

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Notes of the Workshop meeting of Stakeholders held at Ocean 04.07.22

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 06.00 pm and ended at 0835pm

Cllr Hookway gave a brief introduction and welcomed all the stakeholders to the meeting.

G Mills – gave a short presentation outlining the format for the meeting and the issues to be addressed (presentation attached).

1. What will successful Place and Prosperity in Exmouth look/feel like?
2. What do local people want to see – what will attract them?
3. What do visitors want to see – what will attract them?

Group need to gain consensus on what the placemaking themes for Exmouth should be
Group need to gain consensus about what placemaking characteristics in Exmouth should be

The meeting then separated into five working groups to consider the themes and the feedback summarised below.

Themes for Placemaking

(Readers are asked to note that where duplicate themes were identified, they are not recorded which may make the groups presenting later in the evening appear to have had less of a contribution – which wasn't the case)

Group 1

- The group broadly agreed with the themes identified.
- Jurassic coast and maritime
- Accessible – yes
- The hotel question was confusing – accommodation would require a capacity study
- Average Spend £16-20pp
- Beach/beauty/accessibility
- Train – distance from???
- Pebble bed Heath
- Connectivity
- Signage – uniformity
- Library
- Sports facilities – eco hub housing in town centre
- cultural centre
- Estuary Trail
- Cycle infrastructure

Group 2

- The group broadly agreed with the themes identified.
- Art on the seafront = Free
- High End Art in the town = paid for
- Water feature = free
- Join up Bath Road
- Dinosaur park needs to stay = Free

- Jurassic coast gateway at Orcombe point centre based restaurant
- Sea/maritime heritage – marina and RNLI
- Crazy golf and paid for attractions – yes
- Seating – deck chairs are in situ – don't make the area smaller for families
- Parking is needed – not taken away
- Mixed economy and employment is required
- Need more within the Strand – proper information
- Better connection from the railway/through town/Strand/Bath road/seafront
- Signage will improve with if levelling up funding is agreed by Govt – signage should start from M5/Exeter to the town. Routes needed to be clearer in town to the seafront.
- Ocean has the ideal opportunity to expand
- Cost – quality – customer service – value for money
- Exe trail is successful but is abused by some
- We only have 2 main roads – so no cars would mean close Exmouth
- Agreed arts and culture were important
- Café culture was brilliant – more needed
- Family orientated attractions (for all age groups)
- Arts – agreed
- Sports facilities – require more playing facilities – not have them taken away
- Live music
- Agreed – more and better shops in Marina
- Hospitality required EDDC support
- Land train is great
- A tramway??
- USP –live music – watersports, Exmouth in Bloom, arts, café area in Strand
- Connectivity Needs to be better outside of the town i.e. Brixington – Withycombe Littleham
- Within the town – utilise Bath Road – popups required a revamp (total)
- Retail – board offer – more offerings
- More social centres.

Characteristics for Placemaking

Group 2

- Agreed with the bullet points presented
- The magnolia centre is a blot on the landscape
- Can the council(s) buy it? An aspiration? In partnership with developers?
- More nigh time attractions from the Strand to the seafront
- Xmas fayre on the Strand – other festivals
- Events in/behind QDS – objections expected
- Council need to be more robust with NIMBY objectors
- Be more ambitious and robust Aspirations
- Promote the outdoors off season – cycling, sea activities, walking dog walkers etc all year round etc with some all year round facilities
- A cultural destination is required – in town
- Beach and watersports are a key USP
- Demolish harbour view café and replace it with s statement building – ground floor retail/food and beverage. Second floor restaurant/cafe/bar
- 3rd floor (smaller) Coastwatch with some interactive features
- Continuity through the two is vita; - 'instragrammable'
- Exmouth in Bloom a good example

- Promotion of Exmouth locally, regionally and nationally v poor – lack of awareness
- Café and food and beverage key – not retail (small independents)
- Evening venues and activities, all ages 18+
- Extensive leisure activities not promoted/awareness of
- Festival? Lack of supervision of events
- Year round activities
- Beach bar for 18+
- 'No' culture from Councils/planners

Group 1

- Sea swimming need floating pontoons
- Water feature eg Bristol
- Kids splash park – Teignmouth
- Free BBQ area – outdoor cinema area
- Stuart-line cruises
- Night time economy
- Live bands etc
- use local produce markets
- Stepping stones – spaces for small business start-up's
- Do we need to reimagine what our town centre is for?
- Single use occupancy
- Green – both credentials and more eco friendly
- Look at seafront as a whole – not piecemeal
- Some discussion around need for missed please for different clientele eh harbour view
- Capitalise on Edwardian and Victoria heritage
- Safety concerns generally
- Agreed with need to be environmentally sensitive – but it needs a definition
- Local views?
- Informative education centre – connect with a new library
- Magnolia centre needs redeveloped

Cllr Hookway thanked everyone for their hard work– and advised that officers would write up an account of the evening and bring to the next delivery group meeting for consideration and to ensure transparency. Copies of all the material produced would be kept should we need to refer to it in the future.

Attendance List

Group 1
Cllr Nick Hookway (EDDC)
Cllr Brian Bailey (ETC)
Cllr Aurora Bailey (ETC)
Catherine Causley
Debbie Piper
Pip piper
Charlie Tapp (ETC)

Group 2
Peter Gilpin (LED)
Debra Quine
Anna Fitzgerald
Brian Helmers
Cllr Jeff Trail (DCC)
Cllr Richard Scott (DCC)

Apologies
Cllr Megan Armstrong (EDDC)
Cllr Jack Roland
Mike Watson
Cllr Paul Hayward (EDDC)
Geoff Skinner
Christine Ladbrook
Cllr Olly Davey (EDDC)
Hollie Smith-Charles
Stuart Coles

Officers in attendance:

Tim Child, Service Lead - Place, Assets & Commercialisation
Gerry Mills, Project Manager for Place and Prosperity (Exmouth)

Apologies: