

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 20th July 2020 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

Present

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey (ex officio)	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Council
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Simon Kennedy	SK	East Devon District Council (StreetScene representative)

Apologies

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council and Transition Exmouth Representative
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Rev. Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the first virtual meeting of COLP. Apologies were received as above.

When sending his apologies, ECA member Geoff Skinner had asked if an update could be provided on:

- Queen's Drive Phase 3
- The Town Council's assessment of the impact of Covid-19 on the town and how it is responding to this.

The Chairman confirmed he had not seen this request. There had not been sufficient time or opportunity to obtain a full update. However, East Devon District Council was yet to provide an update on Queen's Drive and the Town Council was working with the District Council in assessing the impact and helping businesses to operate in a safe manner.

2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2020 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were discussed.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy

The Town Council, as part of the work to meet GA12 of the Neighbourhood Plan, was investigating the feasibility of improving the accessibility across the town, in particular creating a cycle path through Bapton Valley linking Partridge Road, Parry's Farm Close and Pound Lane.

Wild Exmouth was to be congratulated in its support towards this work.

5. StreetScene Update

Simon Kennedy confirmed that additional seasonal staff were taken on over the summer season including resources to help with the extra cleaning of public toilets. The public toilets across the district were being cleaned 4-5 times a day and, in some circumstances, up to 6 times a day, which was being positively received by members of the public. Additional bins have also been added along the seafront and around the Maer.

Queen's Drive play area has opened and StreetScene has provided additional resources specifically for this area.

The EDDC REACT team have enforcement capabilities and regularly patrol for dogs in dog ban areas and litter offenders. However, it seems litter offenders are more prone to offend late in the evening.

The wall by the entrance of Gunfield Gardens has been hit and damaged. The work is in hand with EDDC Engineers, but Simon was unsure of when it was likely to be repaired.

There has been much concern over BBQs being left on the beach and Simon confirmed that the special bins that were already available (four in total) were not always full. StreetScene will add an additional two more and see if this helps alleviate the problem.

Simon was unaware of any plans to open the toilets at Orcombe Point or provide alternative mobile toilets but will report back to EDDC the concerns around the need for additional facilities.

Action: Simon Kennedy to provide an update on when the wall at Gunfield Gardens is to be repaired as well as the need for opening of additional toilets.

6. Greater Exeter Strategic Plan Update (GESP)

COLP members were informed that East Devon District Council will be considering whether to take part in the consultation in a Strategic Planning meeting on 23rd July and that the report on GESP was available on the district council website.

Although there was no development planned within Exmouth, there was a need for more employment and better infrastructure to meet the increase in housing proposed in GESP.

7. Update from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives

Flooding and Land Drainage – A virtual meeting took place on 14th July with representation from DCC Highways, Flood Risk Management, Environment Agency, East Devon District Council and South West Water, as well as Town Councillors. The group discussed residents' concerns around the work at Regents Gate. EDDC will continue with the discussions with SWW to help alleviate these concerns.

Much of the work for the Tidal Defence Scheme has been completed and praise was given to the standard of work, especially around Morton Crescent. Kier was also thanked for adding the service ducts to the Sea Scouts Hut on the Imperial Recreation Ground.

Work will continue in September to complete the remainder of the work.

Town Maintenance Contracts TAFF – The group has been meeting to ensure maintenance work under contract with external organisations continues, especially during this difficult period. It was noted that the vibrant flower towers around the town, as well as the hard work put in by Exmouth in Bloom, were a positive attribute for the town.

Tony Siddall added that the Friends of the Hospital had arranged for two flower tubs to be added to the hospital grounds for the enjoyment of patients.

Exmouth Transport Partnership - The meeting scheduled for June was cancelled as stakeholders did not show enthusiasm to join. Bus services have been back to normal for most of July. The Active Travel Day will hopefully be reactivated when conditions allow. The funding bid for the station area and forecourt has not gone ahead. However, Exmouth Town Council was advised by Great Western Railway that the bid would have scored highly on their criteria.

DCC have the results of the survey on residents' parking near the town centre, with publication to take place in December at the next HATOC meeting.

Councillor T Dumper will be attending a virtual meeting of the Electric Vehicle Charging Network on Wednesday with DCC and the Energy Saving Trust, who are organising the Devon-wide network.

Councillor A Bailey has continued chasing EDDC for an update on the reinstatement of the Queen's Drive Delivery Group.

Councillor P Stott confirmed that work on the Beach Wheelchair project continues and the funding donated will still be needed to help deliver this.

Additionally, work has continued in delivering four water bottle-refilling stations which will help ease the litter issue on the seafront and beach.

8. Agenda items requested by members

ECS – request to put into action the change to expand the dog ban area on the beach in Exmouth by ensuring all signage is amended and proper notification is given to the public.

Simon Kennedy, as the representative of StreetScene, was asked if there were any plans in place to ensure proper notification was given to the public. Simon confirmed he was unsure and will enquire and provide an update.

Action: Simon Kennedy to enquire if StreetScene has plans in place to ensure proper notification is given to the public on the new dog ban areas on the beach and to provide an update.

9. Any Other Business

Councillor T Dumper declared a personal interest as a member of the Transition Exmouth (TE) Umbrella group in a personal capacity.

TE is working hard with Exmouth Town Council to move towards the new website giving people information for local and wider use for reducing their carbon and ecological footprint. The website is being designed now by a professional designer, and the Town Council has provided the funding for this. It is planned that a high-profile launch will be given to this when ready to raise awareness and interest.

Efforts are being made to bolster moves to make funding more likely for better cycle paths around the town. There was disappointment that the Government road reallocation money could not be used in Exmouth, especially on the seafront.

Tony Siddall confirmed that there were no plans yet for VJ celebrations or poppy collection and that they were waiting for further guidance from the British Legion on how best to proceed.

Steve Jones, the new rector for Holy Trinity Church, was now in post and Tony will organise a suitable time for him to meet with members.

Memory Cafes were impacted by Covid-19, with members finding it difficult to meet due to the current restrictions. Alternative meeting points were being sought.

The Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme July Newsletter was noted.

10. Dates of future meetings

The meeting will be on 17th August as a virtual meeting.

The meeting finished at 11.05am.