

Transition Exmouth Newsletter for Supporters November '17

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This month the newsletter to members and that to supporters are different. We have been having a lot of discussions about organisation and I don't expect supporters to read all that so a shorter version for you.

Our Next 29-minutes Sessions

Come along at 19.30 (preceding our next Green Drinks) at the Park Hotel on Exeter Road on Thursday 2nd November, and hear from Journalist Paul Strange about the media:

'Hold the iPhone: How the press has changed in the last 40 years'.

Paul is always very entertaining and who isn't interested in the Media? (rhetorical question).

On 7th December our guest will be Jan Gannaway, well known to us all as a font of wisdom on most things and will be talking about the Neighbourhood Plan's aspiration for a Biodiversity Action Plan.

4th January '18 it will be Roma Patten, one of the Town's most doughty campaigners, and determined to secure us an Integrated Transport Interchange such as all civilised towns should have!

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) consultation...

We put in our response to the consultation; In general we are very pleased at the way it's shaping up but still our response was quite lengthy and I won't even attempt a précis here but anyone who wants to know more pls contact me.

More about the plan may be found at <http://www.exmouthneighbourhoodplan.uk/>

Unexpected Developments in Tree Planting

The tree-planting session 'our' wood at Bapton Valley park on Wednesday 4th October didn't happen!

A local resident, something of a wildlife expert has, on his own initiative been surveying the upper end of the park and has found two rare species of creepy-crawly; wasp spiders and meadow ants. Both are worth looking up; the spider is not a native species (Climate Change again) and has some disgusting mating habits!

Anyway EDDC has been brought in and we were advised not to disturb the habitat by planting more trees; so that's the end of the project but if you go up and have a look, you'll find that our efforts over the years have created an open woodland; well done all.

In the longer term, it is hoped that the East Devon Countryside Team will take over management of the park and look after it appropriately. That would be excellent and we have hopes that the park and other sites around the town, will benefit as designated 'Green Routes' as we have promoted to the N.P. or even as 'Fruit Routes' by enhancing the edible vegetation. On that theme, a presentation by Countryside Services on 'Wild Exmouth' will be made at the next Exmouth Town Council meeting on the evening of 27 November.

This was all well and good but we only found out what was afoot on the day thanks to Cllr. Tim Dumper. That left us with a number of small trees urgently needing new homes. Elinor Scott and I than engaged in some guerilla gardening as per the attached photo. Can anyone discover the location?



Grenadier Consultation

Your last chance is Wednesday evening coming at Ocean.

Andy Lock and myself will be crafting Transition Exmouth's 'official' response so do get in touch with any comments sooon!

<https://grenadierstates.co.uk/designs-published-public-consultation-new-water-sports-centre-exmouth/>

Clean Street Exmouth

Roger Gibson has a project that he wants to get off the ground. From an e-mail discussion, he says (edited):

'I think the notion that The Transition is mainly about weaning ourselves off fossil fuels and responding to climate change is only one part of the picture. We're trying to create sustainable, resilient communities and to do that you need to build those communities through collective activities. That's where, for example, bread making comes in: it's bringing people together and creating a little bit of self-sufficiency. I'd suggest that your [Simon's] petanque initiative also comes into the community-building category and therefore is part of TE's mission.'

'...The message of Clean Beach Exmouth and Clean Street Exmouth is that we need unpolluted beaches and streets. People are prepared to do something about it when asked. The numbers tell the story: CBE has gained 240 members in its first year and attracts 20-40 people to its monthly clean up. This is a practical activity that has a significant impact on the town and grows through social media and word of mouth.

I think a push to make the town much less litter-polluted could have a major impact and put us in direct contact with people town-wide. ...The idea is to have someone in a street who brings neighbours together to adopt their street and work out ways of keeping their street clean... '

Get in touch to be involved.

Bread Club

Bread Club continues to thrive despite my efforts to burn down Paul & Jane's house with my faulty Kenwood mixer!

The next session hopes to welcome a professional, Iona Collins from Boatyard bakery in Exeter to learn more about sough dough baking. Recommended donation for this facilitated session £4. Contact Paul Ives for details: paul.ives1@googlemail.com

See link below for photos and recipes.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B5HAtmmzu2cHYTVKQ2w2cDVGaUE>

As Paul says: '...to give people a flavour of what we are doing'.

Don't Forget the ITI

As you all know the EDDC Local Plan calls for an Exmouth ITI. The work on this has been undertaken by the Exmouth Transport partnership (ETP) and has been continuing for many years. To date there has been only like warm interest from EDDC and DCC,

Councillors or Officers. A new initiative has begun whereby a business plan will be written with the aim and hope of encouraging a more positive outcome.

Roma Patten has agreed to co-ordinate the work and she is looking for proactive help from others. Initially she has been counting passenger numbers at the Leisure Centre bus stop and where passengers go after arriving at the railway station. She will deliver our 29-minute session in January, hoping to encourage our participation in the campaign.

Around the Region

Exeter City Futures

Exeter City Futures is a privately-funded initiative, not unconnected with Grenadier

'...with energy balance at its heart ensuring the region contributes to global decarbonisation. Much of our energy is for transportation of people and goods. We know that if we can reduce the number of cars on the road and time spent in traffic then we are burning less fuel and reducing our energy demand.

Being energy independent means locally we are making enough green energy to supply all of the demand within the region and are not wasting energy through transporting it from other destinations. If every region in the UK was energy independent, then the UK as a whole would be able to balance its own energy supply and demand and be a model of sustainability and resilience..

That was edited from their Website; read more at:

<https://www.exetercityfutures.com/latest/>

Exeter University Climate Change Project

Rob Masding attended and here is his report [edited]

'The main thrust of the project was not climate change per se but its impact on food production. The project had taken place over four years and has reported back.

The project had looked at three scenarios; 1.5°, 4°, and 6C ° global temperature rises. Looking at, amongst other things, likely rainfall and river flow changes..

There are already 40 million more people in food insecurity and even with a 1.5°C rise, rainfall will be affected. 60% of farmers rely on rainfall and most of those farmers will need irrigation as the rain will fall in different patterns. There will be more flooding and more droughts. Rainfall will be less frequent but heavier, with increased soil erosion.

The UN representative said that farmers would be encouraged to take out insurance against crop loss due to climate change but my feelings about this are that it is unlikely to be of benefit to anyone except the insurance companies..

The Indian representative said that farmers would be encouraged to grow crops that needed less water.

The EU representative said the Paris agreement provides a framework for adaptation and that member states had been asked to draw up their own plans for mitigating the effects of climate change. 25/28 states now have their strategy in place and these will be integrated into all European Union policies to be finalised by end of 2018, preceded by a consultation running from December 2017 until February 2018.

Websites for reference: www.helixclimate.eu and <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>.

FOE Regional Meeting

We have no FOE group in Exmouth, which is a shame. In any case we are natural allies and as such we've been invited to their SW regional gathering on 4 November all day in Bristol.

'This is a chance for all ... in the environmental justice movement to get together, share ideas, collaborate on campaigns and get some campaign relevant training.'

Not sure that I can go but would be keen to hear from anyone who can:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-west-regional-gathering-autumn-2017-tickets-37849140799>.

Social Media and Website

<http://www.transitionexmouth.uk>.

[@GreenManExmouth](#) continues his tweeting, not always on TE items but always seeking to entertain so be prepared!

We have a Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/15416577788/>

and a page: <https://www.facebook.com/transition.exmouth>

Not to forget the ever popular Green Drinks: <http://www.greendrinks.org/Devon/Exmouth>

And Finally

Our friend Tricia, seen during the Festival on our walking stall has taken herself off travelling in India for four (sic) months. you can follow her adventures at:

<https://fromexmouthtoindiawithlove.wordpress.com/>

END