

Shaping the future of Exmouth



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: NEWSLETTER No.2

The new Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan is giving all of us the chance to influence how Exmouth will develop in the next few years – and the chance to secure substantial funds to spend on projects that we, the residents, want. If we support it, a new era can start by the end of next year and go on for at least 15 years.

Success through the Town referendum next summer will only happen if people feel they have been listened to properly and truly believe that it is a community-led plan based on painstaking consultation and lasting almost a year. We started this in April and the first of three phases has just been completed. From the work done so far by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group a draft vision has been formulated. It says: Exmouth aims to be a friendly, welcoming, safe, clean and vibrant town, building on our traditional seaside heritage balanced with an aspiration to be forward thinking. We will enable all, young and old, to have a great place to live work and visit.

Now is the time to back up that vision with practical and realistic proposals based on the ideas of residents and business people.

The Steering Group for the plan comprises representatives from Exmouth Community Association, Exmouth Civic Society, Exmouth Churches Together, Transition Exmouth, Exmouth Chamber of Commerce, EDDC's Champion for Neighbourhood Planning, Exmouth's Town Clerk, a planning expert and one Councillor from each of the town's five wards.

After an open meeting at the Town Hall in April and discussions throughout the town in ten locations during May and June a first picture emerged of the strengths and weaknesses of Exmouth – what we do and don't like about our town – as seen by residents and business people.

Well over 2000 individuals – 6% of Exmouth's population – completed the 'Shape the Future' survey conducted in May/June. According to Devon Communities Together, the independent body appointed to analyse the responses, this gives an acceptable level of representation from across residential areas and means we can be confident that the results are an accurate reflection of the views of people in the town. The report 'Shape the Future of Exmouth' reflects basically positive views about Exmouth and gives important indications of the issues which residents wish to be addressed. It is available online at <http://exmouthneighbourhoodplan.uk/documents.htm> or from Exmouth Town Council, 44 Rolle St Exmouth (tel: 01395 276167) after 19th September.

The key themes for Exmouth's Neighbourhood Plan are now emerging in the required way. These include the importance of more housing specifically planned to suit local people, young and old. Among the issues to be addressed is striking the balance between preserving Exmouth's history as a seaside town and the town becoming more forward thinking. The huge asset of Exmouth sea-front, particularly the future development at Queen's Drive, will require careful consideration.

The next stage in producing the plan will strengthen community engagement through discussion with stakeholder groups and the establishment of working groups on specific issues. This stage has started and will last well into the autumn.

Before the end of 2016 the Outline Neighbourhood Plan will be in draft and there will be another round of consultations to check that the draft plan reflects what people want. This is a unique chance for Exmouth's voice to be heard and to change the way decisions on developments in the town are planned and implemented.

EXMOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

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For further information about the Neighbourhood Planning Process visit:

W: www.tinyurl.com/znjtaks or find us on **Facebook:** [exmouthneighbourhoodplan](https://www.facebook.com/exmouthneighbourhoodplan)

