

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE (NPSC)

Notes of the 4th meeting, held at 10.00am on Monday 21st December 2015 at Exmouth Town Hall

PRESENT

Roy Pryke	RP	Chair; Exmouth Community Association, Rolle Exmouth Ltd, TARA
Councillor Pauline Stott	PS	Exmouth Town Councillor, Halsdon Ward
Councillor Rob Masding	RM	(Exmouth Town Councillor) for Transition Town Exmouth
Ian Cann	IC	Exmouth Civic Society
Councillor Pat Graham	PG	Exmouth Town Councillor, Town Ward
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Councillor, Withycombe Ward
Councillor Alison Greenhalgh	AG	Exmouth Town Councillor, Littleham Ward
Councillor Cherry Nicholas	CN	Exmouth Town Councillor, Brixington Ward
Angie Drummond	AD	Chamber of Commerce & Town Team/Tourism Forum (standing in for John Thorogood)
Tim Clatworthy	TC	Note-taker

1.APOLOGIES

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Councillor Mark Williamson, Champion of Neighbourhood Planning for East Devon

John Thorogood, Chamber of Commerce & Town Team/Tourism Forum

2. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

These were accepted as being correct.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

- a. Position of Chair: RP said he is happy to continue.
- b. Position of Secretary: The financial situation has been agreed upon. A job description has been received and the process is under way.
- c. Producing the final report: MW will provide information from AECOM at the next meeting, as will RP from LDA.
- d. ***Since this meeting, we have been informed that two A2 maps for each Ward are expected from Pear Mapping Technology.***
- e. DECISIONS ON FURTHER MEMBERS OF NPSC
 - i. PS will try Rev James Hutchings and Rev Beth McDowell again after Christmas – when they should be rather less busy. IC pointed out that this underlined the importance of having named substitutes, who would work together as John and Angie were doing.
 - ii. RP suggested that each Ward Councillor should have a supporting Ward Councillor – not necessarily of the same party – to help carry the considerable burden of duties that will accrue during the development of the Plan, e.g. to help at meetings with Ward Residents' Associations, information-gathering, writing questionnaires, etc., as well as a stand-in for meetings. He added that he himself would also be hoping to find a Vice-Chairman for the same reasons.

f. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER WITNESSES

- i. RP had talked with Roma Patten and she was happy to represent Transport issues. It was pointed out at this stage that the lead representative of a particular interest group should be a member of NPSC, and that Roma was not. PS wondered if Roma could be co-opted.
- ii. It was considered that Brian Bradley and the National Trust should be approached at a later date.
- iii. The meeting was informed that David Wright had stepped down as Head of 6th Form, but PG said she would remain our bridge to the Community College as she is on the Board of Governors. IC suggested that if involving students at an early stage of this process, we should perhaps at Lower 6th [years 12 – 13] as this is a 2-year project. RP thought we might need a separate session with the Community College, to brief them on the processes, etc, of the Plan; we could make this decision when we are clearer on our project timetable. PS thought we should get Primary Schools involved; RP replied that we would need to agree on our Themes as part of the process, and that schools would be one of them.

g. UPDATES ON WARD-SPECIFIC DATA

BB provided several pages of detailed information on Withycombe Raleigh, which will be kept in our NPSC documents library.

h. TRELLO & COSMIC TRAINING SESSIONS

It was agreed that dates for these sessions could be arranged once we had made contact with COSMIC, who are away until 4th January. It was again stressed that we do need to be media-savvy in order to get through to as many people as possible.

4. OUTLINE PROJECT TIMETABLE

By mid-January the East Devon Local Plan should be ready, showing what is designated as housing, retail, business and coastal developments. RP envisaged that by the end of January we should have:

- a. Completed our Project Timeline.
- b. Completed our Consultation & Engagement Strategy (agenda point 5).
- c. Decided on our Themes for Inclusion (agenda point 6).
- d. Settled on our Ward evidence (agenda point 7) and at what level it should be pitched.
- e. Completed our documents library; AG wondered if there were common threads throughout these documents, and that if there were, they would help our vision and development.
- f. Had meetings with MW and Tim Spurway, and provided a brief report to the Council.

To follow, end-dates to be specified, but probably March/ April:

- g. Complete our questionnaire.
- h. Conduct preliminary consultations in Wards together with presentations.

September:

- i. Second consultation (= formal consultation on draft plan): showing what we have found, and asking if this is what people want in their town

November:

- j. Finalise what we want to say for the referendum.

5. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

RP proposed that by the end of February we should be preparing for our first consultation; by the end of April we should be having our first consultations at Ward level; by the end of April be starting to shape the first draft of our Neighbourhood Plan. Following that, having heard back from LDA and AECOM, we should be ready to choose who we would like to produce the presentation.

IC was concerned that this schedule might not allow us enough time for sufficient consultation; RP agreed we would have to be prepared to be flexible. PS added that Ward Councillors would have to present findings to constituents before publication, that there may have to be many consultations and that we would have to prove we had done these.

6. THEMES FOR INCLUSION IN DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In considering the Themes for Draft Neighbourhood Plan document (attached) a number of issues were raised:

- a. Renewable energy, sustainability: to be covered in the Local Environment section.
- b. Jurassic Coast.
- c. Pathways and Roads, etc – Geoff Morris has done a lot of work on this.
- d. Disability facilities.
- e. Ethnic minorities – their contribution to the town.
- f. AG wondered if we should have had a meeting with an impartial expert, Councillors and the public. RP thought this should be done with Tim Spurway, but before going public; and that first the outline should be established, which should be done in conjunction with LB.
- g. That as Councillors meet their constituents while doing their Ward rounds, they are entitled to share new information as it is found. They should also make use of our questionnaire – yet to be written, and which may be adaptable from IC's Budleigh Salterton model and Stroud's version.
- h. That regarding businesses without visible displays (e.g. solicitors, home-workers) we could request information from Suzanne Birkett, Nigel Wilkinson, and EDDC (as they collect business rates).
- i. Assets are only part of the picture: noting what we have lost – e.g. through poor planning – is also useful and serves as a warning against taking our assets for granted. The Windsor Square Police Station site was brought up, partly as an example of loss (it used to be an orchard) and also as an example of a town centre site which offers a range of development possibilities – e.g. social housing, self-build, small business premises with the square restored to its original architectural quality to become a place that people would wish to visit as well as live in. PS hoped we could write a Neighbourhood Plan that was exciting; AG said we have to be realistic throughout – and in this case the Police may just want to sell to the highest bidder.
- j. BB was concerned that the public are not really interested; RP said we had to go out to them and enthuse them: it's their town; and furthermore this initiative provides a new chance to communicate, as up to now communication has been disconnected.
- k. IC added that it will be up to Councillors to collect, and provide if required, evidence of having invited constituents to relevant fora.

- l. BB suggested we could start with groups who are already motivated to contribute to the town, e.g. Sea Scouts, St John's Ambulance, though we need to be careful of self-interested pressure groups.
- m. PS suggested a public meeting, perhaps in the Pavilion, showcasing information for each Ward. BB hoped that the public would bring us information as well as NPSC providing it to them. RP reminded us that we needed MW and Tim Spurway's experience and advice to help put this together.
- n. Exmouth's skills-base: How to make sure Exmouth does not get left behind, compared with Exeter? IC suggested we offer Exmouth not as an accommodation or industry hub, but as a recreational centre. RP quoted from "Ebb and Flow": "Seaside towns cannot survive on tourism alone." AD commented that the image that tends to come to mind when people think of Exmouth's businesses is based on hearsay, not fact. RP added that there is a lot of misconception about what Exmouth is like. IC said he would gladly provide information on Exmouth history, at both town and ward levels.
- o. BB asked if we might be able to attract part of Exeter University to Exmouth, perhaps in particular via Rolle. RP said that the University was currently reaching out, looking for premises well beyond its main campus. IC Commented that if it had not been for RP and Rolle Exmouth Ltd, Exmouth would not even have the Owen Building to call its own now – and that we may have to be equally assertive to keep hold of Windsor Square. Working within a Neighbourhood Plan gives us leverage, a legal standpoint, and funds.
- p. PS pointed out that DCC was in the process of selling off parcels of land, e.g. Davey Court, and was concerned as to what these sites would be used for. It was agreed it was essential to find out what land belongs to DCC. AG hoped this would be clear from the Pear Technology maps.
- q. BB warned against information overkill: advice from the Government planner was to keep applications simple.

7. WARD REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS ON LOCAL GROUPS

IC suggested that if anyone was struggling to find community groups, they might contact the co-ordinators of Neighbourhood Watch groups.

8. DATES FOR TRELLO & COSMIC TRAINING SESSIONS

Cosmic Training is closed until 4th January. TC will circulate dates convenient to them once they re-open.

9. NEXT MEETING

Monday 25th January: please note earlier time of **9.30 – 11.00**.

10. AOB

NPSC is required to report to Council: PS suggested this should go to Regen & General Purposes. RP and PS will work together on this.

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