

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Community Organisation Liaison Panel (COLP)

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on 17<sup>th</sup> August 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
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council and Transition Exmouth Representative
Keith Bungay	KB	Exmouth Community Association
Dave Radford	DR	Exmouth Civic Society
Tony Siddall	TS	Churches Together
Nick Christo	NC	East Devon District Council (StreetScene representative)
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Jennifer Wellington	JW	Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker)

### Apologies

Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Geoff Skinner	GS	Exmouth Community Association
Rev. Simon Atkinson	SA	Churches Together

### 1. Welcome and apologies

DP welcomed members to the meeting.

**Action: DP to email Rev. SA from COLP in response to his recent operation.**

### 2. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were approved.

### 3. Matters Arising

Queen's Drive update:

It was noted that an update on the work at Queen's Drive was needed as there had not been much activity for some time.

AB confirmed that it had been proposed at East Devon District Council (EDDC) Cabinet that a new Queen's Drive Committee be set up with similar Town Council representation and PS added that this will be confirmed at EDDC's Full Council meeting on the 20th August 2020.

It was also noted that EDDC will need to review arrangements for the temporary car park situated at Queen's Drive as the planning permission was due to expire on 15th

September 2020. It was unknown whether EDDC will apply for this area to be permanently used as a car park.

**Action: DP to send Queen's Drive updates to COLP members when received by the Town Council.**

Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP):

EDDC's Strategic Planning Committee has recommended to EDDC Full Council that it does not take part in the GESP consultation process. This recommendation will be ratified by the Council at its meeting to be held on the 20th August 2020.

COLP members felt that this was not a sensible move as EDDC would not be in a strong position to shape the future of the district and that EDDC seem to be focussed on recommendations rather than the process.

#### **4. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy**

CJ confirmed that work continued investigating the possibility of improving the access links across the valley parks (GA12) with focus being on a cycleway through Bapton Valley Park. A meeting is to be arranged with EDDC engineers to determine ownership issues and the feasibility as well as agree design and specification. From here, costs can be calculated. The aim is to seek approval, possibly as a CIL project.

CJ confirmed that the Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party will be meeting to discuss assisting with the opening and closing of non-highway tidal defence flood gates in line with NEA11. The working party will be considering a tri-party agreement with the Environment Agency (EA) and EDDC.

Updates will be provided to all COLP members.

#### **5. StreetScene Update**

NC provided an update as follows:

- The level of service demand has been off the chart as the district has been busy with "staycations" and visitors. Teams have been working more hours and public toilets were being cleaned four/five times a day.
- Requests to open more public toilets have been received and Streetscene is monitoring the situation.
- Seasonal staff were working hard on the seafront with an additional 5 tonnes of litter a week being cleared away. One weekend saw 16 tonnes of litter over the two days during the good weather in June/July. The volunteer litter pickers were thanked for helping.

- BBQ issues – EDDC were engaging with shops to try and reduce BBQ incidents on the beach and in litter bins.
- Pavement licences were now being issued by EDDC. This has affected the Strand with three businesses (The Grapevine, Bayleaf and Spoken) taking up much of the grass space until the end of October. EDDC will re-evaluate the arrangements for the winter months. NC confirmed that the pavement licence allowed for the erection and use of marquees.
- Summer/Winter planting – it was confirmed that the nursery supplier was unable to complete the agreed contract. However, the re-wilding project was working well with more planting of wildflowers planned in and around town.
- EDDC continued to employ the Grounds Maintenance Seasonal Worker (paid by the Town Council).
- Comparable stats in August – it is estimated that this year will see double the service level demand compared to previous years.

Abode of Love project:

Work at the request of the Waterfront Working Party had started and was a vast improvement. EDDC had received lots of positive comments.

**Action: NC to check if anti-graffiti paint had been used.**

AB/BB thanked EDDC for all their efforts in looking after the seafront. Concerns around campervans parking in the car park on the seafront were discussed and NC confirmed that AB's email about this had been forwarded to the car parks team.

BB asked about the possibility of employing a late-night car park warden. NC confirmed that carparks are locked earlier from September onwards.

**Action: NC to raise this suggestion with Andrew Ennis, Car parks Team.**

TS confirmed he had worked with Streetscene to tidy up the War Memorial area including replacing all the plants that had died in the troughs. TS thanked Simon Kennedy for his help in ensuring the area was tidy for the Royal British Legion's VJ Day service.

**DP proposed, seconded by TS, and it was agreed to recommend to the Town Council that a press statement be published thanking the volunteers and Streetscene for their efforts on the seafront with the additional litter and cleaning of public toilets.**

## **6. Information from Exmouth Town Council**

The Government had produced a white paper on changes to the Planning System to enable the continuation of building new homes. Consultation on this had started and members were advised to read and respond directly.

CJ confirmed that in the past very close/near-misses between swimmers and jet skis had occurred. The Harbourmaster has suggested that the Town Council assist by purchasing safety buoys which the Harbourmaster will arrange to put out each year. The Harbourmaster will be attending the next Town Council meeting to provide more information.

PS raised the issue that the change of tides and sand movement had created dangerous conditions, especially with regards to the distance the shallow sea bed extends out towards the channel and the varying changes in sea depths. She suggested that the Harbourmaster and EDDC also discuss what safety options are available.

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

The notes of all Working Parties from 2019 onwards can be accessed on the Town Council website and all new notes written conformed to the new accessible legislation.

Most meetings were now taking place as virtual meetings, and this was working well.

Flooding and Land Drainage:

In addition to meetings regarding the flood defence work, the other main concern raised at the Flooding and Land Drainage meeting was the work at Regents Gate. The work by South West Water (SWW) ensured the water that was pumped through the sewerage system and into the sea was of good quality. However, residents had raised several concerns. SWW confirmed they would investigate. Ongoing issues with Devon County Council (DCC) Highway storm drains were also being investigated.

Also, at the meeting councillors brought to the attention of the partners the recent amended planning application for Goodmores Farm. There was concern that the removal of the trees could cause surface water flooding. The EA, DCC Flood Risk Management Team and DCC Highways confirmed they will review the planning application as consultees and ensure adequate provisions were made.

FC raised the issue that there was a sewerage smell along Salterton Road and asked if anyone knew the cause.

**Action: CJ to check for any recent or ongoing works in this area that could have caused the smell.**

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party:

*TD declared a personal interest as a member of Transition Exmouth.*

The first meeting of this new working party met virtually on the 11th August 2020. TD reported that members had reviewed the progress of the 10-point plan agreed at Town Council. Members present also received a copy of the Environmental Audit report which evaluated the carbon footprint of ETC.

At that meeting, the Chair of Transition Exmouth reported that the dedicated website for the public to use to help reduce their carbon footprint and live more sustainably

has progressed well and the launch was planned for September 2020. This website has been funded by the Town Council.

A programme of internal and external work was planned to help Exmouth become more environmentally sustainable.

Exmouth Transport Partnership (ETP):

Problems arising in the Parade regarding the small bus stop space outside of Greggs was an ongoing issue. ETP suggested that the loading bay outside of Halifax be moved further down towards the junction with the Strand so the bus stop could be extended. DCC Highways did some work in this area and extended the loading bay, not the bus stop. ETP will continue to pursue this matter.

## **8. Agenda items requested by members**

None provided

## **9. Any Other Business**

Redgate Planning Application

DP reminded members that the previously discussed planning application for the Redgate site on land owned by Tesco, on Salterton Road, to build an extra care/assisted living accommodation block with associated car parking and office space, was yet to be discussed by EDDC's Planning Committee. ETC's own Planning Committee had objected on the grounds that the proposed application was not in keeping with the current classification as employment land.

**Action: DP to inform members when EDDC's Planning Committee will be reviewing the application, in order to give individual community groups a chance to make representation.**

Unitary Authorities:

Members were made aware that Central Government planned to re-visit the creation of unitary authorities in England.

Flood Defence at Camperdown:

DR updated members that the Sea Scouts were working with EDDC engineers to install a link to provide essential services to the Sea Scouts Hut in Camperdown. This follows the flood works at Camperdown car park where, Kier at their own expense, added ducting to enable the services to be installed later.

Bus issues:

In addition to the bus stop issues in the Parade, BB reported that he saw on multiple occasions buses parked unattended outside of the Sports Centre, opposite the China Garden Restaurant.

As well as this, PS reported that buses still appeared to be using Featherbed Lane as a cut-through road.

**Action: TD to take up these issues with Stagecoach at the next ETP meeting.**

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

The next meeting will be held virtually on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The meeting ended at 10.57am.