



Members' and Supporters' newsletter from Transition Exmouth – April-May 2015

From the Chair Adrian Toole aka @GreenManExmouth

It's been an exciting few weeks as you'll read later and with the Exmouth Festival fast approaching we need to make sure we have volunteers to 'Person' the stall which we will be sharing this year with the Buturi charity.

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. Transition Exmouth AGM

This is to be on Saturday 20th June @14.30 at the Open Door Centre in South Street opposite the post sorting office. Please put in your diary. More details later.

If you are not yet a member, Transition Exmouth membership is currently only £1 and is easily paid to Rob Masding our treasurer at an event or by dropping in a note at Rob's: Flat 3, 134 Exeter Road, EX8 1QG or to me at 16 Bicton Street, EX8 2RU.

2. Festival & Carbon Footprint Project

The approaching Exmouth Festival at the end of May (Friday 22nd to Thursday 28th) has inspired us to plan a stall to be shared with Judith Smith's Buturi project.

<http://www.buturi-project.org/>

Judith's vision is to see an environmentally sustainable roadmap for development in her native Tanzania. Judith has attended one of our Umbrella Group meetings and we found sufficient common ground to seek ways of cooperating. The theme of the stall is to be 'Footprints Across the World' and we will be attempting to demonstrate the contrasting carbon footprints of typical families in our two countries. This is an ambitious theme and Noel, who is coordinating would like to hear from anyone able to help in the planning and anyone willing to commit time to the stall over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Noel Harrower n.harrower@btinternet.com, 01395 271731

<http://www.efestivals.co.uk/festivals/exmouth/2015>

3. Hustings

You may be aware that there are elections coming up; the news coverage of politicians scrabbling to get one over on their opponents is boringly predictable so I think election news should be restricted to a separate TV channel!

As you know, Transition Exmouth is not involved in politics but we are involved in civic affairs and we took the opportunity to ask a question at the recent Election Hustings at Glenorchy Church. I could not be present but on behalf of Transition Exmouth, Elinor asked the following:

"The world's top climate scientists are certain that continued emission of greenhouses gasses into the atmosphere will irreversibly damage the planet's life support systems. Global sea levels are rising and the carbon dioxide in the air we breathe is now at the highest level the human species has ever experienced. If you were elected as MP for this coastal constituency, what steps would you urge on Government to reduce carbon emissions? "

Those of you who were there will have heard the replies from the candidates; Elinor reports that none were convincing!

Noel asked a question about the Developing World (those countries that we previously referred to as the 'Third World').

4. Sustainable Exmouth

A great step forward this month in that Andy, Alex and Tom of Granted, and myself had a meeting with the Grenadier Project Manager.

Grenadier with their parent Andromeda are to be building the new Watersports Centre on Queen's Drive. All the indications are that an iconic structure with Eco-positive credentials will arise and Grenadier have reiterated their commitment to lease the centre to a Public Interest company who will manage it.

Transition Exmouth hope to be further involved in the detailed design and we are looking for members of a Working Group to help in this. A useful activity with which we could kick off, is to seek members of the-not-for-profit company that will be required. Could you be a part of that?

<http://www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/SustExm.pdf>

5. April Tree Planting

The day was sunny and warm and a good-sized group of all ages turned out for Elinor's tree planting in Bapton Valley Park. See photo on Website. Most of the trees from previous years seem to have survived and we've now got the makings of a Transition wood! If you go down that way, consider taking a bucket and watering the trees from the nearby stream; you can collect a little water at a time if you lower the bucket from the bridge with a rope.

6. LETS News

The LETS Core Group organised a Skittles Evening at the Railway Club on 17th April. About 20 people turned up for, in Marian's words, 'a super-convivial evening'. The skittles were fun, the food good and there was cockles trading. If you didn't make it, there will be other social events to come. In any case, log-on and do some trading.

<http://www.exmouthlets.org.uk/>

PS hero Simon Pardoe has volunteered to make some much needed improvements to the LETS website.

7. COLP

There are no COLP meetings until after the elections, which are not all about Westminster; we could see a shake-up in the Town Council!

Points from the last meeting:

A) The Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan has officially kicked off. This is a huge project and we feel we do not have the resources to get deeply involved.

Transition Exmouth will focus its input on sustainable aspects of all components of the plan with Adrian continuing work on his sustainable development document.

B) There seems to be general support in the town for the decision of DCC to sell the bus garage site to Marks and Spencer for a Food Hall. But there can be no guarantee that the shop will sell only food.

DCC and EDDC have conflicting interests over this development since a shop adjacent to the station on land owned by DCC will impact negatively on the EDDC plans for a supermarket on their Rugby Club grounds.

Our view must remain focused on COLP's demand for an Integrated Transport Interchange, which should be facilitated by this proposal.

8. 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 are on Mondays 11th May & 22 June @ 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.

9. 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 maintains the Green Drinks Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/15416577788/>

but also see our international listing: <http://www.greendrinks.org/Devon/Exmouth>

10. News Roundup

The Guardian is running a fossil fuel disinvestment campaign. Sign up and persuade the Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust to take their money out.

www.theguardian.com/keep-it-in-the-ground

As an alternative way of life (or perhaps a choice for life rather than death) The **Exeter Pound** will be launched in the autumn. This is exciting for us in Exmouth; perhaps it can circulate here also? www.exeterpound.org.uk/

<http://www.exeterexpressandecho.co.uk/Q-need-know-Exeter-Pound/story-25956305-detail/story.html>

What follows is not a joke: it will not affect domestic generators but as part of the big picture, Western Power Distribution (WPD) are warning that a component of their grid has reached full capacity and as a consequence, in our area, a delay of 3-6 years will be imposed on all generation projects seeking to connect to the grid at High Voltage (HV) level! Thanks to Sid Energy for this item.

11. Around the Region

Sidmouth

Vision for Sidmouth

<https://www.visionforsidmouth.org/>

Community Energy Company Sid Energy

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

Sid Energy have been approached by Solstice Renewables asking for support for their proposed solar park at Clyst St. Mary. Like Transition Exmouth, It is not SidEnergy's policy to be for or against any individual renewable energy project and like us they will leave it to individual members to decide if they want to support it. Here is the link:

<http://www.solsticerenewables.com/shepherds/>

Exeter

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

Exeter Community Energy <http://www.ecoe.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/> features a letter to download for sending to your old university urging fossil-fuel disinvestment.

12. And Finally

There is to be a Climate March across Britain in the Summer. Get you boots on. See <http://www.walkforclimate.org/>