

Greetings from Transition Exmouth

Members' and Supporters' newsletter from Transition Exmouth – August/September 2015

From the Chair Adrian Toole aka @GreenManExmouth

The summer is passing so I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine. Don't forget to renew your membership, details below. You will have the pleasure of supporting the only Climate Change action group in Exmouth. We need your £5 – You need us!

The £5 is easily paid to Treasurer Rob Masding by dropping in a note at Rob's: Flat 3, 134 Exeter Road, EX8 1QG . If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, our details are:

'Transition Exmouth', Cooperative Bank, 08-92-99, 65332739

Don't forget that members were additionally requested to plant a tree, either in our wood or elsewhere.

Website www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk **email:** tte.inform@gmail.com

All our events and others that I am aware of are on our Website calendar.

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1.What's On

Beach Party, 8th August – TODAY!!!!

East Devon Green Party party: Saturday 8th August at 6pm, Look for the East Devon Green Party Banner (probably near the clock tower or at the volley ball nets further down). Bring and share food. Come along, network, play volleyball, and have a chat. I'm told that Green Party members are allowed to have some fun!

Bring & Share picnic, August 15

Elinor is organising a bring & share picnic at our wood in Bapton Valley Park (opposite Green Fingers nursery) on Saturday August 15th @ 12.30. If the weather has been dry (serious!), please bring also a bucket so we can do some watering!

National TTIP Day of Action, August 22

National TTIP Day of Action on August 22nd. Rob is planning to collect signatures against TTIP and would be pleased to have assistance, phone him on 01395 227960, or 07707 985 379 or email rob.masding@gmail.com.

Although these deals are known as free trade agreements, they are only concerned with freedom for capital. Workers, developing countries, and the poorest in society get little of the benefit and bear the majority of the costs of these deals. Too often we see free markets pushing down wages, trans-national corporations trampling over small local business, and safeguards designed to support people and public services being removed. Trade does not have to be this way. Applying fairer rules to trade could help rebalance economies and societies, putting the interests of people and the planet first. But in the negotiations on TTIP, big business has its eye on new opportunities to make money through greater involvement in health, education, postal services and energy. And it also sees profit to be made by removing regulation which keeps workers safe, ringfences public procurement and restricts the use of chemicals in our food and environment. For all the talk of free trade, TTIP seeks to protect big business from the risks of the free market by imposing a new set of rules to protect investors. Known as Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), these rules, currently in operation elsewhere, allow big companies to sue governments if they believed their profits would be harmed by national laws or regulations.

Refer: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investor-state_dispute_settlement and <http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/>

Cases would be heard in secret international tribunals, overseen by corporate lawyers. The treaty and particularly the ISDS tribunals are widely seen as anti-democratic in view of the secret proceedings and the opportunity provided for big corporations to overturn national environmental and health legislation on the grounds that the legislation damages investor's interests. EU bosses are pushing TTIP through but all of this is in opposition to everything the Transition Town network stands for so pick up the phone and offer Rob a hand.

Exeter Pound Launch, September 1

At 11 o'clock on the morning of the first of September 2015, the first Exeter Pound will be spent. Join the rest of Exeter on this momentous occasion to mark a significant step toward a fair and sustainable society. There will be a community market set up in front of the cathedral with a selection of local traders who have stepped up to be the first of many to take the local currency. Swap your sterling for Exeter money, listen to our guest speakers including Molly Scott Cato MEP renowned economist and Member of European Parliament for the South West and find out about plans for the currency as it will develop over the coming years. See you all there! September 01, 2015 at 10am – 7pm Cathedral Green, Exeter EX1 1HS.

LETS Games Night, September 14

LETS members are holding a Games Night on Monday September 14 at the Rethink Centre, Meeting street (not the Railway Club as stated elsewhere) Come along and pit your wits against others and a chance to do some trading 18.30 onwards.

Theatre visit, 10 October

Baked Alaska. We are obtaining a batch of tickets for this play that takes a light-hearted view of Climate Change!!. The single performance by Riding Lights Theatre Company is on Saturday 10th October at 19.30 at Belmont Chapel, Western Way, Exeter, EX1 2DB. Contact Noel on n.harrower@btinternet.com or 01395 271731.

LETS 5th Anniversary Party, 16 October

Join LETS for their fifth anniversary party! Skittles, buffet and AGM. 3 pounds and 2 cockles for members, 5 pounds non-members. 19.00 onwards. More details to follow.

Peoples' Climate March, November 29th

Avaaz are mobilising support for a demonstration on November 29th ahead of the Paris talks . Get online and get active.

2.In the Planning

- Noel and Rob are preparing another film & Discussion evening for the Autumn
- I shall start working on the Paris Negotiations public meeting for the New Year
- No progress on a number of other good ideas but we need more help

3.Recycling News

Lots of our members are keen on expanding recycle so it's good news that EDDC are running a trial on doing just that. Council Officers are looking for 'Recycling Champions' in Exmouth (The Colony) to assist them with the introduction of the trials by giving feedback throughout. If you're a keen recycler, living in the trial area and want to help, please contact their recycling team on 01395 571515.

From September, residents in the trial area will be able to recycle all the following:

- Cardboard
- Mixed plastics
- Plastic bottles
- Textiles
- Glass
- Household batteries
- Paper

4.Sustainable Exmouth

Andy and I are awaiting a chance to present our ideas to Moirai, who tell us that they are not yet ready for consultations.

Much debate in the town has focused on three aspects of the Queen's Drive plan announced in June:

- a body of opinion that considers the existing, 'traditional' entertainments must be preserved
- the inclusion of apartments for sale
- flooding risk given rising sea levels and more intense rain storms expected

All these aspects are relevant to sustainability considerations as dictated by the 'three circles' diagram. Are the apartments to be top quality luxury flats of the type we have too many of already or more down-to-earth holiday apartments of which we have too few and which are specified in the outline planning permission?

As for flooding, the whole site has been assessed as at high risk (FZ3). The National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) has of course much to say on the matter and to that we must defer.

To summarize, NPPF says that a dubious application can go ahead if it passes the 'Sequential Test', by which, if there is no other land available for the projected use, then the application will pass. This site however is judged to be 'more vulnerable' on account of the holiday accommodation and the application has to pass a further test, the 'Exception Test' for which there are two criteria, a site-specific flood risk concluding that the development will be 'safe' for its lifetime and a conclusion that the 'sustainability' benefits of the development outweigh the flood risk.

As for the former, the Level 2 Flood Risk Assessment carried out for the outline application claims to identify that with some mitigation measures, including asking the occupiers to sign up to a flood warning system, site users will be safe for 100 years and as for the latter, EDDC (the site owner as well as the planning authority), had already decided the matter when the site was included in their original Exmouth Regeneration Plan. So that's ok then, it is fully 'sustainable'!

As previously stated, Transition Exmouth's brief is not to be for or against the development but to urge that whatever is constructed is of a quality that matches our own notions of sustainability, so watch this space, there is much to consider!

5.LETS News

The summer BBQ was judged a success despite the (inevitable) rain on the evening. The Core Group have further social activities planned (see What's On) and I hope you'll support us by attending and by TRADING. More details on the LETS Website: <http://www.exmouthlets.org.uk/>

6.COLP

There will be another COLP meeting later this month. I cannot attend but Rob and Noel will be there to play our part. Much debate will focus on our Exmouth a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) that would act as a statutory companion to the Local Plan (LP), expected to be formally adopted soon.

As I described in the last newsletter, I am preparing a guide to Sustainable Development. We find ourselves however, hoist by our own petard, so to speak, in that the widespread acceptance of the 'three circles' depiction of sustainability, has allowed the term to be hijacked by those whose only interest is in promoting economic growth. Thus conventional economics have been allowed a foot in the door of the Climate Change debate, allowing economic growth to be promoted as a pre-requisite of sustainability, notwithstanding that unbridled economic growth has been the force that pushed us to the brink! Answers on a postcard please; but the result of this paradigm shift is that we have to make our arguments more sophisticated for one audience whilst not over-complicating them for another. I shall attempt to square that circle.

COLP discusses many other matters and I can supply notes of the meetings.

7.Umbrella Group Meetings

These are at six-weekly intervals. Any paid-up member who wants to attend and shape our future is welcome, the next is on 14th September @ 14.30 in the Town Hall Committee room. Anyone who wants to help with any of our projects or has an idea of their own, please get in touch.

8.Social Media and Website

<http://www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk>. Thanks to Rob for more updates to the Website.

@GreenManExmouth continues his tweeting, not always on TTE items but always seeking to entertain so be prepared for the bizarre!

Simon runs the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/15416577788/>

We are going to launch a 'page' soon that may gain a wider audience. Watch this space.

See also our international Green Drinks: <http://www.greendrinks.org/Devon/Exmouth>

9. Around the Region

Sidmouth

Vision for Sidmouth, <https://www.visionforsidmouth.org/>

Community Energy Company Sid Energy,

<http://www.sidenergy.co.uk/membership-share-offer/>

Exeter

Exeter Transition <http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/>

Exeter Community Energy <http://www.ecoe.org.uk/>

Exeter Pound <http://www.exeterpound.org.uk/>

Others

Sustainable Ottery <http://sustainableottery.co.uk>

Transition Town Honiton <http://www.transitiontownhoniton.org.uk/>

Greener Teign: <http://www.greener-teign.org.uk/> .

10. And Finally

I was not able to sign up for Anne-Marie Culhane's Earthwalk from Beer to Sidmouth but she was kind enough to invite several of us along to Dissenters Hall in Sidmouth for me to tell the walkers over tea what Transition Exmouth is all about. Dave Bramley of Vision for Sidmouth was also on the bill and it is always inspiring to catch up with Dave.

Anne-Marie has an arts residency at the university in which she is partnering academics and presenting an artistic perspective of their work to a wider audience. In her case, Climate Change science with Professor Tim Lenton, Dr. Luke Mander and Tom Powell. Although I can only imagine the discussions that took place along the cliff tops, the event reinforced to me that we are not alone in our efforts. The fact that we have many capable and dedicated allies in our endeavours cannot however, obscure the fact that our opponents, those with power and vested interests (money) are very practiced in blocking the popular will.

My ancestor Edmund Burke wrote "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Please forgive him his 18thC exclusion of women from politics but with President Obama bluntly

insisting that this is "..the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it.", we should all be asking ourselves, are we doing enough?

END

Adrian Toole (Chair)

<http://www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk/>
tte.inform@gmail.com