

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL: FLOODING & LAND DRAINAGE WORKING PARTY

Notes of the meeting held at 2pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as a virtual Zoom meeting.

### Present

Bruce De Saram	BDS	Exmouth Town Councillor, Chair
Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Councillor
Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Councillor
Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Councillor
Cherry Nicholas	CN	Exmouth Town Councillor
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council Officer
Tom Buxton-Smith	TBS	EDDC, Engineering Project Manager
Richard Elliott	RE	DCC, Neighbourhood Highways Engineer
Cameron Robison	CR	DCC, Neighbourhood Highways Officer
Jessica Bishop	JB	DCC, Senior Flood & Coastal Risk Officer
Jim Faux	JF	Environment Agency Area Officer
Kate Pearson	KP	Environment Agency, Flood Resilience Team
Dave Hancock	DH	Environment Agency, Project Manager
Tim Clatworthy	TC	Exmouth Town Council Notetaker

### Apologies

Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Councillor
Andrew Colman	AC	Exmouth Town Councillor
Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Councillor
Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Councillor
Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Councillor
Joy Whipps	JW	Exmouth Town Councillor
Joe Whibley	JoeW	Exmouth Town Councillor
Jeff Trail	JT	Devon County Councillor
Dom Maxwell-Batten	DMB	DCC, Emergency Planning Officer
Jayne Johnson	JJ	Kier Public Liaison Officer

### 1. Welcome and apologies

BDS welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

### 2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were agreed.

### **3. Matters Arising**

As JT was not present, there was no further information available on the South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. It was noted that on its website a meeting was planned for 9<sup>th</sup> July. The Deputy Town Clerk had emailed JT for an update of this meeting.

Tidal Defence Flood Gates – A report was to be presented to EDDC's Cabinet for a joint proposal to help with the closing of all flood gates, including those yet to be installed. Further discussions are likely to take place to finalise arrangements.

Flooding issues in Manor Gardens have been dealt with by EDDC.

### **4. Update from EA and Kier**

Work has completed on the wall at Morton Crescent and Imperial Hotel.

Works continued around Royal Avenue and the realignment of the road and reinstatement of the triangle car park.

Camperdown Creek hard wall and foundation work was now complete.

There was a demob during the summer period with work starting as soon as permissions were obtained from Highways, primarily for the work at the Alexandra Terrace junction and the table-top work by Premier Inn and The Grove.

Flood gates were all to be installed in the next phase of work.

Councillors noted the improvements at Morton Crescent and the positive feedback received from residents on this newly improved area.

Kier were thanked for installing the service ducts to the Sea Scout Hut on the Imperial Recreation Ground.

**Action: The Environment Agency will circulate a plan and schedule of planting and reinstatement of trees.**

### **5. South West Update**

Issues with contractors resulted in a delay in the Regents Gate Drainage Scheme but it has now been re-planted and re-turfed.

The drainage from the scheme differed from where the original contractors thought. They advised it was connected into the SWW sewer in Long Causeway, however this was not the case. It is currently connected to a soakaway in the rear of number 15 Regents Gate. SWW were scoping this to remove the drainage from the soakaway and put it into the SWW sewer in Long Causeway as was originally planned.

A SWW representative had met many of the residents in Regents Gate as many were not happy with the look of the scheme, as well as meeting with the SWW engineering department and representatives from EDDC. The SWW engineering department are liaising with the residents of Regents Gate and will probably have another site meeting with them at some point along with the representative from EDDC, as the maintenance of the scheme (grass cutting etc) will be handed over to EDDC at some point. Nothing has been scheduled in yet.

Residents of Regents Gate are keen to have the scheme removed and put back how it was, but this is not likely to happen. The point of the scheme was to reduce surface water getting into the network to reduce consented spills from the sewers during periods of heavy rainfall and improve the bathing water quality at Exmouth as it is a blue flag beach.

There were no other updates from SWW.

EDDC's Engineering Project Manager, TBS, confirmed that further discussions were required as there were concerns that taking on this responsibility was resource intensive as well as introducing a water hazard where there was none. EDDC will be liaising directly with SWW.

## **6. EDDC Update**

There have been no major flooding issues in Exmouth.

## **7. DCC Update**

### **Highways**

Due to lack of rain there were no major issues. During this period, much of the gully clearing work has taken place on the highway across Devon whilst roads remained quiet.

Exmouth is due its tri-annual gully clean early next year.

Priority will be given to blocked drains which will cause flooding to properties rather than blocked drains at the top of a hill.

### **Flood Risk Team**

The Flood Risk Strategy is currently being worked on and Exmouth is likely to be included as surface water flooding is of concern. A consultation is likely to take place later this year and more information is to be available for the next meeting.

## **8. Flooding concerns from ETC Councillors**

Concern was raised over the recent planning application at Goodmores Farm where permission is being sought to remove trees. Councillors were concerned that surface water is likely to cause flooding via The Poet's Estate and the Brook. The

Environment Agency, Highways and Flood Risk Team were asked, as consultees, to investigate these concerns, review the runoff rates and respond accordingly.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

No other business was brought forward.

#### **10. Dates of future meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

#### **11. Meeting Closure**

The meeting finished at 2.45pm.