

Exmouth Town Council

Presented by: John Wokersein, Town Clerk to Exmouth Town Council

Background

Exmouth Town Council was established in 1996 and has contributed greatly to the direction of the town.

Key Issues Highlighted:-

1. Demographic

Exmouth itself has a population of 34,055 (2004). Its demographic is very extreme with high numbers of young and old in Exmouth. It has the largest Community College in the Country and has a main campus for the University of Plymouth. It is also a popular location for retiring couples.

2. Spending

Until recently there has been little spending in the public realm and transport. In the last few years Exmouth has invested heavily in its public realm. This involved improving the general appearance of the area, increasing pedestrian zones and improving bus shelters and street furniture

3. Examples of Working Partnership

- Devon on the Move Progress Report 2003- Increased Public realm and transport spending.
- Exmouth Joint Forum – Attended by representatives from each of the Councils to discuss Exmouths issues.
- Exmouth Town Management Forum – Action group – brings together Private sectors, local organisations and the Council.
- Exmouth Town Maintenance Partnership - Local focus on local Issues e.g. graffiti / fly posting.
- Exmouth Public Transport Partnership – Involves bus, train operators and Local authority – Looking at transport issues that effect Exmouth.
- Exmouth Action Group – Community safety initiatives.

Recommendations For The Next DLTP (2006-2011)

1 Public Realm Improvements

- Surfacing, street furniture and urban design.
- Exmouths Queens Drive is a main gateway to the world heritage site the area needs to be developed to reflect this.
- The area around Geo Needle needs upgrading. Foot ways and walkways should be installed and the appearance of the general area needs improving.
- Greater pedestrian zones.
- Seafront surfacing, design and street furniture brought up to standard.
- Further development to Town centre and Estuary side to provide facilities for the town.
- Strand Piazza scheme.
- More consistent capital programme commitment.

2 Transport

- Greater frequency of bus services.
- Investigate feasibility of an extra platform at the station.

Handouts

The following handouts were issued to support this paper:-

- **Exmouth Town Council**
- **Exmouth Town Council Annual Report**
(Copies attached)

Panel Discussion:-

- Exmouth rather isolated, the sea is on one side and estuary on the other. Concerns that expanding the main road into Exmouth would damage the character of the area.

DEVON LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – 2006-2011

- Exmouth needs to develop further, improved and extended facilities and services are required for the area.
- Need to get more people using alternatives to the car
- Congestion problems in Exmouth are mostly centred around the Junior Schools
- Investigate the possibility of another railway platform.
- Traffic study and car parking movement study currently being carried out.
- To support Schools in the area Exmouth Council has set up a travel forum for schools in which school issues are identified and discussed.
- Currently the Council contributes
 - £4000 a year to community support incentives such as Ring and Ride and Shopmobility.
 - £7000 a year to subsidise buses
- In order for the Town Council to greater contribute to transport (particular looking to rural access), it needs to have consistent financial support.
- Exmouth has a budget of £200,000, a quarter of this is spent on public transport and town centre improvements. Such a large proportion is spent on this area as in the past these areas have been sidelined.