

Exmouth Town Council

Waterfront Working Party

Notes of the meeting of the Waterfront Working Party held on Wednesday 29 May 2019 at 10am in the ETC Meeting Room.

Present:

Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Fred Caygill	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Nick Christo	NC	StreetScene Area Manager, EDDC
Pete Blyth	PB	StreetScene Beach Safety Officer, EDDC
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council – Town Clerk
Natasha Smart	NS	Exmouth Town Council Note Taker

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council – Deputy Town Clerk

1. Welcome and apologies

PS welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted. PS explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review and agree actions with EDDC StreetScene on various matters needing urgent attention, as identified in the meeting held on 21 May 2019.

2. Actions under review

PS worked through the outstanding actions identified from the meeting on 21 May 2019. The following outlines key points and actions arising from the discussion:

- **Beach Signs (Dogs)** – FC raised concerns about visibility of the signage as well as enforcement of the byelaws. PB confirmed that all the new beach access signs highlight the restrictions around dogs. However, he has identified that a sign on the beach by the Octagon is currently one-sided, so cannot be seen from both directions, so is planning to change this so it is visible to all walkers already on the beach, NC commented that the signage aims to strike a balance between being clear and informative without being overbearing. He views it as the dog owner's responsibility to find out where their dog can be walked, with the signage providing supplementary information. NC confirmed that StreetScene operatives regularly patrol the beach and speak to dog owners who are walking dogs in the wrong area. It has become clear that the majority of dog owners know that they are flouting the laws, with just a small minority being genuinely unaware. As a result, NC does not believe that increasing signage is the answer; instead the focus should be on education.

NC confirmed that StreetScene operatives are not enforcement specialists, and in addition there is no appetite amongst East Devon District Council (EDDC) senior management for heavy-handed enforcement (although persistent offenders would be issued with a penalty notice). It is also recognised that offenders may not pay, and

the associated cost and resource implications of taking someone to court for non-payment is prohibitive. NC explained that the team working on beach patrols are the same team working against traveller encampments and fly-tipping, which are a higher priority (and fly-tipping is, for instance, a crime which EDDC will actively pursue in court). In respect of dogs being walked on incorrect areas of the beach, the focus for StreetScene is therefore on education and prevention.

In respect of the appetite at EDDC for enforcement, TD commented that the new administration may mean a change of culture. FC offered to speak to colleagues at EDDC to get an indication of the mood surrounding the issue of enforcement relating to dogs on the beach.

Action: FC to explore issue with EDDC colleagues.

- **Red Flags and Flagpoles** – PB confirmed that the Mamhead Slipway pole (with red flag) has been repaired, but the one previously located at the Harbour View Café needs to be replaced. The new pole is on order. The plan will be to remove the old pole and re-site the new pole (with red flag) further along the beach.
- **Beach Shelters** – NC confirmed that the beach shelters are EDDC assets, although are not subject to any kind of regular maintenance or refurbishment programme. The shelters are now in need of refurbishment. The working party agreed that there should be a review of the policy towards the shelters and it was suggested that some of the income from the Pavilion pay and display carpark should go towards the refurbishment of the beach shelters. This should be explored with Andrew Ennis of EDDC. FC offered to raise the issue with EDDC colleagues.

Action: FC to explore issue with EDDC colleagues.

- **Bins** – NC confirmed that the Big Belly Bins along Exmouth seafront will be replaced with the planned new 240 litre bins in time for the 2019 summer holiday season (they are currently on order). He explained that the new bins will comprise a wheelie bin in an enclosure, which will make the bins easier to empty into the new waste collection vehicle via a side lift as well as easier to replace in future if they become damaged. StreetScene considered a separate bin for barbecues, but decided that as these are mostly left stacked beside the bins this was preferable to having another container.

The working party discussed recycling and NC explained that StreetScene are changing the recycling amenities from separate to mixed recycling, which they believe will make it easier for both the public to understand and for StreetScene to deal with. The one exception is glass recycling, which will not be available as glass cannot be included in mixed recycling otherwise it contaminates the load (which then all ends up being incinerated).

- **Gunfield Gardens** – NC confirmed that the chain-link fence has been made secure and the unsecured bench has been added to the job list to be addressed. He confirmed that his team has already been grass-cutting in that area and will shortly be planting en masse and then watering as part of the regular summer cycle of work.
- **Electrical wiring fault on the old-fashioned lamppost** – PS clarified that this is a Devon County Council issue.

- **Lights and shrubbery behind the Pavilion** – NC confirmed that the lighting has been fixed and the shrubbery maintenance has been added to the job list.

3. Update on the Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme

Members discussed where they believed the latest stage of the work had reached; NC believes that work will be starting on the seafront next. There will be a works compound established at Mamhead Slipway, although there will still be public access.

4. Update on the Jubilee Clock Tower

LB updated members that the original survey on the Clock Tower did not highlight any of the current issues with the roof or clockface. The next step is therefore to rescope the work and, once ETC has full costings, to bring it to Full Council for approval. LB highlighted that this would also require listed building consent. CJ will progress this on her return from leave.

Action: CJ to progress scoping work

5. Update on the Festoon Lights

LB confirmed that the Festoon Lights from the Mamhead Slipway to the Octagon have been temporarily removed as part of the Tidal Defence works. They will remain in storage until next year.

6. Update on the Flagpoles

LB updated members on the date of the annual servicing of the ETC flagpoles, due to take place on 19/20 June 2019. This will include any necessary repairs.

NC explained that EDDC are keen to launch publicity about the great achievement for Exmouth of being awarded Blue Flag (as well as Seaside Award) status, but due to the elections have been unable to do this until now (but will arrange this shortly). PB clarified that the Blue Flag will be flown on the new pole located behind the lifeguard hut further along the beach, and the Seaside Award will be flown on the pole at the Pavilion.

7. AOB

- **Queen's Drive Car Park** – NC confirmed that a bin would be installed on site.
- **Litter Picker Boards** – PB stated that he is aware of one existing board, owned by Sal Regan of Clean Beach Exmouth, which had previously been located outside the Harbour View Café. StreetScene have considered buying further boards, but there are issues over them being interfered with. The plan is therefore to put Sal Regan's board at the Lifeboat Station (or, if hers is no longer in useable condition, EDDC will buy a new one to be located there).
- **Feedback to StreetScene** – DP thanked Nick and his team for cleaning the Imperial Recreation Ground so well after the Festival. Working party members also commented on how good the seafront looked over the Bank Holiday weekend. NC and PB both highlighted the importance of community and individual responsibility (as seen in local groups such as Clean Beach Exmouth, Clean Streets Exmouth and the recent Town Team street clean) in helping to keep the town looking good. Finally, NC suggested working party members contact either him or PB directly with any future urgent issues (rather than waiting until the next meeting).

8. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 9 July – Walkabout Inspection

Tuesday 22 October

Meeting finished at 1115.