

Exmouth Town Council
Plastic Reduction Working Party

Notes of meeting held at 7pm on 2 nd December 2019 in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall
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Present

Alex Sadiq	AS	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council (Ex-Officio)
Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Michael Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Jennifer Wellington	JWe	Exmouth Town Council (Note-taker)

Apologies

Aurora Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Joe Whibley	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Council
Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council
Paul Millar	PM	Exmouth Town Council

By invitation:

Nick Christo	NC	Street Scene, East Devon District Council
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1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were given as above.

2. Previous Notes

FC proposed, seconded by MR that the notes from the meeting held on the 28th October 2019 be approved.

3. Matters Arising from previous notes

It was noted that many actions had been completed. Outstanding actions:

Description of Action	Update 02/12/19	By
In-house recycling and waste collection audit, including crisps and confectionery	This is to be promoted and 'relaunched' in the new year to encourage more businesses and pubs to get involved.	SG
Refill	Awaiting a first draft from the designers.	JWe

4. Update on ongoing items

Waste Audit

NC gave an update on how waste and recycling is operated by East Devon District Council (EDDC) in particular street-waste bins.

As the collection authority for Devon County Council (DCC), EDDC receive recycling credits for the household waste they collect at the kerbside which is to Greendale for sorting and recycling.

On-street general waste bins

These bins are emptied by Street Scene operatives and the waste collected is taken to the Camperdown Depot and put into mixed waste skips. From here, the waste is taken to the Energy from Waste plant in Exeter to be incinerated.

On-street mixed recycling bins

These bins are emptied by Street Scene operatives and taken to the Camperdown Depot. From here they are collected and taken to the Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) in Kenton. Street Scene do not sort the recycling, unless there is anything obvious that needs to be removed and can be done so easily. Operatives at the MRF manually sort through the mixed recycling and separate out the different materials. If, however, items are contaminated everything is discarded.

Non-contaminated materials get sent on to companies in the UK or the EU for recycling.

NC explained how Street Scene face many challenges regarding on-street recycling including:

- Operational – Camperdown Depot is not set-up for waste sorting
- Lack of respect for on-street bins – some members of the public do not respect what to put in the bins and fly-tipping has been a problem in the past, especially with bring banks
- Contamination – some members of the public will put the wrong materials in recycling bins which causes contamination of all the items, resulting in the whole bag being rejected when it reaches the MRF. Although determining contamination is subjective, this is a real issue when it comes to recycling and the overall amount and quality of the materials collected.

To try and tackle these challenges Street Scene have introduced colour coded bags and will be supplying street cleaners in 2020 with divided wheelbarrows so that they are able to sort litter collected from the pavements and hedgerows on the go.

Members discussed actions that could be taken moving forward to help increase the amount of quality recycling collected through on-street bins. The following actions were discussed:

- EDDC to move the bins around in the Magnolia Centre to see if this creates any improvements
- ETC to contact Shoe Zone to obtain their recycling policy and encourage them to collect old shoes for recycling
- EDDC to follow-up any incidents of domestic or commercial waste being disposed of in public bins
- ETC to contact Costa Coffee and Café Nero to obtain their recycling policy and encourage them to collect used coffee cups for recycling

Additionally, it was felt that better, more informative signage be installed by the general waste and recycling bins to help improve the collection quality and educate people at the same time. Implementing a 'shock' statistic was also discussed and could be included to inform members of the public of what happens if the wrong items are put in the wrong bins i.e. 10 tonnes of EDDC collected paper recycling was rejected because a single hard-backed book had been recycled with the paper.

FC proposed, seconded by OD, and it was agreed that the working party recommend:

That Exmouth Town Council contacts East Devon District Council to request that infographics be added by on-street general and recycling bins to help the general public understand how they can recycle better when out and about.

Water Fountains

An update was given by MR and CJ to the outstanding actions from the meeting held on the 8th October 2019 between ETC, EDDC, Refill Devon and Transition Exmouth.

On the advice of East Devon District Council, Sidmouth Town Council were contacted about their public water bottle filling stations.

MR proposed, seconded by SG, and it was agreed that the working party recommend:

- **To apply for funding contribution from South West Water**
- **To set aside funds up to £12,000 from Town Maintenance Partnership to deliver four water bottle refilling stations using existing EDDC water supplies by Easter 2020**
- **To give delegated authority to the working party to agree the exact locations with EDDC's agreement**

It was agreed that a separate report be written on the proposed water bottle refilling stations to provide additional information in support of the recommendation.

Action: CJ to arrange another Water Fountain meeting before Christmas 2019. NC to identify EDDC owned areas that would be appropriate places to install a water bottle filling station to bring to this meeting.

Surfers Against Sewage (SAS)

TD gave an update on the progress to achieving the SAS Plastic Free Communities accreditation. Concern was raised about the time it appeared to be taking to achieve the accreditation and that this was primarily due to the very slow process of getting approval of activities that is used as evidence of plastic reduction.

Action: TD to request an up-to-date spreadsheet of activities provided to SAS, which will be circulated to members to give the opportunity to fill in any gaps.

5. AOB

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

It had been proposed, via the Climate Change Task and Finish Forum (TAFF), that a Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party should be formed, incorporating the existing Plastic Reduction Working Party when the current TAFF is dissolved.

Some concerns were raised that by combining the two together momentum of the Plastic Reduction Working Party could be lost.

The proposal will be taken for consideration to the next Full Council meeting on the 9th December 2019 and members will have an opportunity to raise their concerns at that meeting.

6. Date of next meeting

Monday 6th January at 19.00.

7. Close of meeting

Meeting finished at 20.45.