

## EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL - EXMOUTH TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Notes of our meeting of Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 10:00am in the Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall.

Action points in yellow

### **PRESENT**

Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Councillor (Chair)
Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Councillor
Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Councillor (in attendance)
Andrew Ennis	AE	EDDC
John Colby	JC	ALRUG
Tony Jackson	TJ	ALRUG
Lewis Ward	LW	GWR
Gerard Layton	GL	GWR, Station Duty Supervisor, Exeter Central & Mid-Devon Stations
George Shorters	GS	Exmouth Taxi Association
Richard Brown	RB	DCC (replaces Richard Elliott)
Jan Gannaway	JG	Cyclepath Exmouth
Geoff Skinner	GSk	ECA (for Roma Patten)
Tim Clatworthy	TC	ETC (notes)

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

TD was re-elected as Chair, proposed by JC and seconded by GSk. This was agreed unanimously.

### **2. APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS**

Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Clerk
Roma Patten	RP	ECA
Derek Fishpool	DF	DCC
Martin Gibbon	MG	Stagecoach South West Operations Manager
Olly Davey		Exmouth Town Councillor
David Poor		Exmouth Town Councillor

TD informed the meeting that RP's husband Vernon had died very recently. TD and JC expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Vernon for his many years' dedication to local transport concerns and green issues, and that he would be a great loss to the town.

### **3. ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

TD explained that new Terms of Reference were needed to reflect Action Points in Exmouth's Neighbourhood Plan. These would be discussed at a later meeting when newly-elected councillors had had a chance to familiarise themselves with the Plan and their new roles.

### **4. NOTES OF MEETING OF 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019.**

AE pointed out that:

- 1) Under item 8/Car Park Matters/1/a, it should read 'a dozen new spaces' not "dozens."
- 2) Under 8/1/c, there will in fact be a reduction of spaces once the work is completed, though there will be a temporary increase up till then.
- 3) Under 8/Cycle Trail Issues/2, the cables have not yet been installed; it is the ducts to house them that have been put in place.

### **5. ACTION LOG & MATTERS ARISING**

- 1) ITI: here was nothing new to report regarding the ITI.
- 2) Tesco, Salterton Road: A timetable has now been fitted to the bus-stop opposite Tesco in Salterton Road.
- 3) Draft Exeter Transport Strategy: DF was not present to confirm whether a hard copy of the online feedback form is available.

- 4) Exmouth population: TD was unable to provide the figures for the current and projected population of Exmouth that GS had asked for at the previous meeting, but hoped that the new Town Council would be able to work on updating these.
- 5) Proposed Stagecoach Service Review: Discussion to be deferred until MG present. TJ and JC have been asked to raise the lack of dovetailing between bus- and train-times at the station. TD thought the newly-elected Town Council would probably focus more on the greener aspects of public transport.
- 6) Joint Bus-Shelter Scheme: An update on the bus shelter situation was requested for the next meeting. TC to talk with LB.
- 7) CCIF funding from GWR: LW recommended ETP prepare a bid ready for potential submission this summer as, although GWR's franchise ends next March, CCIF has been highly successful and is likely to be repeated. We can put in more than one bid but each bid needs to have some connection with the railway, though it does not need to be geographically adjacent to it. Grants tend to average around £30 - £40K, though the range is wide. Details including guidance on CCIF can be found at [www.gwr.com/ccif](http://www.gwr.com/ccif)  
JC reminded ETP of the 2 action lists written up in September 2017 (by TD and LW) and it was thought these could be combined into a CCIF bid. GS suggested a taxi-rank adjacent to the station should be a priority and that taxi transport should be fully integrated into all local transport matters. TD to talk with LB and TC re. a process to involve stakeholders and all potentially affected partners so a start could be made before the summer. LW suggested RB contact DCC's EDG team so as not to have to return to square one. GSk added that the recently adopted Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan contains an ITI as a goal, and suggested the blocking off the underpass area and using the land gained in a more constructive way. TD suggested a new visit to the site to assess the current situation and also to look at the resources available.

## 6. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

RB reported on the following:

- 1) Esplanade and Bath Road: works here are almost complete. (Implementation of authorised Traffic Order.)
- 2) Tower Street is complete and being monitored by Enforcement Officers. (Implementation of authorised Traffic Order.)
- 3) The Colony: Some restrictions are being removed from the Colony. (Proposed Traffic Order.)
- 4) Streetlighting outside the station: This is outside RB's remit, but DCC Cllrs Jeff Trail & Richard Scott are both aware of the situation.
- 5) Carter Avenue bridge, double yellow lines: This is still being monitored and will come up in next year's review, though current impressions suggest that that stretch is not much used for parking.
- 6) Station layby: RB suggested this might benefit from being converted from double yellow lines to a Limited Waiting area, as this is more easily enforceable. There was some disagreement on this but it will go to next year's review.
- 7) Maer Road: PS suggested double yellows to reduce the over-parking there. RB said that the presence of double yellows had the effect of increasing speed, but that in any case, Maer Road was not on the list. PS said it had been and RB promised to check with Lee Cranmer.
- 8) Campervans: The TAFF will continue as there are continuing issues with campervans, in particular people living in them, not just traditional 'travellers'. On the seafront a light touch is being used, with information rather than tickets being issued, and GSk commented that there has been a significant reduction of campervans there.
- 9) Capel Lane: Neighbourhood Officers have contact with the owner of the property where vehicles habitually park unhelpfully, and will approach him personally.
- 10) Lifeboat station: partially blocked drain: As it does not present a safety issue, it is classed as low priority, given the further funding cuts suffered by DCC.
- 11) LED precinct: Overhanging trees. For some time it had been unclear to whom this land belonged and the area was neglected. Since DCC have taken responsibility for it the area is now inspected regularly.
- 12) PS raised with RB the anomaly of the 2 'new' lamp-posts on Exeter Road near Featherbed Lane, which were erected 2 years ago but have never been lit. RB to investigate.
- 13) RB was asked if the Plumb Park contractors would be charged for the serious damage their heavy lorries had inflicted on Douglas Avenue and Pankhurst Drive, whose pot-holes may not be large enough to qualify for repair but which presented dangerous traffic conditions, e.g. from swerving cyclists. RB to investigate.
- 14) PS alerted RB to the possibility of a collapsed culvert by Lyndhurst/Waverley Roads. RB to follow this up.

- 15) BB thanked RB for the fine resurfacing of Albion Hill, adding that the ‘tarmac in a bag’ had not proved up to the task.
- 16) TD said that the big Colony event in February and March had been most appreciated by residents, and wondered if similar treatment could be given to other areas, especially the other side of Exeter Road, though he was aware of the ramifications of the appalling reductions in funding to DCC.
- 17) PS thanked DCC for the new crossing at Rivermead on Exeter Road.

## **7. DRAFT EXETER TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

It was considered best to defer this item until both MG and DF were also present.

## **8. REPRESENTATION FROM NATIONAL EXPRESS AND EXETER AIRPORT**

It was considered best to defer this item until both MG and DF were also present.

## **9. STAKEHOLDER REPORTS**

### **A) ALRUG (AVOCET LINE COMMUNITY RAIL FORUM)**

TJ reported on the following:

- 1) Service interruptions on GWR have decreased despite 2 fatalities and an unexploded grenade, but overall in Devon and Cornwall the punctuality has improved with 92.5% of local trains in Devon arriving at their destination within 5 minutes and 75% running precisely on time; both improvements on the same period last year.
- 2) Cascade of rolling stock is having an effect with more ‘Castle Class’ (short HST trains) operating regional services, with the result that local trains are now generally operating with the planned number of carriages.
- 3) There has been no progress in talks to re-time the late services from Paddington to dovetail with the late evening St David’s-Exmouth services.
- 4) Walkway round the side of the station: all the drainage channels are currently blocked and while the water does eventually drain away, it is only a matter of time before the toilets are flooded. In an endeavour to finally nail down responsibility for the maintenance of the walkway, TJ approached EDDC who said it was DCC’s responsibility, who said it was Stagecoach’s, who said it wasn’t part of their lease. DCC have now conceded that the land is theirs but that it is a ‘Highway Not Maintained at Public Expense.’ However they have now asked their Property Services Section to resolve the matter.
- 5) GWR to keep a closer eye on the state of the forecourt steps, which are currently filthy. LW to look into this.

### **B) GWR (GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY)**

LW reported on the following:

- 1) 92.5% of services on time, compared with 90.35% in the previous reporting period. The criterion for “on time” is that local trains arrive at their station within 5 minutes of schedule.
- 2) GWR are now operating more trains at their planned length, providing more capacity; this is important short-formed trains contribute to delays at station.
- 3) The 125s have now been phased out.
- 4) A ‘next train’ indicator has been installed at Polsloe Bridge station.
- 5) A number of the projects under way at the last ETP meeting are now completed – e.g. Exeter depot reconstruction is under way, and the shelter at Exton is being reviewed.
- 6) Exmouth station platform service: Tannoy announcements are sometimes unclear for various reasons, one of which is windy conditions. LW informed us there are restrictions on volume, being so close to a residential area, and also the current tannoy system is linked to the real-time indicator, which imposes technological limitations on the quality of sound produced by the tannoy. He thought this may be something for ETC to consider in a CCIF bid.
- 7) TC added that on-train conductor announcements were variable, some almost inaudible or intermittent or unreliable; and that the recorded message re. luggage storage and ‘alighting’ from the train used archaic and over-complicated language where a more up-to-date, concise and simpler message would be more effective.

### **C) DCC PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

In the absence of DF, there was no report from DCC Public Transport.

**D) STAGECOACH (inc. review of services since September 2018 and Consultation on May 2019 timetable)**

In the absence of MG, there was no report from Stagecoach.

**E) CAR PARK MATTERS**

AE reported on the following:

- 1) Apologies for the disruption due to the tidal defence works but they have maintained maximum availability of spaces in the circumstances.
- 2) Lorry Park, Estuary: This no longer exists as it is being used by the tidal defence contractors, but there is a possibility of using this space as a campervan park once the contractors have left. AE to bring this up at Campervan TAFF.
- 3) Amusement Park, Queens Drive: to remain in situ for a few years.
- 4) Maer Road car park: When completed, the capacity will not have increased, but it will offer greater flexibility for larger vehicles.
- 5) There would be 50 extra spaces at the new Watersports Centre, but these would likely be more expensive as they would be on private property.
- 6) 'Boris bikes/greener transport': AE to talk with LW re. these being available near the station in order to promote greener transport.
- 7) Electric vehicles/greener transport: AE is working with DCC to progress this pilot scheme: Procurement to start in September, with the first charging unit available next year and many more to follow. Recharge estimated to take 30-40 minutes. He added that the time was right now, as there had now been time to see how different models had fared. RB said there were still issues to be ironed out, e.g. the probable demand for reserved parking outside drivers' homes, dropped kerbs, etc. LW said there was growing interest among rail passengers in electric cars. GS pointed out that Exeter City's levy on diesel cars will affect taxi fares and therefore add pressure to get non-diesel-powered vehicles. AE added that while Devon does not have local air pollution, national targets were not being reached. TD suggested ETC expand provision of air quality monitoring equipment, especially by Withercombe School.

**F) TAXI OPERATORS**

GS reported on the following:

- 1) He is now Chair of the Taxi Association, and has written to the Deaf Academy in regards to the deaf awareness sessions to be held at Ocean.
- 2) Recent assault on female taxi driver: The 2 culprits were only cautioned. GS would like to tap into the £10,000 fund that George Nightingale of Spoken has to tackle the problem at source. He was concerned that drivers of the new late-night buses might also be subject to assault.
- 3) Festival Sunday: On the evening of the Sunday of Exmouth Festival, trains to Exeter stopped running at 2150 after a fatality on the line. As no extra buses had been laid on, all those wanting to return to Exeter had to go by taxi. Families and groups of friends frequently had to split up due to the shortage of 8-seaters. He suggested that contingency plans should be created and also a more proactive approach to predicting trends in general. He also congratulated Carla and ETC for the excellent Festival. RB to talk with AE (as the Safety Officer Chair) to make headway with this problem. TD thanked the taxi drivers of Exmouth for stepping into the breach to help the stranded Festival-goers.

**G) CYCLE TRAIL ISSUES**

JG reported on the following:

JG is continually looking out for suitable cycle-parking places, and will email AE photos of likely sites, e.g. near Bumble & Sea, by the station/ M&S. Magnolia Centre possibilities to be forwarded to RB as this is DCC land.

**10. AOB**

- 8) Overnight parking for buses is now at the Pound Lane site. However to get there, buses are cutting through Featherbed Lane, which they should not. TC to inform MG.

**11. Next meetings: Mondays at 10.00am: September 16<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Please let Reception know asap if you cannot make these dates, and arrange for a deputy to stand in for you. Please also let TC know in good time if you need hard copies of the agenda/notes so as not to delay the start of the meeting.**

The meeting closed at 12.35pm.