AS	Alex Sadiq	Councillor	Exmouth Town Council
LB	Lisa Bowman	Town Clerk	Exmouth Town Council

Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

1. JW welcomed working party members and reviewed apologies.

Notes of Meeting of 21 November 2019

2. The notes from the last meeting were approved without comment.

Christmas Fayre 2019 Wash-Up

3. JW invited comments from members about the 2019 Fayre. Main points which emerged from the subsequent discussion were as follows:

- **Elements which worked well:** Members felt that overall the Fayre was a success. The elements which worked particularly well were: the large marquees; the new lantern parade route; the stage with Christmas carols/community choirs; Martin Nicholls as compere; charity stalls; the Friday date for schools' and ETC staff involvement;
- **Elements to reconsider:** Several members queried, on behalf of themselves and stallholders/visitors, holding the event on a Friday rather than a Saturday. It was generally felt that the fireworks were on too late (8pm) and that 6pm or 7pm would be better as schoolchildren would still be present. Members also wondered whether fireworks could be replaced by a more environmentally friendly version, such as a laser light show or image projection (although it was felt that the latter may not work in the Strand location). The schools' Christmas trees again suffered from the elements, so a better way was needed of securing/protecting them. The children's lanterns also needed to be better lit. Although charity stalls did well, it was felt that gift/business-type stalls did not do so well (and CH wondered whether trying to cater for several different requirements at the event was working). FC suggested including more traditional fairground/games-type stalls (eg coconut shy). BB also

asked whether handles could be added to the stage steps to make access easier.

4. After much discussion of various aspects of the Fayre which could be improved, the following was agreed as an outline plan for the 2020 Christmas Fayre (with the Friday date proposed by JW and seconded by TH):

- **Date/Time:** Friday 4 December 2020, c3-7pm
- **Stalls:** To include charity/community stalls in large marquees, selected hot/cold food stalls and fairground/games-type stalls;
- **Attractions:** To again include a stage with Christmas music/carols/community choirs, along with schools' Christmas tree decorating and lantern parade. To explore a laser light show rather than fireworks, and to make this attraction earlier (eg 7pm). To explore whether the school's Christmas trees could be hosted in the Indoor Market, which would secure/protect them better and they could even be left on display for longer. To procure better lights for the lanterns.

5. SG and CJ left the meeting.

Festival 2020 Update

6. JW invited CH to provide an update on Festival 2020 planning. CH updated the meeting on the following:

- **SAG Update:** The SAG meeting earlier in the week had gone smoothly. EDDC subsequently issued the consultation for the Festival's event permission. There are still issues to be resolved over whether the Festival should use the whole Imperial Recreation Ground, including the park, which will necessitate a decision over security in that area. It is also currently unclear whether the slipway will need to be considered separately if Mamhead Slipway is closed because of overrunning Environment Agency Flood Defence Scheme work;
- **Band Area:** BB raised a concern about the condition of the Scout Hut which is used as the green room for bands. CH stated that she could aim to improve the look of the hut. The security team had already suggested using a separate marquee behind the stage to store band equipment;
- **Branding:** The police have asked that the branding is less attractive for teenagers, so the branding focus will be on 'hidden talent';
- **Programme:** The programme is nearly complete, but CH is concerned that nearly all the performers are male, so is looking for more female acts to redress the balance;
- **Stall Applications:** The stallholder application forms and bar tender will be issuing within the next few weeks;
- **Funding:** The application for Arts Council funding is nearly complete;
- **Security Wristbands:** The plan is for all festivalgoers to be issued a security wristband on arrival at the main gate (bags will also be checked and tagged). Wristbands will have Festival branding and be a different colour on each of the four days, which will assist the security team with keeping tabs on/refusing entry to any troublemakers as well as help track numbers of attendees. CH is

concerned about the use of plastic (fabric and other materials are considerably more expensive) and the possibility of littering of discarded wristbands, although members felt that attendees would be unlikely to discard wristbands on exiting the Festival as they would need to wait to cut them off at home. The meeting agreed that, on balance, on this issue the security concerns should outweigh environmental ones, however CH will try to ensure wristbands are recyclable;

- **Water Fountain:** PM reported from the Plastic Reduction WP that a water fountain at the Festival (based at the Imperial Road car park toilet block) is looking like a more realistic option. CH commented that, although this is a good step, it is still outside the Festival grounds, and attendees would be unlikely to go outside to fill a water bottle. She would still like the Imperial Recreation Ground water tap to be deemed safe, although EDDC continue to state that ETC will need to pay to have it tested and will not otherwise guarantee its safety. Members felt that EDDC should be covering this cost as it is their land and they are providing the facility. PM offered to explore with EDDC getting the water tap tested;
- **Imperial Recreation Ground:** The unevenness of the ground still causes an issue for the Festival, and this is again an issue which members believe should be resolved by EDDC. Andrew Ennis has reportedly stated that EDDC would like to resolve this but currently has no budget to do it now or in the foreseeable future.

7. AB and BB left the meeting during this agenda item.

Dangerous Dads Funding

8. CH updated members on Dangerous Dads, a new community group organised by Chris Holland as a club for dads to plan activities with their children, which is looking for funding. CH had originally suggested the non-Festival budget, but subsequently directed him towards the Community Fund, which is currently open for applications.

VE Day 8 May 2020 Requirements

9. CH explained that she has been approached by The Royal British Legion (RBL) to ask whether ETC would be organising any events to commemorate the VE Day bank holiday on 8 May 2020, although with the Festival taking place shortly after she did not think there would be any ETC capacity for organising a further event. Members discussed the fact that two commemorative events are already planned in Exmouth: RBL commemorative parade and service in The Strand on 8 May; and a concert at the Pavilion on 7 May. CH explained that the RBL is suggesting ETC might take over the Strand event from midday. Members discussed possible options for this, such as engaging Strand businesses to provide outside seating, putting on music and hanging bunting, but wondered whether other events might already be planned such as in Bicton Street so wanted to establish this first. No firm decision was therefore made.

Any other business

10. PM raised the fact that the costs for the Manor Gardens bandstand use, which had previously been raised so high that the bandstand was no longer being used, have now been reduced. He was therefore keen to advertise this fact to encourage

use of this facility once more. JW clarified that, since the bandstand and Manor Gardens are owned by EDDC, it is not ETC's responsibility to advertise this change. However, members suggested other ways this could be done, eg through the EDDC licensing team or The Journal.

11. In respect of the annual Town Crier competition, CH explained that she has spoken to the Town Crier and suggested that this be organised as a separate event (and no longer connected with the Festival), which could take place in Manor Gardens.

Date of next meeting

12. Thursday 12 March 2020 at 1400 in the ETC meeting room.