

# Transition Exmouth Newsletter for Members and Supporters March '18

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If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, our details are: 'Transition Exmouth', Cooperative Bank, 08-92-99, a/c 65332739

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## Yes it's Election Time Thursday!

If you live in Exmouth Town Ward that is. Pat Graham represented our Town ward on both the Town Council and on EDDC and was a long-standing and respected servant of the people. Pat recently retired thus putting both seats up for re-election. We had the idea of

contacting the prospectives asking about the environmental policies that they hoped to implement if elected.

I'll say nothing that might be interpreted as recommending any of them but at the end of this newsletter are the views of those we managed to contact. In general their answers were very comprehensive and indeed sympathetic but It is next to impossible to precis them so although I've done some editing to make them shorter, I've had to feature them (together with the questions) as an appendix. If you live in Town ward please take the trouble to read them through.

## **29-minute Sessions**

On 1st February we heard from Dr Oliver Dowlen, who was promoting the random selection of citizens for public office (Sortition). The origins of this system go back to ancient Greece and it is still practiced for jury selection in common law systems. Just imagine our MP being directly answerable to us voters rather than to his party! In fact I had invited Hugo Swire MP but he neither came nor acknowledged the invitation. Those who did turn up included local councillors and Claire Wright, the DCC Councillor for Ottery, the ever-hopeful parliamentary candidate. Claire seemed impressed by what Dr. Dowlen had to say!

On 1st March (this week on election day!), We will be welcoming Alan Griffey from Torbay Friends of the Earth (FOE). FOE and we sing from the same songsheet but I have invited Alan to tell us about the fortunes of his group and the structure of FOE.

Come along at 19.30 (sharp or you'll miss it) for the talk at [The Park Hotel, Exmouth](#)

On 5<sup>th</sup> April – , our very own Ian Wycherley will give a talk on Inner Transition. See also Dates for your Diary heading below.

## **Green Drinks**

Oh and don't forget, purely-social Green Drinks follows on from the talk; you are welcome to bring your own table decoration!

## **Integrated Transport Interchange (ITI)**

The ITI campaigners are running a local transport survey. Please help get this long-hoped-for project realised. Go to [Exmouth Transport Survey](#)

## **Festival**

We expect to go ahead with a festival stall this year (bank holiday weekend) thanks to our anonymous donor!

Doreen Sandham is organising and she asked me to send out this message:

Transition Exmouth needs you and your skills and enthusiasm, to help design and man an interesting activity stall at the 2018 Exmouth Festival. If you have any ideas of lovely things to do, let us know. If you could look at your diaries to see which days you could give a bit of time, that would help too. So far we have arranged funding, insurance, and . . well, this is your opportunity to help shape the event. Our objectives are to:

- reach all those young, idle hands, (and remind a few older ones that making things yourself is good fun)
- put out the word that Transition Exmouth is here and wanting to make this world a better place
- capitalise on the new wave of interest in our environmental health.

Some ideas so far: Making light-weight reusable bags to put our vegetable purchases into instead of plastic (thank you Daphne), creating bird nest boxes and hedgehog shelters, sewing, knitting, and crochet. Planting seeds and potting seedlings

So can you help? If you can, e-mail Doreen on [deesandham@gmail.com](mailto:deesandham@gmail.com) asap.

## Against Plastic Waste?

Here is a summary of an event attended by a contact:

Sigi of Ocean Care went to a great local event, which was to do with plastic waste. She thinks that with a bit of planning it would be entirely possible to organise something like this in Exmouth, perhaps as a Transition Exmouth thing?

It would involve persuading the cinema to hire one of their screens for the movies perhaps in exchange for some promotion i.e. sponsorship of the event, and also having a space somewhere for the talks and mingling etc. It could be a day of events with a beach clean in the morning and could include things like local plastic reduction initiatives, pledges from local business to reduce their plastic footprint, individual pledges, a stall selling reusable plastic items such as bottles and bags..perhaps you could even get Transition Exmouth canvas shopping bags as a promotional thing!

Below Sigi lists an outline of an event she went to [This appears to have been an Icare event but I don't know what Icare is, anyone? Ed.]:

Part I : Information

Welcoming words and screening of the video "It's a plastic World": <https://vimeo.com/>

Interview with Andreas Tanner, the film producer to find out what were the drivers for him to make this animated video

Some brief videos from TV shows addressing plastic and microplastic (including microfibre)

Wrap up of part one and Introduction into Part II

Part II: Market of possibilities

BioplusFair shop explains what day do to prevent plastic and microplastic and presents alternatives

OceanCare presents what the organization is doing on this issue and presents alternatives

Barbara and Maja Bretscher present what they are doing to detect microplastic in products and how they prevent plastic in their household

Recycling company presents their plastic recycling project and that currently about 57% of the material the people bring to them is recycled, 43% is used to produce heat and warm water for households of a town.

People are invited to come to the front and engage in bilateral discussions with the four presenters and among themselves.

They are also invited to note what they are doing to prevent plastic and microplastic and to pin their ideas on a white board

Part III: Soup and Bread

Everyone is invited for a vegetarian soup and bread. Nothing is packaged. Water is served in a glass, eating tools are made from steel, bread is unpackaged and soup is served in a bowl. People are very inspired and engage in discussions among themselves.

Part IV: Whale rider

The organiser finds it important that people take beautiful images with them home. So the film Whale rider is presented. A majority of people stayed also for the film.

It was an incredibly inspiring soirée and I think the format would be just perfect for doing the same or similar events on other places.

Cheers, Sigi

## **Calling all Affiliated Groups**

We have had an anonymous donation of £100 (many thanks) that allows us to both book a stall at the festival (see separate heading) AND afford 3rd Party Insurance. Please get in touch with Rob for a copy of the policy before your next event.

## **Down on the Beach**

I hear that there has been an increase in groups wanting to do beach cleans! Our own Clean Beach Exmouth' Sal Regan meanwhile has been busy getting sponsors and permissions to put up two permanent signs 'Keep our Sea Plastic Free' near the Octagon (see pic) Well done Sal.



## Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on Monday 12 March in the Telfer Centre at the Community College, Gipsy Lane, EX8 3AF starting at 19.00. Open of course to the Public

## Wild Exmouth

Tim Dafforn of EDDC's Wild Exmouth Project will be coming to give the Town Council an update on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March at the Town Hall at 17.00. Assume open to the public.

Our links in this are Jan Gannaway and Heath Nickels who have set up the Exmouth Wildlife Group and are starting the necessary biodiversity surveys.

Jan has set up a Facebook 'page' and 'group'.

- <https://www.facebook.com/ExmouthWildlifeGroup/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ExmouthWildlifeGroup/>

One can view the page without being signed up to Facebook!

## Sustainable Exmouth

### Watersports Centre

This says it all. Andy and I will be carefully going through this but closing date for submissions is in a few days so if you care, get on to it!

Ref. No: 18/0376/MFUL | Received date: Mon 15 Jan 2018 | Status: Pending Consideration | Case Type: Planning Application

*“Construction of new water sports centre including various facilities for water sports users, a cafe, restaurant and retail plus car parking and open space together with associated infrastructure including new stepped and ramped access to the beach and landscaping - Car Park Off Queens Drive Exmouth EX8 2AY”*

### Phase 3

Things are about to get moving at last. The Temporary facilities are expected to be agreed by EDDC Planning Cttee on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March; their meeting is in Exmouth Town Hall so why not go along and have your say?

Beyond that the EDDC cabinet are set to approve on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March the plan for the long hoped for Independent consultation led by Hemingway Design and it's all a result of our initiative!

The Exmouth Journal Website in breaking the news says much about Hemingway's credentials for the job and Cllr Philip Skinner, EDDC's economy chief and chairman of the Exmouth Regeneration Board is quoted as saying that the original idea to involve Hemingway came from Transition Exmouth (a long time ago as I remember!)

For the full story, see: <http://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk/news/eddc-bosses-set-to-appoint-specialists-for-exmouth-seafront-regeneration-1-5410482> and the printed edition out on Thursday.

We have been told for some time now that they are prepared to go 'Back to the Drawing Board' on this so there's everything to play for. GET INVOLVED!

And you might want to read this first, a summary of the 8 trends identified as most likely to influence future sustainable thinking: [Get Smarter Web link](#)

## The Publicity Team

If you have a Transitiony-type message to get out, contact them on [transitionexmouth@gmail.com](mailto:transitionexmouth@gmail.com)

Numbers of Carol's new posters have gone up around the town but we can always print more so please tell me of anywhere else that we could get up an A5, A4 or even A3 version put up.

## Social Media and Website

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

You can contact me Adrian Toole, Chair, on [transitionexmouth@gmail.com](mailto:transitionexmouth@gmail.com)

[@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>

## Dates for your Diary

### **19 March**

Rev. James Hutchins tells me of the Hard Questions Cafe: Monday 19 March, at 7.30-9pm at Franklins in the Strand. Our own David Ireson will talk about plastic waste

### **24th March**

This is a follow-up from the regional Transition Network meet last year at which we were represented by Carol Jay. Transition Network are designing these Healthy Cultures workshops around core ingredients for supporting local Transition groups to thrive. From Claire Milne.

*"Mike from Transition Network has invited me to host a one day workshop to explore how to co-create the healthy culture needed to develop regional networks in a wise, considered, creative and nourishing way.*

*Healthy Cultures: Co-Creating Resilient Regional Networks, Saturday 24th March, Bristol*

*We would love someone from your South West region to attend this workshop. I am wondering where you are each at in relation to being part of creating a Regional*

*Network in the South West. I would love to hear from any of you who are interested to join us for this day in Bristol on 24th March or if you know of anyone else in your region who you think might be interested in joining us?"*

Carol will still be working on the Ski slopes alas so contact me if you can attend on our behalf.

## **19th June**

RegenSW are again this year organising the "Smart Energy Marketplace" at Sandy Park, Exeter on 19th June. Please check the Regen website for details:-  
<https://www.regensw.co.uk/Pages/Events/Category/key-events> or sign up for Regen newsletters.

## **And Finally...**

The Filmmakers behind 'wetheuncivilised, A Life story' have got a special screening deal for Transition Groups who would like to show the film in their community.

Disillusioned by a story of consumption and alienation, Lily and Pete Sequoia were called to action. Their journey is documented in a moving documentary, 'wetheuncivilised, A Life Story'. The film shares their intimate and life-changing quest around the UK to discover a hidden culture of connection and belonging. Featuring conversations with Satish Kumar, Polly Higgins, Bruce Parry and Patrick Whitefield, it is a tale of both deep grief and inspired hope. . [WATCH TRAILER](#) Anyone want to organise a showing?

## **Appendix:**

### **Questions to Candidates**

- 1. If elected, would you oppose proposals for fracking in East Devon?*
- 2. If elected, would you press the Council to avoid buying single use plastic?*
- 3. If elected, would you support a preservation scheme in connection with nominated species of trees, shrubs and plants growing naturally in the Exmouth environment?*
- 4. If elected, would you support preservation schemes recognised as significant for insects such as wasp spiders and ants? Would you favour planting to encourage butterflies and bees, holes in fences to accommodate hedgehogs and bat houses being placed on appropriate trees?*
- 5. If elected, in major housing developments, would you insist on inclusion of affordable and social housing? What is your position on 2nd homes?*
- 6. Are you in favour of an integrated transport interchange for Exmouth? Would you encourage commuters to Exeter to use public transport and reduce congestion on our roads?*
- 7. If elected, would you insist on walkways and cycle paths through and linking housing developments to encourage the use of less cars on the roads?*
- 8. If elected and also a member of the Town Council, will you vote in support of proposals, which have already been approved by the Exmouth Town Council?*
- 9. Are there ways in which you feel EDDC could improve recycling?*
- 10. Do you believe that protection of the natural environment should be as high on the Council's agenda as other important policies?*

### **Candidates Responses**

#### **Candidates for the EDDC Seat**

## **Daphne J CURRIER, Independent**

If elected, I will continue to fight for what I believe in knowing that sometimes it is only possible to influence, rather than insist upon, sensible action.

1) Fracking is an abomination. Sustainable alternatives are better for the environment and could provide jobs.

2) I had not thought of this but can see that it would be an excellent idea to pressure councils and all public bodies to take a lead in environmentally friendly practices such as reducing single-use plastic. Some barriers need addressing.

3) A preservation scheme for nominated species of trees, shrubs and plants growing naturally sounds excellent. I am also in favour of planting trees which produce food for fauna and humans- sweet chestnut, hazel etc.

4) Supporting insects- yes at every level if native. Hedgehog holes, frog ramps, bat houses and owl roosts- all really welcome. Nature reserves are excellent but so sad that all we have left are a few acres alongside the river. Over use of some of these areas as picnic sites. Liaising with schools I see as essential.

5) Insisting on affordable homes is essential. A clear definition is needed of what is 'affordable'. Council houses bought by private individuals should be resold to the council at a fair price so that they do not go out of social housing stock.

Charging extra rates for second homes is one idea, or encouraging use of empty properties for social housing rental is another idea which I would support. Also homelessness- don't get me started. Not enough done.

6) Transport hub- what happened? Bus station out of town and food store instead. Generally good train service- buses expensive. More cycle paths.

7) Yes. Also more 'request' bus stops as some are very far apart making it difficult to access eg if you can't walk far and live half-way up Marpool Hill.

8) I decided to go for District level only as I had been to Town Council meetings which had decided one way- only to be over-ruled by the District Council.

9) Yes. Generally our bin men are great. Would people welcome occasional bigger recycling bins at strategic positions on street corners to save having to store stuff in flats and homes with no yards. I would support reasonable ideas to promote recycling.

10) Where successfully done, promotion of the natural environment is a big benefit and draw to tourists. Somehow, it needs to be linked to the big bucks to push it up the agenda. Often overlooked is the value of any open green space to families living in cramped conditions.

## **Tim DUMPER, Liberal Democrat**

I oppose fracking as a source of methane etc, in order to lower emissions to reduce threats from climate change we should be encouraging switching to renewable energy sources, such as solar. On Town Council I have voted in favour of good, properly screened solar schemes, which haven't always been popular among fellow councillors.

I would encourage Councils - and others - to reduce plastic use as much as possible, but it will be a very difficult long-term effort to make a big impact. I already try in personal life to "reduce re-use and recycle" as much as I can.

I have made every effort to give advice, help and encouragement to those involved in these types of scheme to protect and develop rarer and indigenous plants and trees, along with the animal life that will usually accompany them. Wild Exmouth is a new developing project which could give a big boost to this process. I am right behind it.

Where possible I favour developers providing housing that those on average and lower incomes can afford on a continuing basis. It is very profitable for developers to cater to the "high end" of the market, and that does not help the majority of Exmouth people. Too many second homes spoil community cohesion, by often being empty, and leaving "ghost town" areas. In terms of Planning, it is normally developers who come forward with schemes, so our role as councillors is often reactive, not proactively putting forward schemes to benefit the majority!

As Chairman of Exmouth Transport Partnership, I am actively encouraging the Transport Interchange, and a group is working on putting together a business plan for one right now. Our emphasis is on creating as good a service as we can - bearing in mind that we only have persuasion to work with - to try to increase bus and train use - not just to Exeter. Again, I try to set an example by using other methods to travel locally than by car, although I do use a car.

I do favour cycle trails, wildlife corridors etc, and have in the past been a member of the Valley Parks group.

I would not necessarily vote in favour of Town Council Decisions. As a Liberal Democrat, in the minority on the Council, sometimes decisions taken are not what I favoured, and if there are good reasons I would continue to vote in the same way if elected as a District Councillor.

My main campaign on recycling has been to augment the excellent doorstep collection scheme with plenty of dual use recycle and refuse bins on busy streets and those near takeaways or convenience shops. There are so many bottles, cans containers etc go into refuse that should be recycled.

In a place with such a scientifically significant wildlife, not to mention beautiful area, of course a policy to protect the natural environment is vital. The problems occur when there are clashes with other land uses!

## **Dilys M HADLEY, Labour**

My answers to these questions relate to the Labour Party Manifesto and I have always been an environmentally savvy and aware person. You are opposed to all things fossil fuel. I would go further and say that I am also, in accordance with the beliefs of Jeremy Corbyn and the more enlightened Parliamentary members of our Party, vehemently anti-nuclear.

1. I would oppose EVERY proposal to frack not just in East Devon but anywhere.
2. I would raise the issue of avoiding buying plastic and using plastic. I have spoken and written to shops and businesses and queried the need to use plastic.
3. I would support a preservation scheme in connection with nominated species of trees, shrubs and plants growing naturally. I have advanced qualifications in Horticulture from Bicton College and have, in the past, been involved in various schemes involving green cultivation, here in Exmouth. I fronted a scheme in my immediate locality where all the kids here planted trees around the estate.
4. Ditto the above and campaigns to preserve insect life.
5. I am a socialist living in public housing. I went through a period of homelessness with my small daughter. I have always been a housing activist. I have just taken part in the Public Housing Review for the Labour Party. I can think of no single issue closer to my heart than this one. I am hoping that, were I elected, I would get the chance to do something really major in terms of fighting for affordable and public housing. 2nd homes? I am adamant that 1st ones get ALL the resources.
6. I am totally in favour of an integrated transport interchange. It is a life limiting issue and the lack of any real response to this is a social crime. I believe in complete re-nationalisation and a joined-up policy relating to public transport and the phasing out of fossil fuel. Public transport should largely be free!
7. I fought for the continuation of the cycle path network to reach this estate. I once ran a bike building scheme for young people. I would support walkways and cycle paths.
8. Provided the proposals that were passed by the Town were green ones, I would. If they were ill advised on any level, I'd continue to fight for better but I am no NIMBY.
9. I feel the bio-diversity hub is a great idea and I'd support it. On the issue of recycling, the disposal and recycling of rubbish should be renationalised and a proper, joined up, non-profit-making, approach. The way that refuse is dealt with in this Town is a borderline health hazard, especially in places like my estate.
10. Yes I do; there's a case for saying that the DOE should be one of the top government departments with a massive budget. While we live in a Country that puts money and not people first this will not happen.

## **Robert N. MASDING, Green**

Joint reply with Oliver Davey (see below) reflecting Green Party policy

## **Candidates for the Town Council Seat**

Aurora, E BAILEY, Conservative

- 1. If elected, would you oppose proposals for fracking in East Devon? yes I would object.
- 2. If elected, would you press the Council to avoid buying single use plastic? Yes.
- 3. If elected, would you support a preservation scheme in connection with nominated species of trees, shrubs and plants growing naturally in the Exmouth environment? Yes.
- 4. If elected, would you support preservation schemes recognised as significant for insects such as wasp spiders and ants? Would you favour planting to encourage butterflies and bees, holes in fences to accommodate hedgehogs and bat houses being placed on appropriate trees? Yes.
- 5. If elected, in major housing developments, would you insist on inclusion of affordable and social housing? What is your position on 2nd homes? Yes to affordable housing not in favour of second homes.
- 6. Are you in favour of an integrated transport interchange for Exmouth? Would you encourage commuters to Exeter to use public transport and reduce congestion on our roads? Yes I would.
- 7. If elected, would you insist on walkways and cycle paths through and linking housing developments to encourage the use of less cars on the roads? Yes.
- 8. If elected and also a member of the Town Council, will you vote in support of proposals, which have already been approved by the Exmouth Town Council? Yes if it complies with neighbourhood plan
- 9. Are there ways in which you feel EDDC could improve recycling? Yes.
- 10. Do you believe that protection of the natural environment should be as high on the Council's agenda as other important policies? Yes.

## **Oliver DAVEY, Green**

- 1) I am completely opposed to fracking in any part of the UK, and I believe the time has come to leave all further fossil fuels in the ground.
- 2) I and my colleagues have been in Exmouth town centre, asking people to sign a petition calling on Exmouth TC to phase out the use of plastics in its own operations and to discourage use of single-use plastic, cups, bottles, bags etc. by local businesses.
- 3) I would be very happy to support a preservation scheme for nominated species of trees, shrubs and plants.
- 4) I aim in my own gardening to provide for the needs of wildlife, and I would support any initiatives aimed at providing food sources and habitats for wildlife.
- 5) I would expect any housing scheme to include a proportion of affordable or social housing, preferably built to high standards of insulation and appearance. While I would not oppose anyone having a second home, I think that the owners of such properties should expect to pay full council tax, and perhaps even a little over, though I recognise that such properties can also sometimes be a useful addition to the rented sector.
- 6) I am a great supporter and user of public transport, and I would be very much in favour of an integrated hub for Exmouth, with bus and train times aligned, so that buses do not leave just as the train arrives, which is sometimes the case at present. As a Green, my aim is always to encourage use of alternatives to car-usage, though I recognise that the current cost of public transport, especially the bus, is a deterrent for many people.
- 7) I would like to see many more walkways and cycle paths linking different areas of the town, and I note that many newer housing schemes have included such provision. As a regular walker and cyclist, I use many of them, and would like to see more defined through-routes for cyclists and walkers, and better signposting.
- 8) I am standing only for Exmouth Town Council so this question is not applicable.
- 9) I would support any initiative aimed at informing locals and visitors of the amazing wildlife we have in this area, and I think an Environmental Interpretation Centre would be an excellent idea to promote understanding of biodiversity and the need for sustainable development.
- 10) I firmly believe that the Town Council has an important role to play in protecting the natural environment, and I agree that it should be as high in its priorities as any other consideration, and even higher on occasion.

## **Dilys M HADLEY, Labour**

Refer her answers as a candidate for EDDC

ENDS