



## Greetings from Transition Town Exmouth

### Subscribers' newsletter from Transition Town Exmouth (TTE)

**August 2014. From Chair, Adrian Toole aka @GreenManExmouth email: [tte.inform@gmail.com](mailto:tte.inform@gmail.com)**

Yes it's the holiday season and your Chair had joined David Cameron in taking a break (in darkest Wales) so this newsletter is late!

All events (ours and others that I am aware of) will be on our calendar at [www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk](http://www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk)

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## 1. TTE Film and Discussion evenings

Noel and Rob are running a series of three events on the following dates, all starting at 19.30 in the Glenorchy Church hall in Exeter Road:

- Thursday, 9th October: We will be showing a film about climate change, and the human impact, following it by a short talk by a Martin Goss, the Bishop of Exeter's adviser on Climate Change and community matters, and a discussion about how we can respond.
- Thursday, 23 October. We will probably have a power-point presentation and a short film supplied by Christian Aid about the damage being done through climate change in poorer countries and a discussion. Noel tells me that Laura McAdam may be joining us on that evening. All I know about Laura is that she was a Big Brother contestant; can this be true?
- Thursday 20 Nov: We expect to show a film about Transition Groups around the world and follow this by breaking into discussion groups. On this occasion we hope to have use of the kitchen. There will possibly be interest groups on such topics as Local Food and the Community Allotment, Heating in the home and Eco Churches. There will be a round-up at the end.

The idea of starting an Exmouth Transition Town group came originally from just such an event six years ago so come along and get motivated. These meetings will comprise our consultation on a possible name change for TTE.

## 2. Sustainable Exmouth

Andy had been busy making contacts and revising his Presentation, the trouble is that we have not identified those to whom we want to show it!

Our focus is still on the Splash Zone and EDDC have still not announced what is to happen there and who they have signed up to do it! Potential Developers are clearly proving hard to convince and we think applicants would



do better to have local input. Opinions in the town are divided and in the 2012/13 EDDC survey a significant minority didn't want the area significantly changed at all!

Most people I've spoken to are fearful of over-sized development, in fact fearful of the original outline presented by EDDC in 2012. Andy believes that the original outline is unimaginative, badly conceived, and will do nothing to raise the profile of Exmouth. He and his advisers have some really good ideas to promote on this key site and so TTE aim to be ready when the doors of secrecy are opened.

On the Premier Inn site, where we were clearly too late to influence anything, David Ireson and Rob Masding have a brief to document the construction process and will thereafter make a presentation on the subject.

Any of you who would like to help in this worthwhile project, please get in touch.

### 3. COLP

Continuing on the good work done in the past by Gill Wyatt and Derek and others, Noel and I attend the Community Organisation Liaison Panel meetings with Councillors. This can often be frustrating, largely because the three-tier LA structure, makes decision making so laborious.

Nothing illustrates this better than the perennial plans for a Transport Hub. The difference this year is that DCC have money to spend, indeed must spend it this financial year. Great you say, lets agree where they should spend it in furtherance of the Master Plan for the Hub. Sorry but there is no master plan! All these years talking about it and no plan yet agreed by the LAs and other stakeholders! The Exmouth Transport Partnership have such a plan, largely put together by our member John Petty but this has not been agreed by those with the money, in fact it's been ignored by them.

What the TC have been told is that the DCC money available has to be spent now or lost and has to be spent only on improving the rail station approach. DCC seem to have made their 'Stage 1' design without consideration or acknowledgement of any subsequent stages that suggest themselves. This saga has been well covered in the Journal.

Given that ERATA have recently become defunct leaving only ECA, ECS, and ourselves as the community groups on COLP, your reps have suggested that other community groups might be invited to join. We have suggested Magnolia W.I. and Churches Together in Exmouth; others have then suggested additional candidates.

The criteria that must be satisfied are that the organisation must have a representative structure and must be active throughout the town. It would be a great help if you, our members and supporters, could suggest ASAP any groups that they know of, or may even be members of, that would fulfil those requirements.

### 4. New Town Clerk

Noel and I had a constructive meeting with the new Town Clerk, Lisa Bowman.

She will help in where she can in representing your views to the TC and EDDC

### 5. Umbrella Group Meetings

These are now being held at six-weekly intervals in the afternoons. Next few dates are 1<sup>st</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> October, and 24 November. Any member who wants to contribute to the UG, please get in touch with Noel Harrower, [n.harrower@btinternet.com](mailto:n.harrower@btinternet.com), 01395 271731. Your UG retains the Transition principle of welcoming approaches from anyone setting up activities of their own and who wants to affiliate with us.

### 6. Membership & Subscriptions



Those of you who are not members are of course welcome to join, the subscription is only £1 p.a. deliberately set this low so as not to be a disincentive. It is important to us to be able to show that we represent a large number of residents.

Please get this money to us by dropping it (include note as to who you are!) into me at 16 Bicton Street, EX8 2RU, or Noel's at 6 Lyndhurst Road 6 EX8 3DT, or Rob Masding's (Treasurer): Flat 3, 134 Exeter Road, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 1QG. If you want to post it to Rob, please feel free to send stamps.

## 7. De-cluttering

Jasmine Sleigh has been in contact with me. She runs a local business ChangeYourSpace; Her Website, [www.changeyourspace.co.uk](http://www.changeyourspace.co.uk), features two 90 second videos on services for those who need to eliminate clutter from their home/workspace/mind so they can have more energy to focus on what is important. You know you need it!

## 8. Tolpuddle Marchers

An event out-of-the-ordinary occurred on 14<sup>th</sup> July when Elinor and Rob met the walkers from Plymouth heading to the annual Tolpuddle festival. The marchers were conveyed off to the The Salterton Arms in Budleigh to be entertained by Simon Pardoe and his Ukulele band. They commented that it was the best evening of their trip so far. Alas they had already drunk all the special Tolpuddle beer they had promised!

## 9. Fundraising Seminar

So far Noel has signed up Vision Group for Sidmouth for a seminar on fundraising. Details TBA. Anyone who wants to develop skills in that area and use them on our behalf, please get in touch with Noel.

## 10. Our Website

<http://www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk>. Thanks to Rob for updating the Website. See his TTE in the Press page which now has a lot more clippings.

## 11. Around the region

### **Vision Group for Sidmouth**

Community Energy Company Sid Energy have launched their Share Offer; needless to say you can read all about it on their Website:

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

They are considering starting a Solar PV project and have opposed a commercial one in their area.

Sid Energy have also sent out a flyer from Community Energy group Cosy Devon, [www.cosydevon.com](http://www.cosydevon.com). This is to aid home energy saving and is supported by the Las, Energy Saving Trust and e.On.

## Exeter

<http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/> and <http://www.ecoe.org.uk/>



Look out for ET and ECOE at the Green Fair, Cathedral Green Sat Aug 30th. Always good fun; the theme this year is Fabrics of Society.

Exeter Community Energy's event Learning from WREN is on 16th September and will feature an open forum with the pioneering community energy group from Wadebridge, Cornwall on what we can learn from their experience. See their Website <http://www.ecoe.org.uk/newsevents/ecoe-autumn-events/>

Venue: The Meeting Room, Stephens Scown Solicitors, Curzon House, Southernhay, Exeter. Networking at 6.45, talk at 7.15 followed by open session for learning together. Free event, all welcome, refreshments available.

Contact Gill Wyatt on 07806 623311 or email [info@ecoe.org.uk](mailto:info@ecoe.org.uk).

## Sustainable Ottery

<http://sustainableottery.co.uk>

Great Website actually, but am having doubts whether the group is still functioning. I was planning to attend their meeting on 17 July, but alas it was cancelled and the Hall & Hearty event promoted on their Website for 22 November is not on the Venue's calendar. Does anyone have any up to date news?

## Transition Town Honiton

No recent news

ENDS

**Adrian Toole (Chair)**

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