

Supporters' Newsletter from Transition Exmouth – April 2016

From the Chair Adrian Toole aka @GreenManExmouth

Seems I have to apologise for the length of these newsletters. Too short do I hear you say? No, 'too long' several have commented; I can only plead that being, to my knowledge, the only organisation in Exmouth active in the matters that fill these newsletters, then surely our members and supporters can browse to the end and find something interesting. How long was that last novel?

If you are reading this, you are a registered supporter but if you want to get more involved and become a Member, the £5 subscription is easily paid to Treasurer, Cllr. Rob Masding c/o Town Hall, St Andrews Road, Exmouth EX8 1AW

If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, our details are:

'Transition Exmouth', Cooperative Bank, 08-92-99, a/c 65332739

Members are additionally requested to plant a tree, either in our wood or elsewhere.

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

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

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1. The Post-Paris Report-back Meeting

This was judged a great success with, by one count, 93 people attending; a lot of new faces and some I'd not seen for a while. Our thanks to all of you. Our three speakers did very well in providing not only the expert assessment but also the campaigners' point of view and explaining the Transition Town involvement.

Thanks to Cllr. Eileen Wragg and her DCC locality budget for funding this. We gained several new members and the generous donations were a welcome boost to our flagging finances.

The message from Prof. Peter Challenor was that the target, a 1.5deg temperature increase, agreed by this unprecedented summit of 197 nations was more ambitious than the experts had anticipated but the challenge is now out to all of us to keep our Government on-course to achieve. Recent policy initiatives have not been encouraging!

2. What's On

Transition Exmouth events: See the Items about the Festival and about our AGM.

3. Jurassic Coast Energy (JCE)

This is a new initiative by Andy Lock, welcomed as an Affiliated Group

All of us have an interest in our home energy supplies and a wish to have a stake, even ownership, has led to the founding of numerous Community Energy Groups around the country. In our local area, regular readers of this newsletter will be aware of initiatives in Sidmouth (SidEnergy) and in Exeter (ECOE). Andy feels that it is time we set one up for ourselves, especially since energy is a core remit of the Transition Town Movement. One of the initial steps for a TT is to draw up an Energy Descent Plan; although much discussed, this was never done in Exmouth.

With the future of renewables never out of the news and reduction of government support, now is the time for community action. Andy held a small meeting recently to discuss possibilities and we were pleased that Helen and Foad from Teign Energy Communities came over and gave us the benefit of their experience. Many others already active in the field have offered him help. Andy now needs to recruit helpers in our local area before setting up a form of community interest company to run the project.

Andy says: *'There is clearly a great deal to study and learn here and any local initiative will require considerable commitment from a dedicated team. If you think you can help, we can keep this idea alive.'*

Recognising that many willing supporters just don't have time to spare, Andy would welcome contact with recently retired professionals; why let a lifetime's skills go to waste? You can contact Andy on andyadslock@yahoo.co.uk

4. and Two More Affiliated Groups

It's going to be a good year for our groups and we have two more to tell you about:

Clean Beach Exmouth

This is a pollution-reduction initiative by Sal Regan, which she kicked off with a 'Queen Beach Exmouth' event on 5th March. Unlike most other beach clean schemes, this she intends to be a perennial activity. Go to the Harbour View Café and outside there you'll find all you need to pick up litter AND dispose of it. As Sal posted on Positive Exmouth:

'Thank you to everyone who came to the Queen Beach Exmouth clean this morning. The sun shone on us and despite the tides being calm, we still managed to collect a whole load of litter that would otherwise have found its way back into the sea. In addition, we now have a "2 minute beach clean" board in Exmouth which will hopefully encourage beach users to tidy up each time they use the beach. Big, big thanks to Martin Dorey, (2 minute beach clean founder), Neil Hembrow (Keep Britain Tidy) and Dawn Hirst, (Manager of Harbour View Cafe) - we could not have done it without you!'

RainShare

All water is precious but processed water costs in money & carbon footprint. RainShare is a social enterprise established by Dr, Sarah Ward to help people share roof run-off.

RainSharers share the run-off so that its entry into sewers is avoided or slowed. It also means they save drinking water by using a quality of water that's more appropriate than highly treated drinking water for a lot of other things (flushing toilets, watering gardens or allotments, washing-down driveways and so on). So if you want to put that rain-water to good use, contact Sarah.

<http://www.rainshare.co.uk/>

Sarah underpins the work with the research she undertakes at Exeter Uni. No only but also: Sarah has just done a swimathon for Sports Relief, raising over £600!

5. Exmouth Festival

With the arrival of Sarah Ward and Rainshare, our plans for the festival have been boosted! Initially your Umbrella Group had decided that we didn't have the resources to run a stall at the Festival over the Spring Bank Holiday.

Sarah however sees the potential for promoting Rainshare to a big audience and is attempting, at this late stage, to book up a stall for us. If this goes ahead, she will need some help.

Now that Spring is here, let me remind you that we'd be happy to hire out our gazebo to other groups for a modest fee as long as our aspirations don't clash! For that matter don't forget we also have the megaphone available if you're planning a sports event or demonstration!

6. AGM Saturday 2nd July

Our AGM this year will be on the afternoon of Saturday 2nd July. As before this will be in the Open Door Centre on the corner of South Street and Church Street EX8 1PE. Doors open at 14.00 with refreshments available; please come along, show your support, and to join up.

7. Exmouth Development Consultations

Transition Exmouth's sustainable Exmouth project is still active on many fronts. We are on the case of these:

- Kilo Properties/Marks & Spencers - Bus garage site
- Andromeda Capital Investment (Grenadier) – Watersports Centre
- Moirai Capital Investments – Queens Drive

Kilo Properties/Marks & Spencers - Bus garage site.

I had engaged with Kilo Properties/M&S specifically questioning the sustainability credentials of their planned store and criticising the fact that its siting precludes for ever the realisation of the Integrated Transport Interchange, so long lobbied for by public transport campaigners in the town. We had formally objected to this scheme but following approval by our own Town Council and recommendation for approval by the Planning Officers, EDDC have given the scheme the green light to go ahead. Transition Exmouth regrets this lost opportunity but would draw your attention to the conditions attached, many of which are intended to protect the estuary wildlife site adjacent. The only cause for celebration is the imposed condition that:

'The building shall achieve a minimum level of 'Very Good' in accordance with the requirements of a BREEAM Assessment (or such national measure of sustainability for building design that replaces that scheme). The store shall be occupied until a BREEAM certificate has been issued for it certifying that at least a level of 'Very Good' has been achieved. (Reason: In the interests of sustainable development and to comply with Strategy 38 of the Adopted East Devon Local Plan 2013-2031).'

We had lobbied, as we will for any future applications, for a higher standard of sustainability than 'Very Good' but this decision at least sets down a marker and future applications should be expected to follow suite. If we have the resources, we shall monitor the construction.

Andromeda Capital Investment (Grenadier) – Watersports Centre

Now that EDDC have given themselves permission to divert the road, we can expect an application from Andromeda soon and we'll have an opportunity to engage. I had a meeting with them in the New Year at which I was promised that Transition Exmouth will be impressed at the scope of the sustainability standards that they are proposing; we shall see but indeed this site, given that Andromeda's business model concentrates on carbon reduction and education, could prove to be all we could expect from it. The Andromeda Team are incidentally fully involved with Exeter Futures and so can be expected to be building a reputation for genuine 21stC planning.

Moirai Capital Investments – Queens Drive

This remains mired in controversy, mis-information & and suspicion. The recent Town Meeting was largely taken up with this matter. Our Town Council is now obliged to poll all the town's voters (at a cost of £16000) on a motion that would oblige them to ask EDDC for a pre-application consultation. I assume this request will cover the watersports centre also. My own talks with the Developer have indicated that they are already committed to such a procedure. The rejection by EDDC of their own plan to use 'Swan Lake' as a construction compound & materials dump indicates a shift of position by at least one of their Planning cttee so pressure by SES is bearing fruit but that proposal could not have been better calculated to infuriate our residents!

8. COLP

I attended the last COLP meeting ably assisted by Andy Lock. The important item, to my mind, was a last-minute attempt by Roma Patten (ECA), myself ,& others to salvage something of the Integrated Transport Interchange from the ambitions of M&S. As I reported above, we were unsuccessful. I should be able to attend the next one on 6th April. I can provide the minutes of these meetings on request.

9. 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 11 April & 23 May both 14.30 to 17.00 in the Town Hall Cttee. Room. Anyone who wants to help with any of our projects or has a proposal of their own, please get in touch.

10. Membership Leaflets

Membership Leaflets to circulate at any event are obtainable from Adrian or Rob.

11. Social Media and Website

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

[@GreenManExmouth](https://twitter.com/GreenManExmouth) continues his tweeting, not always on TE items but always seeking to entertain so be prepared for the bizarre!

Simon runs a Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/ghroups/15416577788/>

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

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

12. Around the Region

In brief here but I may be able to supply more details or contacts:

Walking to Transition

Antony Turner + small dog are walking from Teignmouth to Lyme Regis probably on w/e of 22 April. Antony is a member of Teign Estuary Transition and works in Graphic

Design. He is looking for accommodation in Exmouth for one night and would like to give a presentation on his work. Gill Wyatt knows him. In his words:

'I wondered whether it would make sense to combine the walk with meeting people and groups along the way who are interested in climate change solutions and the work I have been doing. I would be very happy to give talk / presentations along the way in exchange for a bed for Milo and me for the night.

I can also share information on current projects including our interactive campus energy & carbon map for Exeter University, our thinking on visualising local air pollution and also ideas around using cartoon characters and visualising the emissions benefits of electric plug-in cars!'

His website: <http://www.carbonvisuals.com> or <https://www.linkedin.com/in/>

Could be fun but I won't be around. If you can help, contact Antony on carbonant@gmail.com, 07973 641131

East Devon Walk For The Climate

Ash Leighton Plom of Christian Aid notified me of another Jurassic Coast ramble linking Climate Change to poverty: Saturday 14th May 10:30-14.00. Christian Aid Week's focus is Bangladesh, a country subject to the worst ravages of climate change. So they want to build synergy between activists, and maintain the momentum to confront climate change together.

Meet at Lime Kiln car park, Granary Lane to begin walking along the Otter River. Local Christian Aid supporters will have a table at the car park from 10.15 am. Cream tea afterwards! http://act.350.org/event/break-free-world_attend/12258

DCC Refuse Week

Emma Croft from DCC tells me they are holding a REUSE week May 16-22 across Devon and was wondering if we might like to be a part of in some way? It would be an opportunity to benefit from their collective promotion. I know many of you are keen on recycling so why not organise something?

Protest about Hinkley Point

Too far away to care about? But you can never get too far from a nuclear facility. In hope that the Government can be made to see sense, Greenpeace have an on-line petition: <https://secure.greenpeace.org>

Sidmouth

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

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

Exeter

The Exeter Pound has been going only six months but there is already £E30000 worth of notes in circulation via 131 outlets and now they are crowd-funding to go digital! They need your money for the software system and a new website. Why not take your savings out of the clutches of the corporations and invest it locally.

http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/exeter-pound-goes-digital?utm_source=www.exeterpound.org.uk&utm_medium=widget&utm_content=click&utm_campaign=Exeter+Pound+Goes+Digital

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

Another example of local funds invested in local projects is **Exeter Community Energy** whose first Community Share Offer closed with £390,000 raised in under 3 weeks!

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

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

Avocet Line

I'm sure none of you need reminding of this valuable feature of Exmouth life, our Avocet Line. Celia Minoughan of the Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership team has offered to write a feature article for our newsletter; I had to decline but it's worth a browse through this link: <http://greatscenicrailways.co.uk/lines/avocet-line/>

Others

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

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

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

Sustainable Crediton: <http://www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk>

Rolle Exmouth Ltd. have a Special GM at the Owen Building, Rolle College Campus, Douglas Avenue, Exmouth on Wednesday 30th March, 2016, at 11am and then again at 7.30pm - Members may attend at either time. www.rollecentre.org

Close the Door campaign

This is not a local initiative but campaigns to get shops to close their doors to keep heat in! Worth supporting: <http://www.close-the-door.org.uk/>

13. And Finally

Our UG meetings will have to change venue in the Summer because the Town Council is being temporarily evicted from our Town Hall during building works to accommodate the arrival of EDDC staff. The latest information was that it has not yet secured another home!