

Report to: Cabinet



Date of Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release

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## Exmouth Motorhome Parking – Overnight stopovers

### Report summary:

A report detailing the proposed improvements to the overnight stopover arrangements in two Exmouth car parks following public consultation and consideration by the EDDC Overview Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

### Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

### Recommendation:

- (1) That Cabinet approve the recommended improvements to the overnight stopover arrangements as follows;
  - (a) Install a drive-over grey wastewater (shower & dishwater) disposal point in Maer Road Car Park
  - (b) Install a chemical toilet waste disposal point in Maer Road car park – connected directly to the sewerage network
  - (c) Install a fresh water tap in Maer Road car park.
  - (d) Reduce the maximum permitted number of consecutive overnight stays to 2 nights, with no return within 72 hours. This is in line with other authorities and prevents the risk of paid habitation within the car parks.
  - (e) Improve the signage stating the rules and restrictions for overnight stays within both car parks – including ground markings along Queen's Drive Echelon to designate bays suitable for overnight parking, stipulating a safe distance between vehicles.
  - (f) Trial RingGo only payment for overnight parking sessions to prevent vehicles remaining on site for longer than the maximum permitted number of nights.
  - (g) Increase the overnight stopover fee to £20.00 (currently £11.00) per night in recognition of the additional costs incurred in managing, maintaining and installing the physical improvements to the overnight parking arrangements.
  - (h) Ring-fence £5.00 (25%) from each overnight parking stay to fund enforcement activity specifically related to overnight parking.
  - (i) A yearly review to be carried out by the appropriate scrutiny committee.

These improvements will be funded using the capital funds initially allocated to create a dedicated motorhome facility on the site of Estuary Coach & Lorry Park

### Reason for recommendation:

The recommendations of the Exmouth Motorhome TAFF were first reviewed by Cabinet in January 2024. At that point it was determined that public consultation should be carried out to gather further feedback and provide assurance on the recommendations. The consultation has now been carried out with most respondents supportive of the proposed improvements (Consultation summary – Appendix A). These recommendations have also been formally

endorsed by Exmouth Town Council in April 2025. The recommendations were reviewed and amended to their current iteration by the EDDC Overview Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☐ Assets and Economy
- ☐ Communications and Democracy
- ☐ Council, Corporate and External Engagement
- ☐ Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
- ☐ Environment - Nature and Climate
- ☐ Environment - Operational
- ☒ Finance
- ☐ Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning
- ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities

### **Equalities impact** Low Impact

If choosing High or Medium level outline the equality considerations here, which should include any particular adverse impact on people with protected characteristics and actions to mitigate these. Link to an equalities impact assessment form using the [equalities form template](#).

### **Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk; Click here to enter text on risk considerations relating to your report.

**Links to background information** Click here to enter links to background information; appendices online; and previous reports. These must link to an electronic document. Do not include any confidential or exempt information.

### **Link to** [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☐ A supported and engaged community
- ☐ Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
- ☐ Resilient economy that supports local business
- ☒ Financially secure and improving quality of services

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## **Report in full**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Following an extended trial period, overnight motorhome parking is permitted in two Exmouth car parks along the south-eastern section of coastline. Queen's Drive Echelon (79 spaces) offers direct sea views and convenient beach access for vehicles up to 5.3m in length, and Maer Road (217 spaces) which is slightly set back from the seafront but benefits from a greater capacity and dedicated bays for larger vehicles.
- 1.2 As the owner of the relevant car parks, East Devon District Council has committed to continuing to facilitate overnight stopovers as detailed in the East Devon 2024 – 2031 Parking Strategy. Extract detailed below;

*Facilitate overnight stop-overs where appropriate, providing the necessary facilities to protect our natural environment.*

There are almost 400,000 Motorcaravans registered with the DVLA in the UK and Motorhome tourism is valued at over £1billion. Touring in motorcaravans is a year-round activity, and this type of tourism is well-catered for in EU countries through a network of Aire's. Such a network is not yet established in the UK; however, East Devon currently offers two car parks where visitors are welcomed to park and sleep in their vehicle overnight. This has proved extremely popular with around 5,000 overnight stopovers per year. There are many dedicated campsites that provide the full camping experience; however, our car parks are unique in that they provide direct sea views and easy access to the beachfront. Effectively managing this distinctive type of tourism is especially important as it also has the ability to negatively impact residents and the environment through anti-social behaviour and damage and pollution through the incorrect disposal of wastewater and materials. Ensuring responsible tourism will be a future priority for the car parking team, and this will include providing waste disposal facilities to be used by touring vehicles. Those who do not abide by the rules, or outstay their welcome, will not be welcome or permitted to return.

- 1.3 As the only town in East Devon that currently permits overnight stopovers, Exmouth has a dedicated Task and Finish Forum set up by the Town Council. This is comprised of Council officers from Devon County Council and East Devon District Council, as well as elected members from Devon County Council, East Devon District Council and Exmouth Town Council. The group meet at regular intervals to discuss the subject of overnight parking and suggest ways in which this provision can be improved.
- 1.4 Foxholes is the other EDDC owned car park located in this vicinity in Exmouth but does not currently permit overnight motorhome parking. (See appendix B). This car park is due to be resurfaced this year, and the adjoining toilet block has just been refurbished. Following a comprehensive scoping exercise by the TAFF, it was concluded that Foxholes was not suitable for overnight motorhome parking or facilities.
- 1.5 Between the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 and the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025 (2 years), there have been 10,813 paid overnight stopovers in Maer Road and Queen's Drive Echelon Car Parks. These stays have generated income of £119,013 at the current £11.00 per night fee, which also includes 24 hours parking at that location.
- 1.6 As far as overnight sleeping is concerned, there is a fire safety requirement for vehicles to leave a space of at least 3m (about the size of one bay) between vehicles, which reduces the overnight stopover potential of each location to approximately half of its total parking capacity. Due to the 24/7 nature of overnight stays, is not currently possible for EDDC to manage these guidelines, although Motorhome owners tend not to want to park in adjoining bays for privacy reasons, especially where they have side opening doors.
- 1.7 Devon County Council do not permit overnight motorhome parking along the seafront in Exmouth, with many of the inland streets now subject to parking controls. It is the preference of County that overnight motorhome parking is contained within East Devon owned car park sites, and therefore they are supportive of the continuation and improvement of the overnight stopover offer.
- 1.8 The nature and use of the beachfront for water sports such as surfing and kite-sailing is synonymous with the use of motorhomes and campervans, and by legitimising parking in this area, it prevents the spread and impact of illegal and undesired overnight parking in residential streets.

- 1.9 There are almost 400,000 Motorcaravans registered with the DVLA in the UK and Motorhome tourism is valued at over £1billion annually. There is also an unknown quantity of conventional vans which have been converted for sleeping, and as far as overnight stopovers are concerned, East Devon do not currently exclude this type of vehicle
- 1.10 There is currently no firm limit to the number of consecutive overnight stopovers that can take place in EDDC car parks, essentially permitting a vehicle/occupant to stay indefinitely upon payment of the nightly fee.
- 1.11 The current site of Estuary Coach and Lorry Park has previously been identified as a possible location for dedicated motorhome parking, with capital funding of £148,966 currently allocated to provide dedicated motorhome parking with facilities at this location. Up until the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, this site was unlawfully occupied by a group of “vanlifers”, who remained at the site following the completion of coastal defence works in 2020, it has since returned to its original use as a coach & lorry park, with the former coach parking area now converted to contain 68 additional car parking spaces as approved by Cabinet in January 2024.
- 1.12 The Environment Agency have raised concern over high bacteria levels in the Maer stream which flows behind Maer Road car park, the bacteria levels were reported as being 18 times what would ordinarily be expected. This section of stream can directly impact bathing water quality at Exmouth beach. The bacteria present in the stream is likely to have been contributed to by Motorhome toilet waste being deposited into the watercourse or nearby drains.

## **2. Reported and ongoing issues**

- 2.1 As well as the high reported bacteria levels within the Maer stream, since overnight parking has been permitted, there have been four primary concerns raised regarding the use of EDDC car parks for overnight stopovers, these are as follows;
- It has been witnessed and reported that some Motorhome owners incorrectly dispose of their grey (dish and shower water) and chemical toilet waste in car park drains and directly onto the nature reserve and into the stream running through Maer Road car park.
  - Vehicle owners are reported to park too close to each other when sleeping along Queen’s Drive Echelon, increasing the risk of fire spreading between vehicles, with the likelihood of this further increased by the presence of on-board cooking facilities and propellants.
  - Various inconsideration by some vehicle owners, which includes but is not limited to loud music, barbeques, and items such as tables, chairs and bicycles being used and stored outside vehicles within the car park. It is worth noting that these issues are not limited to the use of East Devon Car Parks, and these concerns also apply to those using on-street parking bays which are managed by Devon County Council.
  - Vehicles are staying for too long and becoming territorial, making for an unpleasant experience for other visitors, whilst also blurring the lines between stopping over and longer-term habitation.
- 2.2 The East Devon Civil Enforcement Team work 7 days a week 364 days of the year and Since April 2023, 286 PCN’s have been issued in Maer Road and Queen’s Drive Echelon. 73 of these have been for vehicles not being correctly parked within the markings of a bay. This is a prevalent issue along Queens Drive Echelon as there is a vehicle length restriction of 5.2m. Vehicles longer than this overhang the walkway to the

front of the parking area. This issue has been further aggravated by the build-up of stray sand in this area, preventing vehicles from parking as close to the rear of the bays as they could do otherwise.

- 2.3 With the exception of vehicles parking too close to each other during the night, the reported issues aren't necessarily exclusive to the overnight parking offer. In most EDDC car parks, motorhomes are permitted to park between 8am – 10pm. The recommended improvements will help encourage responsible tourism and ensure visitors are aware of the restrictions associated with this type of parking throughout the day.

### **3. Motorhome Task & Finish Forum progress**

- 3.1 The Exmouth Motorhome Task & Finish forum comprising of EDDC officers, Exmouth Town, EDDC District and Devon County Councillors that reviewed the initial overnight motorhome parking trial, reconvened in the summer of 2023 to review the current arrangements and consider options for improving the overnight parking offer.
- 3.2 Following the initial T&F forum meeting, and the meeting of Exmouth Town Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023, a proposal was made to EDDC to “request that a comprehensive scoping exercise for fully serviced motorhome parking at Foxholes carpark and/or alternative site(s) was undertaken as soon as possible”
- 3.3 The requested assessment document was produced and considered by the T&F forum at a meeting in November 2023, before a final recommendation was formed.
- 3.4 The main considerations made by the Task & Finish forum were as follows.
- Whether the resurfacing of Foxholes car park and the refurbishment of the adjoining toilet block was an opportunity to offer Motorhome parking with dedicated facilities in this car park.
  - If the area that was proposed for dedicated Motorhome parking in 2019, for which the Capital funding has been allocated, is still the most appropriate location.
  - Is there a sustainable demand for Motorhome tourism.
  - Should EDDC provide facilities for Motorhome users, including options such as waste disposal, fresh water, electric hook-ups, and public conveniences.
  - How can the additional stipulations regarding overnight-stopovers be communicated and managed, such as the requirement to not place items outside, park at a minimum distance of 3m from other vehicles whilst sleeping, and ensuring the lawful disposal of toilet and “grey” waste (shower and dish water)
  - How can any improvements be funded.
  - How does the approach to overnight motorhome parking correlate with the wider tourism vision for Exmouth
  - Can concerns raised in relation to the current motorhome offer be alleviated through policy changes and infrastructure improvements.
- 3.5 Parking management information, as well as consultation with CAMpRA (Campaigners for Real Aires in the UK) was used to inform the final recommendations.
- 3.6 The TAFF reconvened in March 2025 to review the consultation summary which resulted in Exmouth Town Council re-endorsing the improvements recommended in this report.

#### **4. Recommendations/Proposal**

4.1 The recommendations/proposal for improving the motorhome offer in Exmouth are split into two phases, firstly phase one for deliverables that are achievable in the short term, and a second phase for proposals that will require further consultation and consideration, including additional budgetary and planning considerations.

4.2 Phase one recommendations – to commence immediately.

- Install a drive-over grey wastewater (shower & dishwater) disposal point in Maer Road Car Park (see appendix C for an example image)
- Install a chemical toilet waste disposal point in Maer Road car park – connected directly to the sewerage network (see appendix D for an example image)
- Install a fresh water tap in Maer Road car park.
- Formally reduce the maximum permitted number of consecutive overnight stays to 3 nights – this is in line with other authorities and prevents the risk of paid habitation within the car parks
- Improve the signage stating the rules and restrictions for overnight stays within both car parks – including ground markings along Queen's Drive Echelon to designate bays suitable for overnight stays, leaving a safe distance between vehicles.
  - Trial RingGo only payment for overnight parking sessions to prevent vehicles remaining on site for longer than the maximum permitted number of nights.
- Increase the overnight stopover fee to £15.00 (currently £11.00) per night in recognition of the additional costs incurred in managing, maintaining and installing the physical improvements to the overnight parking arrangements.

4.3 Phase two recommendations – for further consideration

- Explore the possibility of providing motorhome only bays within Maer Road Car Park, inclusive of electrical hook-up points – similar to what may be provided at a privately owned campsite.
- Look to provide additional facilities for motorhome users within Maer Road car park, such as public conveniences and showers.

#### **5. Costs, Funding and additional information**

- 5.1 If agreed the existing Capital funding of £143,384 allocated for the dedicated Motorhome facilities at Estuary Long Stay would be used to fund the first phase of recommendations, with the surplus carried over to fund phase two.
- 5.2 The works to create the additional parking spaces in Estuary Long stay cost £5,582. With simple layout changes significantly reducing the anticipated expenditure.
- 5.3 The works to install the water supply and waste disposal facilities in Maer Road are estimated to cost up to £37,500 (depending upon the final specification)
- 5.4 There will be a cost associated with the supply of fresh water at Maer Road, this will be unlikely to exceed £1,500 per annum.

- 5.5 Signage, bay markings and an amendment to the parking order to reflect the parking limitations and increased charges will cost circa £10,000.
- 5.6 The increase in the overnight tariff will increase car parking income by £20k per annum (based on current visitor numbers) with the RingGo changes detailed below ensuring compliance with the new restrictions. This income will help fund the cost of waste removal, targeted enforcement and the fresh water supply.
- 5.7 By implementing RingGo only payment for overnight stopovers EDDC can use existing technology to restrict the number of consecutive nights that a VRM (Vehicle Registration Mark) can pay to stay within the car parks. A no return period can also be set meaning that vehicles will not be able to have another parking session started for a prescribed amount of time. This will ensure that vehicles do not stay for more than the 3 permitted days and cannot return within the following 3 days to start a new session.
- 5.8 Currently those wishing to stay overnight can use either RingGo or the Pay and Display machine to purchase their parking time. The P&D machines at these locations are not able to limit the purchase of tickets based on VRM's and therefore those wishing to stay longer are able to purchase multiple consecutive tickets for their vehicle.
- 5.9 Through the Parking Strategy EDDC has committed to providing cash payments for as long as practically possible. This recommended change will only apply to overnight motorhome parking sessions and will be implemented to manage and resolve a specific issue in the most cost-effective manner.
- 5.10 With the proposed increase to the overnight parking fee, it is not likely that those staying overnight will pay the parking fee in coins, the likelihood of this decreases further for those wishing to stay more than one night. RingGo facilitates card payments on the app, over the phone or on the website. As part of this change, card payments will not be accepted for overnight stays at the P&D machine, and the overnight parking tariff will be removed entirely from the machine specification.
- 5.11 The recommendations for improving the overnight stopover offer in Exmouth were split into two phases to ensure that the elements that are urgently required to improve the overnight offer and protect the environment in the short term were not unnecessarily delayed by the second phase.
- 5.12 There was unanimous agreement within the Task & Finish group and through the subsequent public consultation that the phase one proposals would represent a positive improvement and help encourage responsible overnight stays within our car parks.
- 5.13 If phase one is agreed by members, then the works to deliver these can commence immediately and the benefits of the improvements will be seen later this summer.

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### **Financial implications:**

The capital budget is in place to deliver works relating to overnight motorhome stays, this was designated to estuary car park in Exmouth and members of cabinet are agreeing to it spend on the same purpose but in different car parks in the town.

### **Legal implications:**

Changes to the Parking Order will be required before implementing these proposals.

# Overnight motorhome parking in EDDC car parks – Exmouth consultation summary report

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### 1. Summary

This consultation was initiated to gather feedback from residents and car park users regarding the overnight parking arrangements in Maer Road car park and along Queen's Drive Echelon in Exmouth. The primary objective was to evaluate the existing overnight parking provision and gather views on potential areas for improvement.

Specifically, the consultation sought to address three key areas:



1. Assessment of the current overnight parking arrangements
2. Identification of challenges or concerns experienced by users and residents
3. Collection of suggestions for improvement to the overnight parking offer.

The feedback collected through this consultation has been reviewed by the dedicated Motorhome Task and Finish Forum (TAFF) and proposals for improvements will be shared with the Extended Leadership team at EDDC before being presented to the Cabinet Committee.

The consultation was live from the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

### **Survey goals and methodology:**

The consultation was designed to gather perspectives on the overnight parking arrangements in Exmouth.

### **Target Audience**

The consultation deliberately targeted three primary stakeholder groups:

1. Motorhome owners who utilise the overnight parking facilities at Maer Road car park and Queen's Drive Echelon
2. Residents of Exmouth with particular emphasis on those living in proximity to the parking areas
3. Tourists visiting the area who may use or be affected by the overnight parking arrangements

While these groups constituted our primary focus, the consultation was intentionally made accessible to all interested parties to capture the widest possible range of viewpoints. This inclusive approach allowed us to gather insights from occasional visitors, businesses operating in the vicinity, and other stakeholders with relevant interests.

### **Methodological Approach**

The consultation was conducted through a structured survey instrument designed to elicit both quantitative assessments and qualitative feedback. The survey remained open for public participation for 40 days, providing ample opportunity for stakeholders to contribute their perspectives.

### **Key Insights Obtained**

The consultation yielded valuable insights regarding the current overnight parking provisions, including:

- Diverse perspectives on the adequacy and appropriateness of existing arrangements
- Specific concerns related to facility management, environmental impact, and community integration
- Constructive suggestions for enhancing the overnight stop-over experience for users while addressing resident concerns
- Areas of consensus and divergence between different stakeholder groups

These findings provide a robust foundation for developing evidence-based recommendations to optimise overnight parking arrangements in Exmouth that balance the needs of visitors and residents alike.

## 2. Survey process:

### Consultation Platform and Technical Infrastructure

The consultation was implemented utilising East Devon District Council's dedicated consultation software platform, Commonplace. This specialised system was selected for its robust functionality in facilitating public engagement and its capacity to securely collect, organize, and analyse stakeholder feedback in a structured manner.

### Distribution Strategy and Stakeholder Outreach

A comprehensive multi-channel distribution strategy was deployed to maximise awareness and participation across diverse stakeholder segments:

#### Digital Communications

1. **Email Distribution:** A formal notification was disseminated to all subscribers on the Commonplace mailing list, providing direct access to the consultation.
2. **Social Media Engagement:** Strategic announcements were published across the Council's official social media platforms at key intervals, including initial launch notifications and targeted reminders as the consultation closure date approached.
3. **Website Integration:** Prominent placement of the consultation link was established on the East Devon District Council website, ensuring visibility to all website visitors and providing an accessible participation pathway.

#### Institutional Communications

1. **Community Engagement Newsletter:** Comprehensive information regarding the consultation was featured in the Council's Community Engagement Newsletter, reaching organized community groups and active civic participants.
2. **Residents' Newsletter:** Details of the consultation were incorporated into the standard Residents' Newsletter, ensuring broad dissemination to households throughout the district.

### Participation Monitoring and Quality Assurance

Throughout the consultation period, participation metrics were monitored to assess engagement levels across different stakeholder segments. This ongoing evaluation allowed for tactical adjustments to outreach methodologies when necessary to ensure adequate representation from all targeted groups.

The consultation remained accessible until 17:00 hours on 13th February 2025, at which point the formal data collection phase concluded, and systematic analysis of the accumulated feedback commenced.

#### 3. Data analysis:

The graphs below show how the public responded to the consultation and how respondents voted for each of the options.

## 1. Do you support overnight motorhome parking in Exmouth? Please provide your reasons for this by clicking add something else

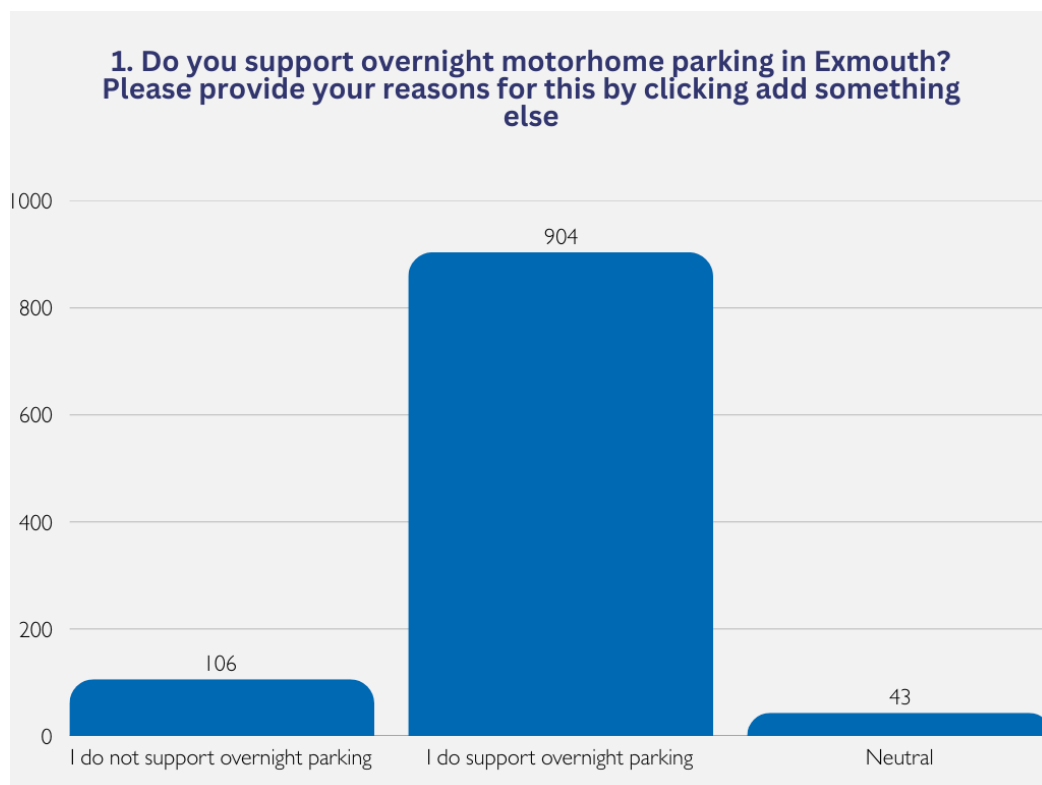


Figure 1: Public opinions on overnight parking in Exmouth

Of the 1,043 responses, 904 respondents were supportive of overnight parking in Exmouth, 106 were not supportive and 43 remained neutral.

Those who supported overnight parking generally cited the economic benefits to the town, while those who did not support it raised concerns about overcrowding and anti-social behaviour.

A summary of the free text responses:

**Economic Benefits:** Many respondents believe motorhome visitors bring significant revenue to local businesses and the council through parking fees. They mention that visitors shop locally, eat at restaurants, and contribute to the tourism economy, particularly during off-season when campsites may be closed.

**Location Preferences:** There's a clear division in opinions about where overnight parking should be permitted. Many support parking at Maer Road car park but oppose it on Queen's Drive/Echelon, citing space constraints, obstruction issues, and impact on day visitors' parking availability.

**Facilities and Infrastructure:** Respondents frequently mention the need for proper facilities including waste disposal, water supply, and adequate space between vehicles. Many draw comparisons to European "Aires" systems where such facilities are common.

**Regulation and Management:** There are strong opinions about the need for proper regulation, including limits on duration of stay (commonly suggested as 1-2 nights maximum), enforcement of rules against setting up chairs/tables outside vehicles, and appropriate fee structures.

**Residential Impact:** Many comments express concern about the impact on local residents, including reduced parking availability, visual impact on the seafront, waste management issues, and the feeling that residential areas are being transformed into unofficial campsites.

## 2. Are you a motorhome owner?

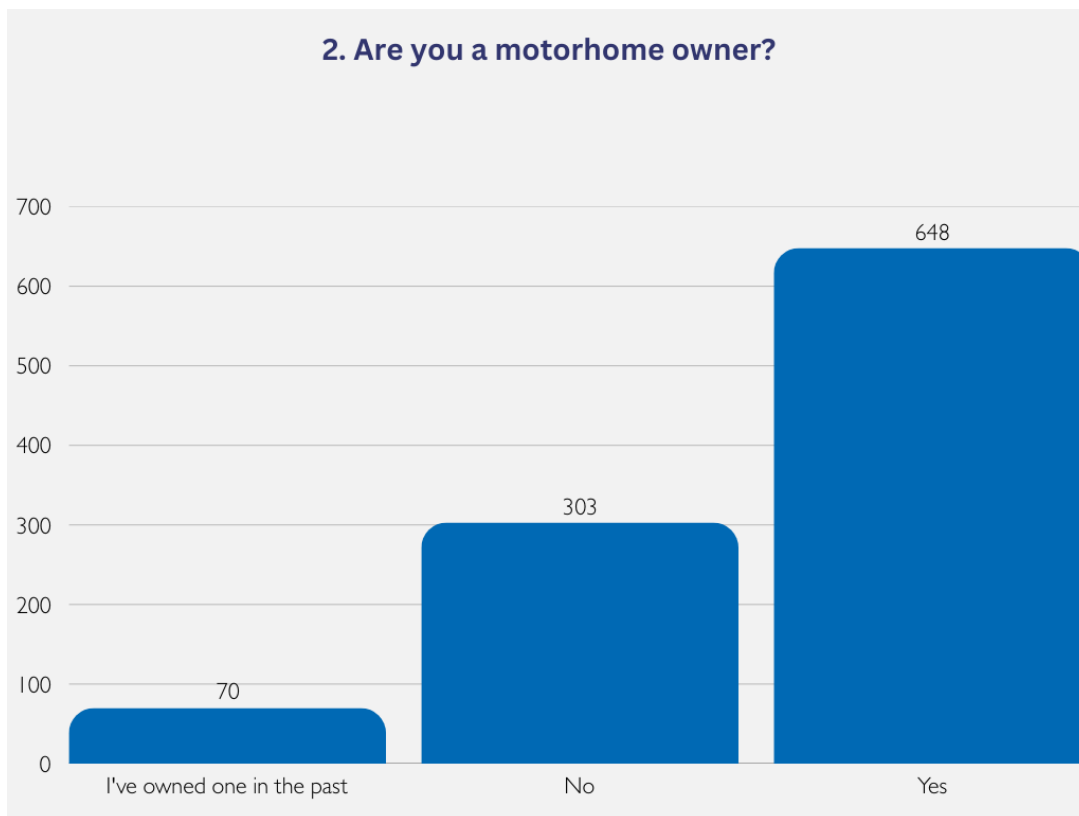


Figure 2: Graph showing if the respondent was a motorhome owner

The majority of consultation responders were current motorhome owners. Out of the total responses, 648 indicated they own a motorhome, 303 stated they do not own one, and 70 mentioned they have owned one in the past.

**3. Would you consider sleeping overnight in a car park including those in Exmouth? Please provide your reasons for this by clicking add something else**

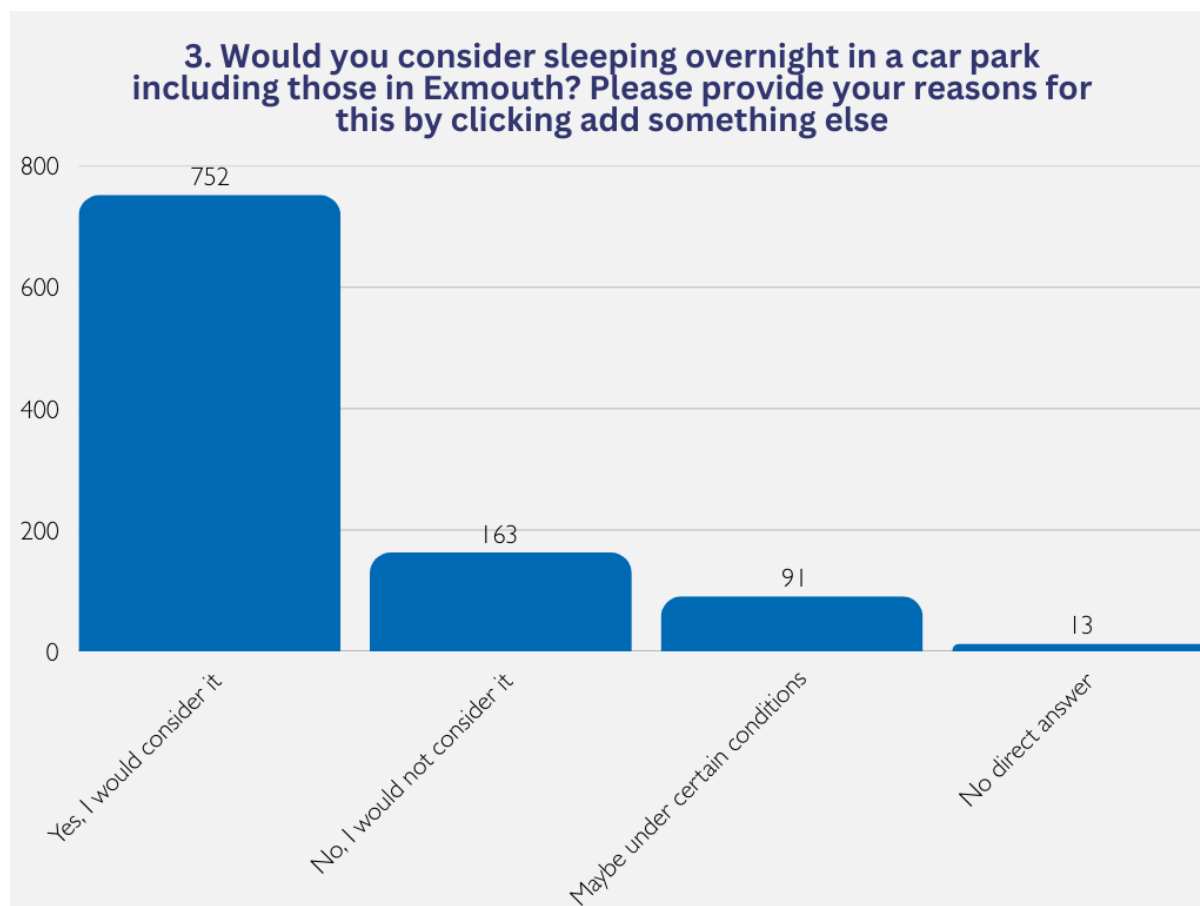


Figure 3: Public opinions on if they would consider sleeping overnight in a car park

A significant number of respondents indicated a willingness to consider sleeping overnight in a car park, with 752 selecting “Yes, I would consider it.” 163 respondents stated they would not consider it, whilst 91 remained open to the idea under specific conditions. Lastly, 13 participants did not provide a direct answer.

For those sharing their reasons, these are summarised as follows;

**Accessibility & Location:** Emphasis on being near town amenities, attractions, and beaches, allowing easy visits and convenient exploration.

**Essential Facilities:** A strong need for basic infrastructure like fresh water, chemical and grey water disposal, toilets, and security features such as CCTV.

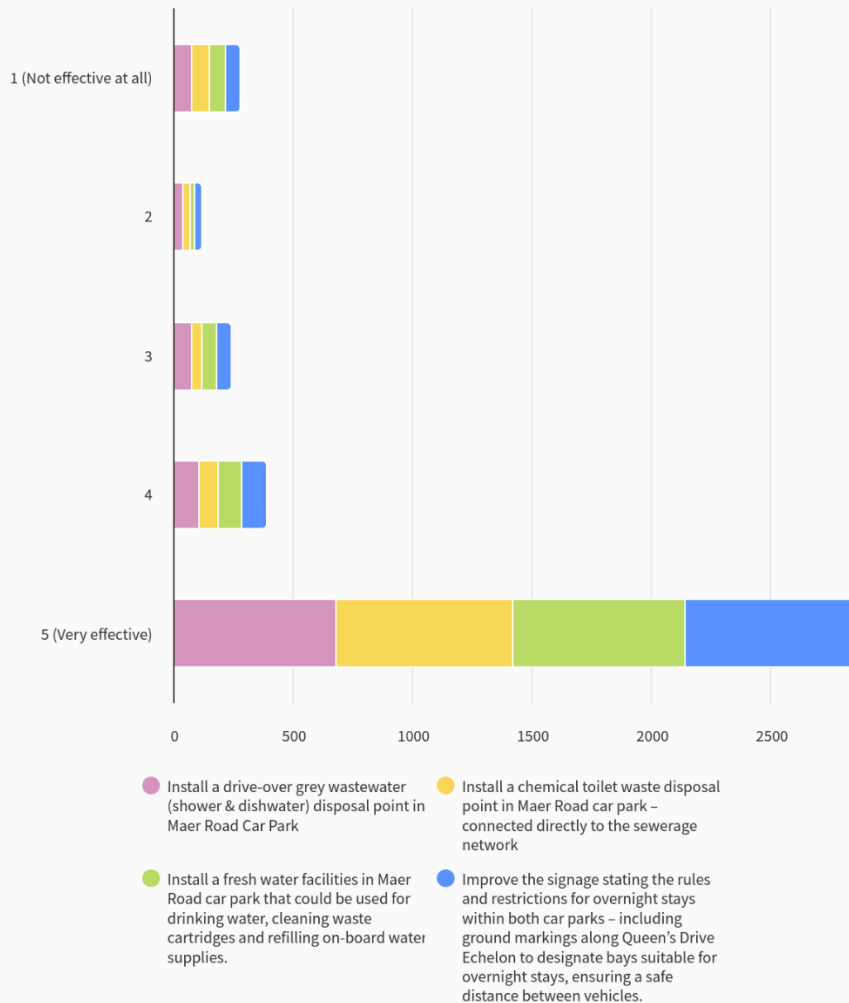
**Cost Efficiency:** Support for a low-cost, one-night stopover option that remains distinct from traditional, more expensive campsites.

**Safety & Regulation:** Calls for regulated, well-organized areas to ensure safety, prevent misuse, and avoid negative impacts from unmonitored parking.

**Boost to Local Economy:** Belief that providing such facilities encourages spending in local businesses, drawing both domestic and continental visitors.

**4. Please score (1 – 5) how effective you believe each of the following could be in resolving the issues and concerns that have been identified (Please see background information).**

**4. Please score (1 – 5) how effective you believe each of the following could be in resolving the issues and concerns that have been identified (Please see background information).**



Overall, respondents indicated that improving signage and clearly marking overnight parking rules in both car parks would be the most effective measures, receiving the highest combined score. Installing a chemical toilet waste disposal point connected to the sewerage network came next, followed closely by installing fresh water facilities for drinking and cleaning waste cartridges. Lastly, installing a drive-over grey wastewater disposal point in Maer Road Car Park received a lower—though still positive—level of support compared to the other measures.

## 5. What additional facilities should EDDC consider providing for those staying overnight

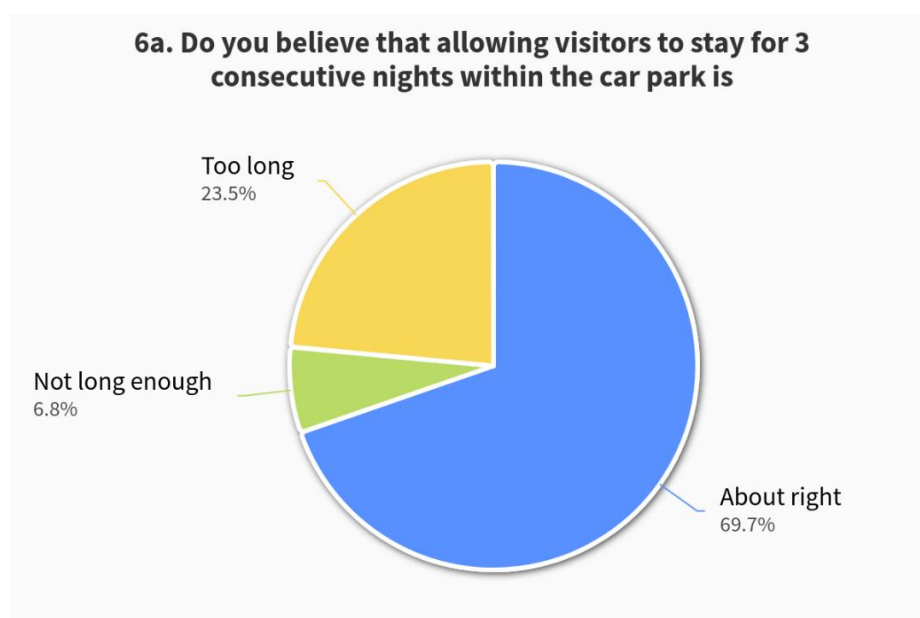
A summary of the free text responses:

The feedback from users regarding facilities for overnight stays in Exmouth highlights a significant demand for improved waste and water services. Many comments stress the importance of providing freshwater taps, dedicated waste disposal facilities, and toilet amenities to prevent public nuisance, especially in areas like Maer Nature Reserve and Queen's Drive. Suggestions for restricting overnight parking to designated areas, offering proper signage and enhancing rubbish management demonstrate a clear divide between those advocating for improved facilities and those concerned about maintaining local infrastructure. Overall, the feedback indicates a necessity

for a balanced approach to accommodating motorhome users while addressing community concerns.

**Key Suggestions:** The following additional facilities were suggested by respondents to the consultation, along with the number of respondents who mentioned each one: Waste disposal facilities (85) Chemical disposal point (77) Fresh water (68) 24-hour toilet (42) Electric hook up (34) Recycling facilities (32) Showers (28) CCTV (25) Signage (18) More bins (16) BBQ bins (9) Picnic benches (7) Security lighting (6) Bookings (5) Shop (4) Laundry (3) Code to enter and leave (3) Dog area (2) Tourist information (2) Wheelie bins (1) Locks (1) Wi-fi (1) Washing facilities (1)

**6a. Do you believe that allowing visitors to stay for 3 consecutive nights within the car park is**



The majority of respondents (69.7%) believe that allowing visitors to stay for three consecutive nights in the car park is about right. A smaller portion (23.5%) feel that this duration is too long, while 6.8% think it is not long enough.

## **6b. Please state your reasons?**

A summary of the free text responses:

The discussions on overnight parking for motorhomes in Exmouth indicate significant concerns regarding long-term stays, particularly on Queens Drive. Many suggest limiting stays to three nights to support local tourism and reduce congestion, allowing more visitors access to the area's amenities. Residents fear that extended stays lead to nuisance behaviours and reduced availability for day visitors, impacting local businesses. A need for balance in accommodating visitors while ensuring local interests are protected is clear.

Many respondents felt that 3 nights was the right amount of time, with some saying that they thought it should be less, perhaps 2 nights or 48 hours. Others felt that it should be dependent on the time of year, with it being acceptable to have longer stays in the off-season.

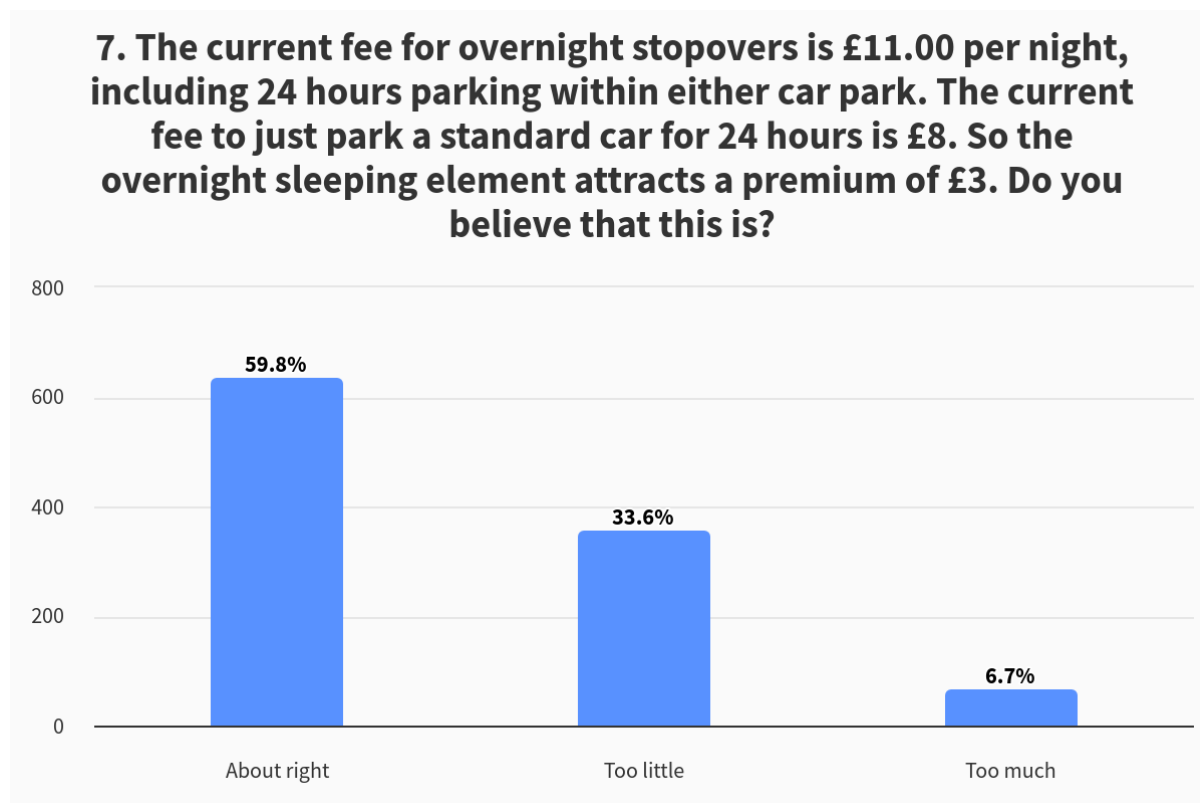
Those who felt it was about right said that it gave people enough time to explore the local area and support local businesses, but that anyone wanting to stay longer should use a campsite. They felt it struck a good balance between allowing people to enjoy their stay and ensuring that spaces were available for others. It was also pointed out that 3 nights is the norm in many places in the UK and Europe.

Respondents who felt that 3 nights was too long said that they thought people would take advantage of the situation and that it would be fairer to limit it to 2 nights. They also raised concerns about people staying for longer periods and not contributing to the local economy, or treating the car park as a campsite.

There were also a number of respondents who felt that 3 nights was not long enough and that people should be allowed to stay for up to a week. They felt that this would allow people to properly explore the area and that it would bring more money into the local economy.

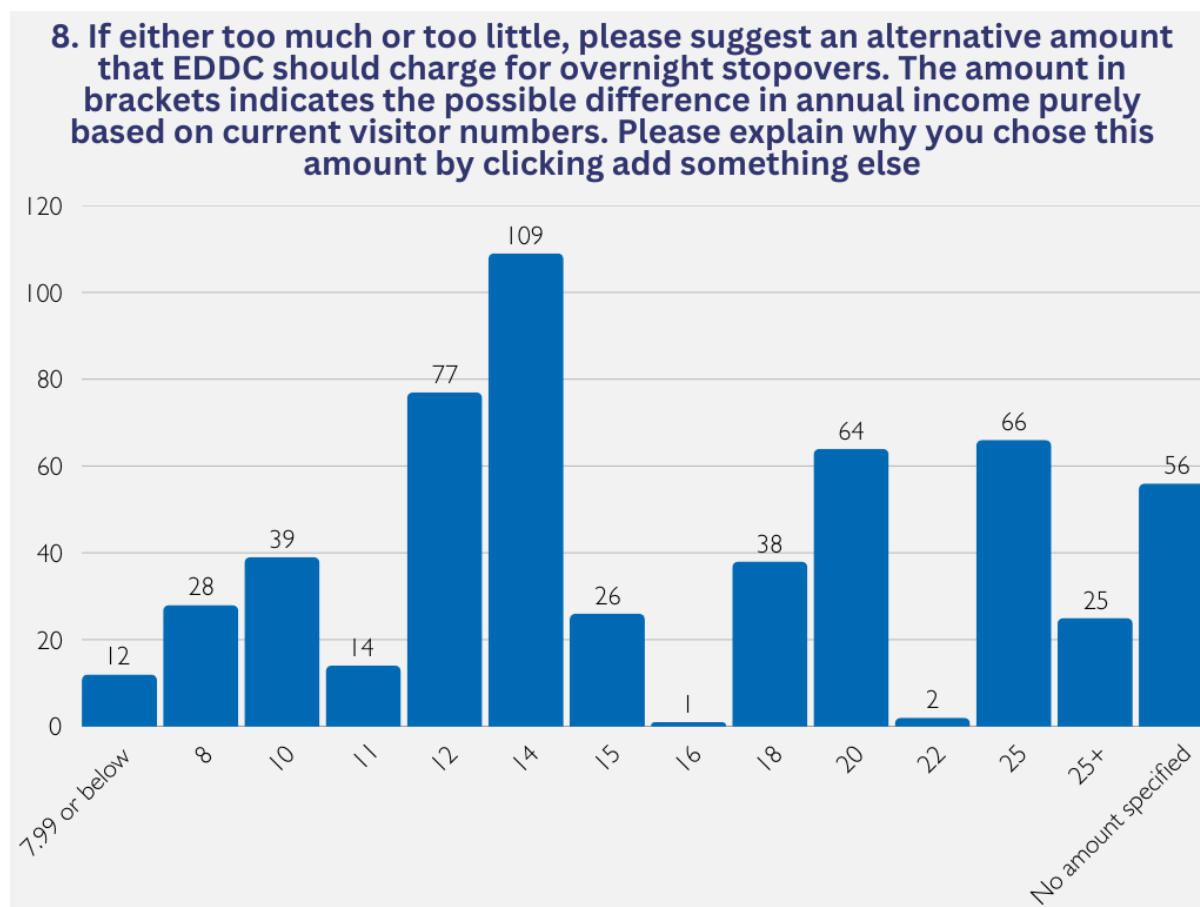


**7. The current fee for overnight stopovers is £11.00 per night, including 24 hours parking within either car park. The current fee to just park a standard car for 24 hours is £8. So the overnight sleeping element attracts a premium of £3. Do you believe that this is?**



The majority of respondents—59.8%—believe the additional £3 premium for overnight parking is “about right.” However, a substantial portion (around 33.6%) feel that this amount is “too little,” indicating support for a potentially higher fee. In contrast, a smaller group of 6.7% consider the premium “too much.” Overall, these findings suggest that while most respondents are comfortable with the current rate, there is a notable proportion who would be open to an increase, and a smaller group who believe the fee is already too high.

**8. If either too much or too little, please suggest an alternative amount that EDDC should charge for overnight stopovers. The amount in brackets indicates the possible difference in annual income purely based on current visitor numbers. Please explain why you chose this amount by clicking add something else**



A summary of the free text responses:

Among those who suggested an alternative overnight fee, the single most popular amount was £14, with 109 respondents selecting this figure. Other commonly suggested amounts included £12 (77 responses) and £25 (66 responses). Smaller but still notable groups proposed £20 (64 responses), £10 (39 responses) or £8 (28 responses)

**9. If EDDC were to generate additional revenue by increasing the charge for overnight stopovers, what do you believe they should spend this revenue on that would further improve the overnight parking offer?**

A summary of the free text responses:

Many respondents feel EDDC should use any increased overnight parking charges to improve facilities in the Maer car park, specifically for fresh water, grey and black water disposal, and public toilets. Concerns about higher fees potentially deterring visitors were raised, along with calls for stricter enforcement of parking regulations and enhanced street cleaning in Exmouth. The variety of suggestions illustrates a clear demand for better facilities and community-focused improvements in the area. Overall, there is significant community interest in enhancing the

functionality and cleanliness of parking facilities to benefit all visitors.

**Key Suggestions:**

- Provide fresh water, grey waste, and black waste disposal facilities to enhance the overnight parking offer "The facilities you stipulated earlier, use those funds for those (wastewater etc) and then use any additional revenue to maintain these areas."
- Improving public toilet access, including 24-hour facilities, to support both overnight users and general visitor: "Better public toilet facilities. Perhaps a place we can empty our sewage and grey water. Drinking water tap in easy to access place."
- Increase the number of parking enforcement officers to ensure compliance with parking regulation: "Employ more parking enforcement officers who could identify illegal parking."
- Use revenue to enhance street cleaning and maintenance in Exmouth for the benefit of all visitors: "Use it to increase street cleaning, which is virtually non-existent in Exmouth."
- Install recycling bins for glass, plastic, cardboard etc: "Recycling bins for glass, plastic, cardboard etc"

**10. What more do you believe EDDC could do to tackle irresponsible motorhome owners and those who do not respect the natural environment.**

As summary of the free text responses:

The comments express concerns about irresponsible motorhome owners, particularly in areas like the Maer and Queens Drive. Many advocates for stricter enforcement of parking regulations and improved facilities, such as toilet disposal points and rubbish bins, to mitigate environmental damage. Suggestions include increased patrols and the installation of CCTV to monitor behaviour. While many motorhome owners are respectful, a minority's actions have led to significant issues. A balance of enforcement and facilities is deemed necessary to support responsible usage. Overall, a combination of regulatory measures and improved amenities is key to promoting responsible motorhome use.

**Key Suggestions:**

- Increase fines and enforcement actions against violator: "Enforcement and bans for those caught in breach including issuing fixed penalty notices for inappropriate disposal of waste."
- Install CCTV and regular patrol: CCTV could help capture this and bring any wrong-doers to justice."
- Provide waste disposal facilities: If you provide the facilities this would be a rare occurrence.
- Restrict overnight parking to self-contained vehicles only: Only allow fully self-contained vans to use the parking areas, provide good facilities and enforce the rules.
- Educate users about respectful behaviour: Clear signage with regard to what is permitted and what isn't.

**11. Please use this space to add any further comments you may have regarding overnight stopovers in East Devon car parks.**

Comments on overnight stopovers in East Devon, particularly in Exmouth, reveal both appreciation for the economic benefits and concerns regarding motorhome parking, specifically on

Queen's Drive and Maer car park. Many users have noted issues such as litter and safety from overcrowding while suggesting enhancements for waste disposal and parking regulations. Improvements to facilities in Sidmouth and the enforcement of parking rules have been highlighted as necessary actions to balance visitor accommodation with local interests. Overall, addressing community concerns is essential for fostering support for overnight stopovers.

#### Key Suggestions:

- Implement stricter regulations for motorhome parking on Queen's Drive: Motorhomes should be banned from Queens Drive, they often try to use two spaces by placing chairs, tables, water sport kit in 2nd bay.
- Increase overnight parking facilities in other towns such as Sidmouth: "It would be good to see more in other towns such as Sidmouth, with full facilities as mentioned above.
- Provide better waste disposal and fresh water facilities: If no water/waste facilities are provided then I do not agree that either area is suitable for motorhomes as we are simply encouraging irresponsible behaviour.
- Monitor and enforce parking regulations effectively: It's annoying little VW vans will park in the ten metres bay in Maer road carpark when there is like a dozen big spaces.
- Charge a reasonable fee for overnight stays aligned with locally available service: I think it would be better to charge an overnight sleeping fee and a separate day fee.

#### 4. Key findings:

The respondents to the consultation were generally supportive of overnight motorhome parking within EDDC car parks, although it is evident that improvements should be considered that would better regulate overnight visits. Additional signage and facilities are required to encourage and support responsible tourism, as well as better oversight and enforcement of the rules and regulations.

#### 5. Recommendations:

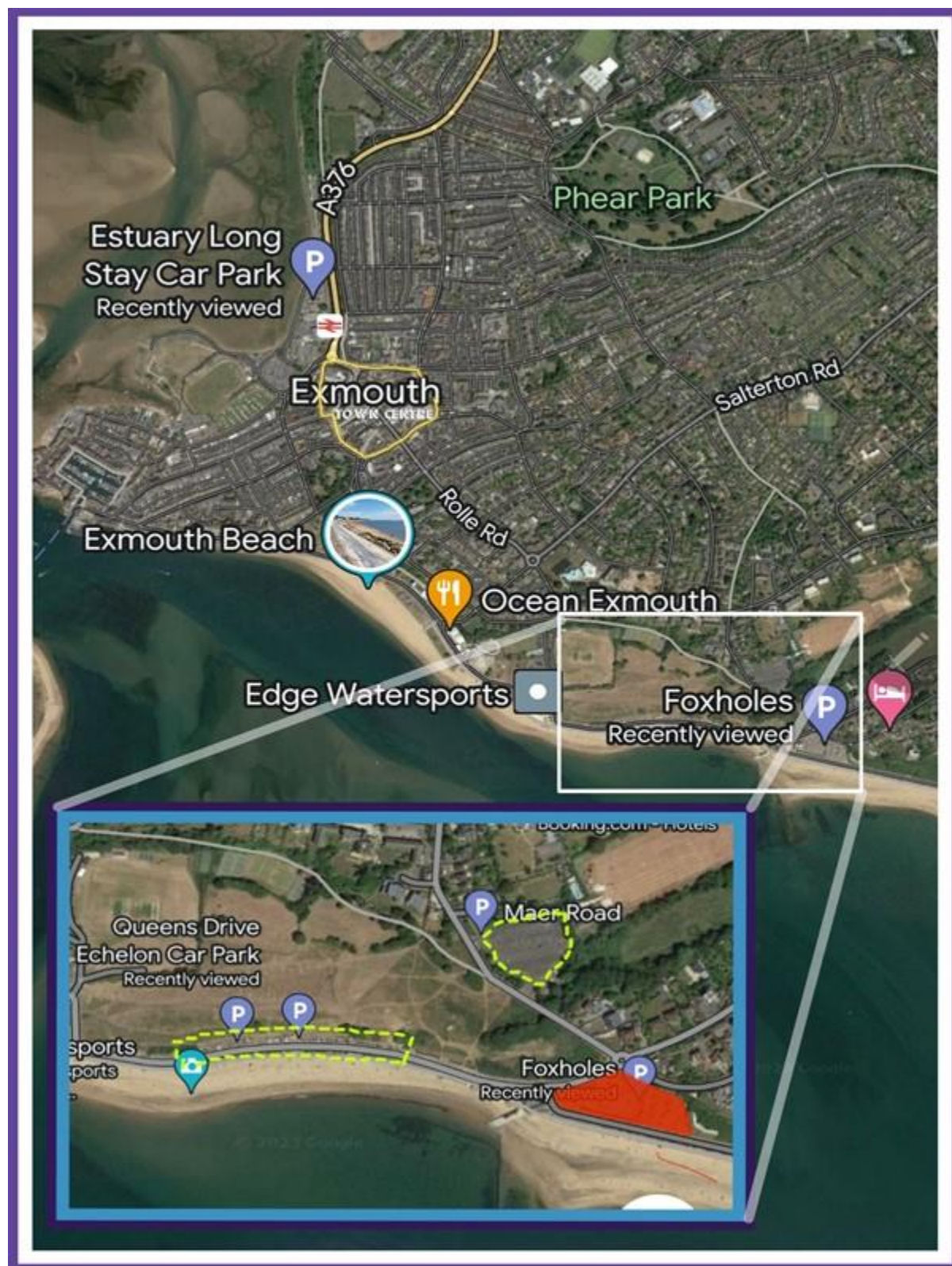
The consultation responses support and endorse the proposals that were presented to the EDDC Cabinet Committee in January 2024.

These were:

- Install a drive-over grey wastewater (shower & dishwater) disposal point in Maer Road Car Park
- Install a chemical toilet waste disposal point in Maer Road car park – connected directly to the sewerage network
- Install a fresh water tap in Maer Road car park.
- Reduce the maximum permitted number of consecutive overnight stays to 3 nights – this is in line with other authorities and prevents the risk of paid habitation within the car parks.
- Improve the signage stating the rules and restrictions for overnight stays within both car parks – including ground markings along Queen's Drive Echelon to designate bays suitable for overnight stays, leaving a safe distance between vehicles.

Additional monitoring, enforcement and booking procedures will be considered as well as the above to provide a package of improvements that help alleviate previously reported issues and create clear guidelines for overnight visitors to follow.

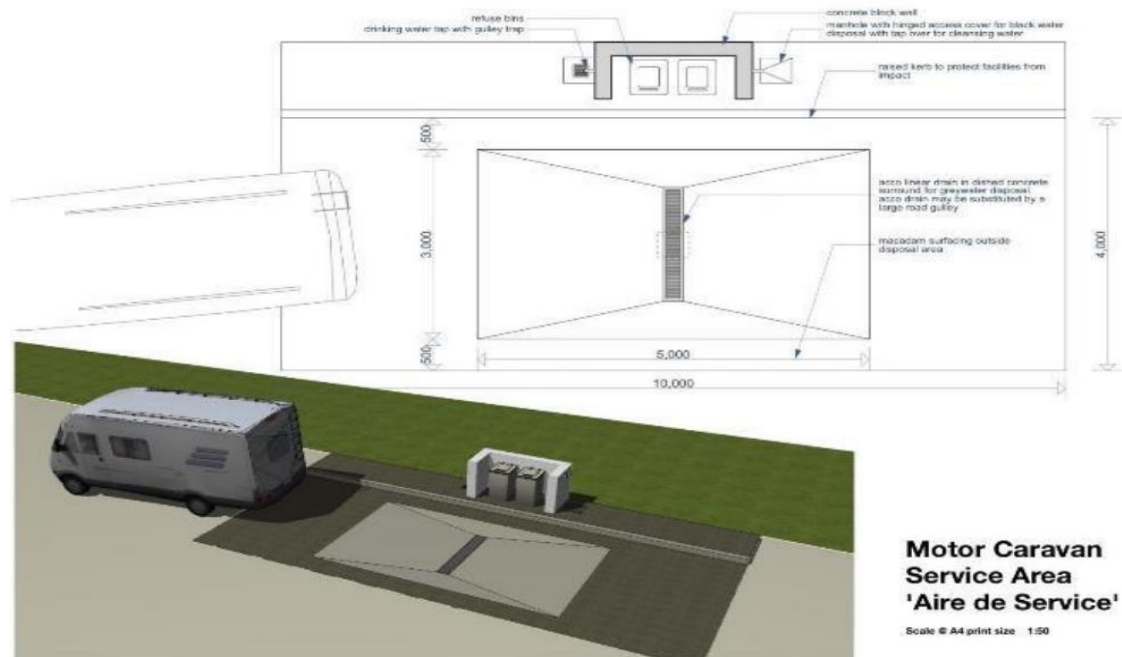
**Appendix B** - Map showing the car parks that currently permit overnight stopovers in relation to Exmouth Town – as well as the location of Foxholes Car Park marked in red





## Appendix C – Example of a grey wastewater service point

### Typical Layout for a Service Point



**Appendix D – Example of a chemical/black waste (toilet) disposal service point**

