

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Exmouth Regeneration Board held at Committee Room, Exmouth Town Hall on 28 March 2019

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 9.30 am and ended at 11.40 am

1 Introductions and apologies received

Those present were welcomed to the meeting.

2 Notes from previous meeting

The report of the meeting held on 13 December 2018, was confirmed as a true record.

3 Declarations of interest

Cllr Pauline Stott – Personal interest. She was on the board of the water sports centre.

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Coastal Communities Funding

AH reported that we had now heard back from the MHCLG on the outcome of the Coastal Community Funding bids. Members noted that we had submitted a bid called Access East Devon which was focussing on a number of initiatives that were aimed at creating more accessibility for all within our seaside towns in East Devon. Grenadier Estates had also submitted their own bid for funding towards the Watersports Centre.

Bids were received totalling £84 million, with only £34 million available for this round, unfortunately, neither the EDDC nor Grenadier's bids were successful this time round. AH reported that she was in the process of analysing the successful bids to see what sort of activities they had funded and would contact Groundwork who assessed the bids to secure more feedback on the reasons why we were unsuccessful. The round's allocation went to 26 projects nationally, including eight in the southwest.

Grenadier Estates would progress with the Watersports centre project anyway as previously confirmed to Cabinet. The officers would review the outputs of the Access East Devon proposal which included a menu of investments including free WiFi and beach trampers and see what might be able to be achieved through other means, for example, in partnership with others.

It was noted that EDDC had set up a £20million commercial investment fund itself, so in future would be less reliant on central Government funding for commercially viable projects.

ACTION: AH to circulate the bulletin from MHCLG announcing the successful bids to members of the Exmouth Regeneration Board.

6 **Flood defence and sea wall repairs**

Alison Hayward provided an update from Dave Turner on the Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme. Planning permission for the whole scheme had been granted in January 2019. The reserved matters application for Morton Crescent had now been submitted, and the revised design incorporated feedback from the residents, with the wall to be constructed on the line of the existing garden wall, with similar detailing. Plans for Alexandria Terrace were being actively worked on, and the reserved matters application for that area was programmed to be submitted within the next couple of months.

There had been some early work to remove trees and vegetation before the bird nesting season along the route of the new defences. Over the next couple of weeks the compound area in the lorry park would be expanded to form the main compound for the works. The estuary side alongside the car parks and down into the recreation ground would also be the main area of focus when the Environment Agency's (EA) contractor TVO started work, with a 2 metre deep foundation to be constructed in advance of the precast concrete walls being delivered. TVO, the EA and EDDC had been working with businesses in the area to accommodate them as far as practicable during the works. TVO would ensure that access was available for the Exmouth festival.

Work on the seafront would start after the Easter holidays, with that work mainly consisting of strengthening the seawall, including excavating and reinforcing the foundations. All works on the seafront would stop during the summer holidays due to embargoes. The main works on constructing the new flood defences in this area would not begin until the autumn.

AH advised the Board that TVO had an excellent public liaison officer, Jane John who had been very proactive with communication. Jane could be contacted at Exmouth.PLO@Kier.co.uk and would be sending out a monthly newsletter for the works.

Jeff Trail raised an issue with transportation craft at the marina. Richard Cohen reported that EDDC were aware of the issue and of conversations between the user, Devon County Council and the EA, however it was not a district responsibility.

7 **Propeller Group update**

Jim Hill gave the Board an update on Propeller, which is occupying the old working man's club in Victoria Road, Exmouth. It offered a co-working space with a focus around growing companies and running events. Over the last few months they had been attracting people from much further afield and the not for profit organisation was growing fast, providing employment opportunities. There had been 104 members of the 'meet up' over the past three months.

Some of the organisations Propeller were in touch with included Exeter University Business School, South West Business Network, Grow East Devon magazine. It was noted that EDDC had supported Propeller by granting them business rates holiday. They would continue to assist by promoting the work of Propeller, building links and helping them overcome barriers where possible.

On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked Jim for his update and for promoting the area as a quality place for business.

8 **Queens Drive update**

Andrew Hopkins, Events Manager was introduced to and welcomed by the Board. He had commenced a ten month contract in January 2019 for the Regeneration and Property Team as an events consultant.

Queens Drive Space

Andrew Hopkins advised the Board that bar and food traders at Queen's Drive space would open on Saturday 6 April. Royal Opera House tour tickets were going on sale at midday on 28 March. Royal Opera House was a free ticketed event, with people encouraged to use the food stall and bar at the Queen's Drive space. Open screen cinema events which will take place in July and August will be ticketed and charged. It was also hoped to run relaxed Friday evening music events, working with the bar. It was noted that the play park had been well used over the winter period and had a good reputation.

It was hoped that partnerships would be formed with LED Pavilion, Ocean, Wild Exmouth and East Devon Countryside team. The focus would be on relationship building, working collectively to co-ordinate the Exmouth offer. There would also be increased social media interaction, for example working jointly with Ocean to promote events packages. Andrew was meeting the Savoy Cinema that afternoon to discuss sharing and jointly marketing Royal Opera House events. It was suggested that Last Night of the Proms could be shown on the large open air screen at Queen's Drive space. However, it is understood that this is shown at the Pavilion. It was also hoped that a family based approach to big football matches could be explored.

On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked Andrew.

Phase 1 – road and car park

Alison Hayward reported that work was going well on site, with the works due to complete on 19 June 2019. It was noted that the footpath in front of Queen's Drive space had been dug up and was likely to remain like that until 19 June as it was being used for utility cables. When the contractors leave their compound this area will form part of phase 3. In the meantime we are exploring the possibility of additional temporary car parking spaces being provided over the summer.

Phase 2 – Grenadier Estates

Alison Hayward reported that Grenadier Estates were finalising their tender process for their contractor selection. Contracts would be signed in mid May and work would start on site (late June 2019) as soon as the road was complete. Completion was due end of April/May 2020, with the water sports centre expected to open in early June 2020.

Information boards would be displayed providing details about the overall Queen's Drive regeneration. It was suggested that the 'train time line' could be used again. Consideration needed to be given to local advertising across the town and at gateway points such as the train station. A request was made for the transport interchange issue to be an agenda item for the next meeting of the Exmouth Regeneration Board.

Jeff Trail reported that the car park signage was still not correct in respect to motor homes and Alison Hayward agreed to report this back to EDDC's Service Lead – Environmental Health and Car Parks.

Phase 3 – Hemmingway Design

Alison Hayward reported on the Hemmingway Design work and the stakeholder event. EDDC had been working with Hemmingway Design and commercial property advisers looking further at commercial deliverability, so that there was both a capital and revenue outcome for the council from the area. There would be more information available in the future and the public would have an opportunity to feed into the process.

On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked Alison Hayward for her updates.

ACTION: transport interchange to be included as an item on the next meeting of the Exmouth Regeneration Board.

9 **Communication update**

Councillor Stott asked what was happening about Warren View. The Chairman advised that it was still progressing and that he would request an update report from Dave Turner on the Warren View engineering report.

ACTION: Dave Turner be requested to give a progress report on engineering at Warren View.

10 **Dates of future meetings**

Dates of future meetings, all commencing at 9:30am were noted as:

20 June 2019

19 September 2019

12 December 2019

Attendance List

Councillors present:

P Diviani

J Elson

P Skinner

T Dumper

P Stott

Also present (for some or all the meeting)

J Hill, Propeller

R Jacobs, EIC Group

Officers in attendance:

Richard Cohen, Deputy Chief Executive

Alison Hayward, Senior Manager Regeneration & Economic Development

Alethea Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

Andrew Hopkins, Events Consultant

Councillor apologies:

L Bowman

J Brown

J Humphreys

I McQueen

S Morton
R Pryke
L Rix
T Wood

Chairman

Date: