

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL - EXMOUTH TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Notes of our meeting of Monday 16th September 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
Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Councillor
David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Councillor
Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Councillor
Roma Patten	RP	ECA
John Colby	JC	ALRUG
Tony Jackson	TJ	ALRUG
Lewis Ward	LW	GWR
George Shorters	GS	Exmouth Taxi Association
Richard Brown	RB	DCC
Jan Gannaway	JG	Cyclepath Exmouth
Tim Clatworthy	TC	Exmouth Town Council

1. APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS

Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Clerk
Andrew Ennis	AE	EDDC
Derek Fishpool	DF	DCC

2. NOTES OF MEETING OF 28th May 2019.

LW pointed out that the correct link for CCIF guidance is www.gwr.com/ccif, not as typed in Section 3 (7) in the May notes.

3. ACTION LOG & MATTERS ARISING

Strategic Plan: OD reported that there seemed to be a hiatus at EDDC concerning the Strategic Plan.

5 (5) Dovetailing of Bus & Rail Services: **Deferred** as no representation from Stagecoach or DCC Public Transport.

5 (6) Bus Shelters: Fernbank have promised to replace almost all shelters, but no recent update has been received.

6 (7) Maer Road: double yellow lines: HATOC order soon to be sealed (RB.)

6 (9) Capel Lane: AJ of AJ's Taxis said he hadn't received a letter re. inconsiderate parking; Stagecoach have not replied to our enquiry re the problems they experience. **TD to contact AJ personally after checking with Stagecoach that this is still an issue.**

6 (12) Exeter Road: 2 new lampposts still unused: **RB to enquire of DCC's Andy Ware.**

6 (13) Douglas Avenue & Pankhurst Drive: damage by developers' lorries: It is EDDC Planning, not DCC, who have jurisdiction here, and no requirement for the developers to repair the roads after completion was made a requirement at the planning stage. The meeting agreed that the numerous potholes in these roads pose a danger especially to cyclists and pedestrians although they do not fulfil the DCC criteria for repair. EU directives have allowed greater weight onto lorries and tractors, but the roads have not been strengthened accordingly.

DP, as Ward Councillor, to continue to pressure EDDC. ETP as a body could try to influence policies decided higher up the political ladder.

6 (14) Collapsed Culvert Lyndhurst/Waverley Roads: The hole on one side only has been repaired, leading to concern that cyclists may ride into it at night.

4. CCIF BID

TD thanked LW, JC and LB for putting together this year's bid, which addressed:

- Lighting;
- Information, particularly for buses, including an updated map;
- Replacing old signage with new, which should include signs to taxis;
- More bicycle racks;

- Possibly a water fountain.

Letters of support have been received from ALRUG and Richard Cohen, EDDC's Deputy CEO.

LW reminded us that the bid works need to be completed within 12 months and consequently bids that looked likely to fulfil this criterion were the ones likely to be considered. **JC thought we would need a project manager to ensure we completed in time. TD added we would need to attract match-funding.**

LW advised we should apply to DCC to open the rear gate but warned that further aspirations in the bid would be subject to the usual multi-agency complications. GS thought we had a 'duty of care' to our residents and visitors if we truly wanted Exmouth to thrive and we needed determination to create the changes we really need.

5. ITI BUSINESS PLAN

- 1) RP reminded the meeting that having an ITI was recommended in both the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan, and added that people will not get out of their vehicles unless public transport is, amongst other attributes, very easy to use. Furthermore the local air quality count is not as good as we might think and reducing vehicle use will help considerably here. **TD asked the meeting to contribute their thoughts to this process.**
- 2) RP reiterated her concern that signage at the station should be fuller, more obvious, and at the right height!
- 3) DP commented that these issues should be the province of a single authority to get around the problems we have been experiencing for years re progressing the ITI.
- 4) This should be deferred till we have better information on GESP. TD said his perception was that the GESP had not been finished / publicised, and others shared the same view. He added that GS's request about future growth data for the Exmouth area was bound up with projections through GESP.
- 5) TD led the meeting in thanking RP for her enormous contribution to local transport issues over the years, as she will shortly be moving away. She will pass on to TD all the information she has gathered, including from the Passenger Experience Survey, which she led on. **TD considered that the group would have to get together to complete RP's input...** but that she would be irreplaceable!

6. STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

a) ALRUG (AVOCET LINE COMMUNITY RAIL FORUM)

- 1) ALRUG have resubmitted last year's unsuccessful CCIF bid for the installation of wi-fi at Exmouth, Lymington Village, Topsham and Newcourt stations. A more favourable result is hoped for this time;
- 2) Last weekend's line closures were relieved by bus replacement services;
- 3) There were no bus timetables at the station and too little in the way of directions signage.
- 4) TJ pointed out that the path alongside the toilet was still subject to periodic flooding and that it was only a matter of time before the toilets themselves were flooded too;
- 5) There had been fewer service interruptions (168) in the year up to August 2019 compared with last year (207);
- 6) TJ had noticed that journey times between stations varied in timetables and between weekdays and weekends;
- 7) There were also discrepancies particularly regarding London connections;
- 8) TC also added that the printed pocket timetable for this route contained errors.
- 9) **The speaker at this year's ALRUG AGM is Matthew Golton, Commercial Development Director, GWR, followed by a Panel discussion. Venue: The Globe Topsham, 7pm. 21 October. All welcome.**

b) GWR (GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY)

LW reported on the following:

- 1) Performance: 88.8% of Devon trains arrived on time. Summer travellers take longer to get on and off, and therefore skew punctuality figures.
- 2) Some connections have been lost between branch lines and main lines.
- 3) The rolling stock cascade has been delayed by a year already, but there is no timetable for the cascade. RP added that the quality of rolling stock is very important to passengers; frequently it was wise to take a cushion. DP asked if the new carriages would have better luggage facilities; LW replied that there was probably more room than people realised, but they don't always find the right part of the train: it can be difficult to see from the platform. The 143s provide the best luggage and cycle facilities. DP added that he has given up with Cross Country services to Bristol: he now travels via Weston-Super-Mare to be sure of a seat. LW suggested we highlight to them the growth in passenger numbers over the years but not the corresponding increase in train length which should go with it. TD encouraged us to petition as a group as we would have a louder voice.

- 4) Rear gate and better access to taxis: The land was actually owned by DCC (not EDDC). It is a GWR decision whether to open the rear gate, and at present, LW does not have support of local management to do this, but would perhaps try to discuss this further. LW also felt that the issue of taxis using the back of the station could at least partly be addressed by their clear inclusion on the signs in the bid.

c) DCC PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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

d) DCC HIGHWAYS

- 1) HATOC: the next meeting is in November.
- 2) Maintenance: Town centre footways across the county are being improved; concerning Exmouth, Magnolia Walk, Tower Street, and Exeter Road will have the flagstones taken up and replaced with flat-top.
- 3) Carriageway work: No date yet for resurfacing the Parade.
- 4) Electric car charging: To be taken on by the private sector. Appropriate sites, generally where there is not much on-road parking availability, are being looked at. DCC intend to pilot charging on pavements in areas of mass on-street parking.
- 5) Salterton Road: PS commented that recent repairs here were already breaking up, as were the painted lines; both seemed to be of inferior quality. RB said a different surface had been used there and that DCC would probably not use that surface again in future repairs.
- 6) Traffic lights at Liverton Business Park? RB and DCC Cllr Jeff Trail are pressing for a solution at this junction.
- 7) Featherbed Lane: Heavy lorries and buses should not be using this lane, but there is insufficient Police/ Traffic Warden presence to enforce this ban.

e) EDDC CAR PARKS

In the absence of AE, there was no report from EDDC Car Parks.

f) STAGECOACH

- 1) In the absence of a representative, there was no report from Stagecoach as Chris Comer, Deputy Operations Manager, was unable to be present but had undertaken to attend in future. However, RP is due a meeting with Karen Hodder, Stagecoach's Commercial Manager.
- 2) RP will mention to Karen Hodder that (a) buses are pulling off while passengers are still climbing the stairs; (b) some younger passengers stay standing or sit on the stairs, giving the impression that the bus is fuller than it is.
- 3) A recent parade in Sidwell St, Exeter disrupted buses for 1.5 hours but IK pointed out there was a Topsham Road accident on the same day. Twitter communication is now very patchy but a lot of people rely on it for up-to-date information.
- 4) DP said that the 157 and 98 services sometimes do not turn up at all; RP has seen 5 buses at one time in the Parade and passengers having to alight in the road.

g) TAXI OPERATORS

GS reported on the following:

- 1) No Excuse for Abuse poster.
- 2) Free day out offered to an Exmouth resident (could be to the value of £240.) Names to be put forward by ETC councillors.
- 3) A 50p rise in taxi fares has been suggested.
- 4) There has been misbehaviour on the new late-night 57 bus services, though not as much as anticipated, and the income has been good for Stagecoach, whose drivers also receive a bonus for the late-night work.

h) CYCLE TRAIL ISSUES

- 1) JG is meeting AE on Thursday to identify new cycle parks.
- 2) OD pointed out there are no facilities to park bicycles at Lidl; JG though all local shops should provide cycle places.
- 3) OD observed that the Exmouth – to Budleigh Salterton cycle path was now in poor condition. **RB to write to Rights of Way.**

7. AOB

Transition Exmouth: With Adrian Toole stepping down after years of chairing the group, a new committee has been set up. TD and JG are on the committee and will be pressing for sustainable transport.

8. Next meetings: Monday at 10.00am: November 18th.

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 12.15pm.