

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING PARTY

Notes of meeting of Wednesday 23rd October 2019 at 2.00 pm in ETC Meeting Room

Bruce de Saram	BdS	ETC councillor, Chair
Sue Cody	SC	ETC Office Manager
Jeff Trail	JT	DCC councillor
Olly Davey	OD	EDDC & ETC councillor
Andrew Toye	AT	ETC councillor
Jan Gannaway	JG	Sustrans
Emma De Saram	EdS	
Ross Hussey	RH	Volunteer
Tim Clatworthy	TC	Notes & Volunteer to P3 Coordinator

1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

2. APOLOGIES

Lisa Bowman		ETC Town Clerk
Chetna Jones		ETC Deputy Town Clerk
Helen Bennett	HB	Volunteer
Ian Kirvan		ETC councillor
John Petty		Cycle Path Group

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

JT proposed and OD seconded that we continue with BdS as Chair. Unanimously approved.

4. NOTES OF MEETING OF 27TH MARCH 2019

These were accepted as accurate.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM NOTES OF LAST MEETING

- Exe Trail: Contractors for DCC are in the process of repairing the Exe Trail between Exmouth and Lymptone and will liaise with the Town Clerk in respect of the damaged solar lights that had been tarred over.
- Buzzard Route (Exmouth to Budleigh cycleway NCN2): JT has travelled 2/3rds of the route in an electric wheelchair and found it bumpy but acceptable. The stretch damaged by badger activity has been repaired well but the condition of the path once the tarmac has run out is very rough and ready and is quite dangerous for cyclists.
- The creation of a foot/cycle track to Woodbury Common: Much needed for walkers and cyclists to avoid fast road traffic along Higher Hulham Rd to The Common. The proposed route would pass through the Goodmoors Farm housing development and although the planning application has been approved in outline form, it was still hoped that this track could be included within more detailed plans.
- Summer Lane: Plans have already been approved for the Dinan Way extension which incorporates the closure of one end of summer Lane and convert the lane to a multiway giving vehicular access only to residents and A La Ronde.
- Toucan crossing at Exeter Road/Rivermead Avenue junction: This has slowed down Exeter Road traffic sufficiently to make it much easier to cross it for families and cyclists and make use of the foot/cyclepath leading to Lower Halsdon Farm and therefore encouraging exercise and sociability. Elderly residents are grateful for the safety of crossing the busy road to catch the bus. BdS and SC to liaise in writing an article for the Exmouth Journal advertising its success.

6. P3 CO-ORDINATOR VACANCY

- Terry Knights: Sincere thanks were expressed to Terry Knights, now retired from his role as P3

Co-ordinator after 22 years.

Recommendation that an Exmouth Town Council plaque be presented by the Mayor to Terry Knights at a Full Council meeting to honour Terry's huge contribution over the years to the maintenance of Exmouth's Public Rights of Way.

- b) Recruitment: EdS to expand on SC's/TC's article for submission to the Journal as part of the recruitment drive to fill this vacancy.

7. EXMOUTH DEFINITIVE MAP REVIEW

Seven paths came under discussion. Some of the footpaths which were notorised years ago would not be investigated as housing developments had since been built near or over the paths. South Lodge to St. Johns Road path has already been sold off and can no longer be accessed. The Kevel Road to Exeter Road is currently signposted as private, but no ownership can be identified. The land is possibly owned by the landowners either side of the path.

The deadline for applications for inclusion on the new definitive map is 31st October 2019.

8. UPDATE ON CURRENT STATE OF FOOTPATHS

Thank you to Councillor Andrew Toye, Helen Bennett & Ross Hussey for their feedback on footpaths they have walked and the accompanying photos which have proved invaluable as evidence. Also, a thank you to Town Council Maintenance Team, Tony and Stephen, who have provided the workforce behind urgent requests to remove debris and cut back encroaching vegetation.

- a) Part of footpath 10 between Bapton Lane and School Lane which passes the Cats Motel is breaking up as the bank is slipping away.
- b) Footpath 14, between Withycombe Brook and Lyndhurst Road: Too narrow to be useful as part of the cyclepath network, but we have to continue to maintain it. The residents probably use it to maintain their fences. A previous attempt to delist it proved unsuccessful.
- c) Footpath 9, between Maristow Avenue and Exeter Road: Treacherous underfoot, particularly at the Exeter Road end. It has been cleared, but it is very narrow, wet and needs extra gravel. Ros Davies to be approached as this is a Public Right of Way, not a DCC Highway.
- d) Footpath 19, Halsdon Avenue to Exeter Road: this needs attention on the corner that adjoins Halsdon Ave as the weeds grow very high here.
- e) Footpath between Bapton Brook and Dennesdene Farm, which links up with other paths, is not a Public Right of Way. EDDC own the land.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

BdS thanked SC for her 11 years of dedicated service to this working party.

OD proposed and AT seconded the motion that EdS become the group's Press Officer; though the Chair has the final word on what goes out into the public domain. SC to check the Terms of Reference which will be sent out with the next agenda. HB (in a telephone message) expressed her continued interest a circular footpath taking in the St Johns area and would like to contribute to any group working towards this.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The P3 Grant form has to be submitted by mid-February, so a mid-January date was hoped for. TC suggests Tuesday 14th January at the usual time of 4pm.

Please come back to me asap with your thoughts on this!

Today's meeting finished at 3pm.