

# **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **Notes of the Workshop meeting with Exmouth Town Council 27-06-22**

### **Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 06.00 pm and ended at 0835pm

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**

- Hotels need to cater for a wide range of customers – not just the affluent sections of society
- Seafront plans need to cater for people with hidden disabilities
- South West Coastal Path is not mentioned – well used and could be part of a USP
- Retail needs support
- Need to consider how Exmouth links to the wider East Devon area
- Need brown signs for the motorway
- Sea shanty heritage/maritime history

#### **Group 2**

- Agreed with mixed use
- Halsdon needs a pub and a surgery/medical centre
- Larger beach huts could be used as holiday lets
- Camperdown suitable for small businesses
- Seafront should have:
  - Music
  - small businesses
  - Splash – wet sports
- London Inn should be built over – library or museum
- Public hall for [small] events
- Jurassic coast
- Cafe (strand Bus Stop) **Andrew can you clarify this one for me?**
- Better signposting for youth activities as there are quite a lot going on
- Harbour view should come down but keep Coastwatch (look for alternative use(s))

- Bath Road should have market/market stalls during the summer months to bring the town to the seafront

### Group 3

- Climate change and nature must be central to all of our forward progress
- Need to integrate thinking through public education/information (including schools and adult education facilities)
- Need for community meeting facilities as a reasonable price
- There are relatively few publicly owned spaces in the town
- Derelict buildings are not attractive for anyone – locals or visitors
- Retail offering totally inadequate
- Need to attract more younger/middle aged people (we have a perpetual pressure from high, and ever increasing, numbers of older people.
- Emphasis on people from all income groups/diverse groups and recognise the cost of living pressures
- Need to ensure the safety for all – including those with disabilities and needs
- Don't leave anyone out
- Don't regard Exmouth as a suburb of Exeter
- The offering in Exmouth should be mixed use – this should cater for all tastes with some free and some paid for attractions
- Attractions must be accessible

Not so sure about:

- Jurassic coast
- New hotel not necessary
- Cultural buildings would be an asset

Must haves:

- Sea/maritime and estuary
- Proper transport and interchange around the station plus bus/walk 'stations' in outer areas
- Ideas from this group:
  - Eco hub (eg call of nature) more variety of uses in Phear Park
  - Better sports facilities – we are lacking facilities
  - Transport interchange

### Group 4

- New development must respect the history of the town to create a unique clear identity for the town
- Low cost family attractions
- More traffic free areas
- A performance area on the seafront
- Hotel – low /med budget level
- Need to segregate cycle path from pedestrians
- Jurassic coast promotion
- Camperdown suitable for marine industries
- Build a marina in the 'Gut' (Camperdown)
- Create a park and ride for the seafront
- Theme of shipbuilding as part of Exmouth's history
- Improve link of town and seafront (Bath road), dinosaur trail
- Positive identity via history

## **Group 5**

- Need a new swimming pool – last one was paid for by public subscription
- Need a new sports centre – current one was built in the old railway shed
- New transport network for Exmouth
- Cover carparks with solar panels (like in Exeter) this would provide an income stream
- Need to consider demographic dynamics of Exmouth
- Change Seafront to a 20mph zone with a two-way cycle path similar to Sowton to Pinhoe
- Need to create a dedicated area for campers and motorhomes
- A tramway from Exeter to Exmouth – electric
- Create a velodrome at Queen's drive space, which has room underneath it for other facilities similar to Derby
- Encourage more variety of watersports
- Park and ride for town
- Multi-storey carpark needed
- Dinosaur themed pitch and putt
- Camperdown – for start-up businesses or Hotel
- Large play ships made of wood with ramps, ropes etc in the style of the Asian 'Junk' boats
- Indoor go-carts
- Need a hotel in Exmouth
- Ocean – kitchen in the wrong place – needs to be cheaper – ideal for family events, weddings etc.

## **Characteristics for Placemaking**

### **Group 1**

- Need to consider architecture
- Horticultural heritage needs promoted – Exmouth Camellia, parks and gardens
- Food and Drink: Local produce, breweries, vineyards, gin, eateries, seafood mussels etc.
- A Pier
- Watersports offering – not just kite surfing i.e. sailing, rowing, gig racing
- Promote independent retail
- Promote our AONB, SSSI, and Exe Estuary Pebblebed Heath

### **Group 2**

- Need an all year offering
- Micro manufacturing, high tech, craft
- Need a hotel with an entertainment venue
- If we develop the dinosaur trail, we need to address the vandalism
- A visitor centre themed around Jurassic/environment
- Road crossing at station and imperial road need to be reconsidered.

### **Group 3**

- Need to be clear on our identity and purpose – don't get stuck in a rut
- Dinosaur park v popular

- Coastwatch – a bit like marmite – some think it's iconic others think it has no architectural merit
- River Exe SPA – beach management need to ensure the sands are kept at a manageable level
- Educational visitor centre – call of nature/Eco hub (at Imperial rec WCs)
- Architecture should be in keeping with existing – in keeping with the local plan
- Natural environment important
- Not tacky – but need to respect others views/personal tastes
- Museum and library need investment and development
- Diverse, something for everyone
- Seafront Attractions should be all year round
- Exmouth should be safe and confident
- Green – we have a developing green agenda at all levels - need plastic use reduction, wildlife ecosystem, maintenance, sustainable transport, more public recycling facilities and education
- Traditional seaside offering – need to move with the times
- Need things to do in the evenings – wider than pubs restaurants
- Maybe more variety at the pavilion
- We should exert influence where possible over private sector – need to strengthen laws/enforcement
- Agreed on the issues raised with the Magnolia centre, Post office, Thomas Tucker building

#### **Group 4**

- Need quiet areas for relaxing
- Places for chilling out
- Popup stalls on Bath road
- Open up more public area
- Eg, Pebblebed heath as it was being closed off – there is a right to roam
- Tiki bar on QDS
- Entertainment/music venue

#### **Group 5**

- Conservation areas need to be respected and updated Brixington Bystock
- Focus on visiting family and relatives – not tourists
- Develop a café culture with outside entertainment
- London Inn carpark, post office and Jewson's need redevelopment.

G Mills thanked everyone for their hard work– and advised that officers would write up an account of the evening and circulate it to the members. Additionally he would bring it to the delivery group meeting later in the summer for consideration and to ensure transparency. Copies of all the material produced would be kept should we need to refer to them in the future.

#### **Attendance List**

Group 1  
Lisa Bowman (Facilitating)  
Cllr Steve Gazzard

Group 2  
Cllr Pauline Stott  
Cllr Andrew Toye

Group 3  
Cllr Aurora Bailey  
Cllr Tim Dumper

Group 4  
Cllr Mike Rosser  
Cllr Brian Bailey

Group 5  
Cllr Fred Caygill  
Cllr Maddy Chapman  
Cllr Cherry Nicholas

**Officers in attendance:**

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

**Apologies:**

Cllr Andrew Colman  
Cllr Ian Kirvan  
Cllr Lynne Elson  
Cllr Brian Toye  
Cllr Tony Woodward  
Cllr Bruce DeSaram  
Cllr Joe Whibley  
Cllr Angela Boatwright

Cllr David Poor  
Cllr Joy Whipps  
Cllr Alan Whipps  
Cllr Olly Davey  
Cllr Alex Sadiq  
Cllr Frank Cullis  
Cllr Eileen Beech