



EXMINSTER COMMUNITY PLAN

PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 2016

Exminster Community Plan Steering Group

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INTRODUCTION

The Exminster Community Plan project was commissioned by the Parish Council in May 2011. With advice from the Community Council of Devon and with the help of volunteer residents, the Council carried out a survey of all households in the village early in 2012 and, after detailed analysis of the data returned, published the Community Plan in November 2012. This can be downloaded from the Council's website www.exminster.org.uk.

The Plan contains a list of actions designed to improve life in the village for residents. It does not relate to the proposed growth area at Matford, even though this is within the Exminster Parish.

Some of the actions concern the provision of infrastructure and are best able to be dealt with by the Parish Council. Other actions are more suited to being tasked by residents themselves and are being led by an independent Steering Group consisting of volunteer residents, accompanied by representatives of the Parish, District and County Councils.

The Steering Group was launched in January 2013, with a constitution and membership approved by the Parish Council. It has its own insurance and bank account and was granted an initial sum of £1,000 from the Parish Council, needing to raise any additional funds by its own initiative. On average, it has met every two months and, in keeping with the 5 year life of the Community Plan, it will be dissolved no later than November 2017.

The current Steering Group members for 2016 are as follows. However, we would always welcome new members. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Secretary on 823673 or by email at david.nappin@btinternet.com.

Judith Brothers

Alan Connett (County Councillor)

David Nappin (Secretary)

Haf Edwards

John Tucker

John Goodey (Parish and District Councillor).

The Steering Group has been tasked with reporting to the community on progress with the actions in the Plan. Apart from individual reports on projects through the local media, this annual report reviews the overall task with content from Parish and District Councillors and Steering Group members.

Since publication of the Community Plan, Teignbridge District Council has produced its Local Plan 2013-33 and the Parish Council its Neighbourhood Development Plan 2013-33, both of which give statutory protection to the village of Exminster and provide for the construction of community facilities at Matford, which will be available for Exminster residents to use.

HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FUNDING

Issue HIF01:

The majority of residents do not want further housing development in the village and this should be reflected in any future planning decisions.

How this might be dealt with:

By the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Partners:

Parish Council, Teignbridge District Council.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

The Parish Council has completed a Neighbourhood Development Plan, which was approved by referendum in 2015. Together with Teignbridge District Council's Local Plan, this will provide as much protection as is possible against large-scale housing development in Exminster village. Policy EXM2 will also assist in the protection of the 'Settlement Limit'.

Issue HIF02:

To maintain an undeveloped buffer zone between Exeter and Exminster.

How this might be dealt with:

To be reviewed as part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Partners:

Parish Council, Teignbridge District Council.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

Teignbridge District Council's Local Plan includes proposals for a Ridge Top Park, which will maintain the green break between the existing village and the proposed housing development at Matford.

Issue HIF03:

There appears to be an unmet demand for “affordable” housing in the village, particularly among younger age groups.

How this might be dealt with:

By re-assessing the availability of affordable housing in the light of the Milbury Reach development, as part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Partners:

Parish Council, Teignbridge District Council.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

The development at Milbury Reach satisfied local demand at the time.

The current development at Sentries Farm (Courtney Grange) will provide 25% affordable housing and negotiations are taking place with a company called RentPlus to enable local people to rent a property in the first instance, with a view to buying it after five years.

The Matford development will provide further affordable housing, as well as starter homes and serviced self-build plots in the future.

Issue HIF04:

Newer residents of Exminster feel part of Exeter rather than Teignbridge.

How this might be dealt with:

(a) Teignbridge and Exeter information could be added to the Parish Council website, Exminster.net and noticeboards in Coffee on the Corner, GP Surgery, Post Office.

(b) By informing local facilities of the residents' response.

Partners:

Parish Council, Teignbridge District Council, Local Service Providers, Steering Group.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person - Eleanor Bridgman).

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

Some Exeter-based events are already advertised throughout the village.

Two Notice Boards are to be purchased & erected at the ends of the village, one near Devington Park, the second near the Royal Oak Public House.

Issue HIF05:

Funding required for infrastructure and leisure facilities.

How this might be dealt with:

- (a) By considering options and possibilities as part of the work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- (b) By investigating and formulating a plan to obtain funding for those projects identified by the Community Plan which will be taken forward.
- (c) By joint working with Parish organisations and funding providers.

Partners:

Parish Council, Teignbridge District Council, Devon County Council, other funding and grant making bodies, private benefactors.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

The adoption of the Neighbourhood Development Plan means that the Parish Council will get 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy from the proposed housing development at Matford. This will be used to provide infrastructure and leisure facilities for the whole parish.

ROADS AND PARKING

Issue RP01:

The lack of parking in the village centre with easy, level access to shops and facilities.

How this might be dealt with:

There are limited opportunities for additional parking provision in the village centre as it is currently configured. The Parish Council, through its Neighbourhood Development Plan, could examine future possibilities in the context of a wider review of the issues affecting the village centre.

Partners:

Parish Council, Devon County Council.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

The Parish Council's planning application for the provision of a 'grasscrete' car park alongside the Playing Field on Reddaway Drive was rejected by Teignbridge District Council in 2015, but has since been resubmitted.

Issue RP02:

Non-enforcement of existing parking measures / inconsiderate and dangerous parking.

How this might be dealt with:

Increased presence of a Civil Enforcement Officer in the village in order to raise public awareness that parking is being monitored and offenders dealt with.

Partners:

Teignbridge District Council, Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police, Steering Group.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – Judith Brothers).

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

Devon County Council and Teignbridge District Council have advised us that an Enforcement Officer surveys the village on a regular basis several times a month.

Issue RP03:

There is traffic congestion in the village centre.

How this might be dealt with:

- (a). By promoting the planned cycle/footpath from Milbury Reach through the Stowey car park.
- (b). By examining the possibility of improved cycle parking in the village centre.
- (c). The Neighbourhood Development Plan should examine a range of future possibilities in the context of a wider review of the issues affecting the village centre.

Partners:

Parish Council, Teignbridge District Council, Steering Group, Exminster Community Primary School, Westbank Practice, Westbank Centre, local businesses.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

- a) The cycle/footpath across the Stowey Arms car park between Milbury Reach and the Main Road is now open.

The Parish Council is also looking into the possibility of creating a cycle path through the village which bypasses the Main Road. It would run between Milbury Reach and Berrybrook Meadow via Crockwells Meadow. With the assistance of Devon County Council, outline plans have been drawn up to connect this to the Exe Estuary Trail; the project could be part funded from money the parish receives from the Matford development.

- b) The Parish Council is working to install cycle racks outside the Victory Hall.
- c) Devon County Highways has carried out a feasibility and cost study into a proposal to re-site the pedestrian/cycle crossing on Sannerville Way to just south of its northern junction with the Main Road. The Exminster Neighbourhood Development Plan Implementation Group are working on this project.

Issue RP04:

There is traffic congestion in the village centre.

How this might be dealt with:

- (a) The Steering Group could encourage residents who are able to walk or cycle rather than use their cars.
- (b) Discussion with Royal Mail regarding an extra post box in the vicinity of Devington Park.
(This was an issue raised by one respondent under this section of the questionnaire.)

Partners:

None.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead persons – (a) Eleanor Bridgman, (b) John Tucker).

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

- a) Eleanor Bridgman contacted County Highways about congestion in the village during the morning rush hour caused by cars using the Main Road as a ‘rat run’ around Sannerville Way. The County seems unconvinced that this is happening, and the Steering Group has so far been unable to confirm its validity.
- b) Royal Mail has installed a new pillar box in Reddaway Drive near its junction with Miller Way.

CHILDCARE AND SCHOOLS

Issue CS01:

The present pre-school facility is inadequate for the demands placed upon it.

How this might be dealt with:

The pre-school will work with the Parish Council and others to define and plan for a dedicated building for the Parish.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan working party to consider options and proposals.

Partners:

Parish Council, Exminster Pre-School, Deepway Centre Trust.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

No progress to date.

Issue CS02:

Parish support for Exminster Community Primary School to remain a central part of the village.

How this might be dealt with:

Exminster Community Primary School will liaise with the Parish Council and Devon County Council to ensure that current and future demand for school places is met in the short term through expansion of the existing school site and in the longer term by identifying a suitable site for a replacement school within the village.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan working party to consider options and proposals.

Partners:

Parish Council, Exminster Community Primary School, Devon County Council.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

The School now has a four classroom extension to accommodate the growing pupil numbers and its establishment has been increased to 420 pupils. The development at Matford will also provide further accommodation for primary, secondary and early years pupils.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Issue LA01:

Provision of a range of enhanced and/or additional indoor and outdoor sports facilities, including a swimming pool, purpose-built sports centre, tennis courts and bowling green.

How this might be dealt with:

A working party to be established comprising volunteers from the community, local providers and the Parish Council to look at the options, draw up a statement of requirements, consider financial implications, develop a business plan and look at funding opportunities.

The Parish Council to consider results as part of its deliberations for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Partners:

Parish Council, Westbank Centre, St. Martin's Football Club, Teignbridge District Council, Exminster Community Primary School, Victory Hall Trust, Deepway Centre Trust.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

Policy EXM1 of the Neighbourhood Development Plan aims to deliver a Sports and Community Centre for a projected population of 9,000 residents in the Parish once the Matford development is underway. It will include a multi-use indoor sports and leisure centre and artificial turf pitches.

Meanwhile, a tennis court, multi-use games area, outdoor gym equipment and improved skateboard area have been provided at Deepway Green.

Issue LA02:

There is significant demand for community workshops, rehearsal space, film clubs etc.

How this might be dealt with:

The Steering Group to set up a working party to look at how existing space can be optimised.

Partners:

Steering Group, St. Martin's Church, Methodist Church, Westbank Centre, Victory Hall Trust, Deepway Centre Trust.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – Judith Brothers).

Priority:
Medium.

Action taken:

Judith Brothers has visited all the premises in the village with rooms for rent and compiled a list of these, which was published in the Scene magazine in November 2013 and placed on the Exminster.net website. It is reviewed and updated annually.

Issue LA03:

Provision of further allotments.

How this might be dealt with:

The Parish Council to consider whether there are further areas which could be allocated for allotments (e.g. Crockwells Meadow), in the context of the work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Partners:

Parish Council, Allotment Society.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

Exminster Parish Allotment Society, which manages the Spurfield allotments on behalf of the Council, has developed further allotments on an adjacent site that was kindly offered by the village Feoffees. There is still a small waiting list.

Issue LA04:

Encourage and/or provide signage for village facilities.

How this might be dealt with:

The Steering Group to encourage providers of village facilities to consider improved signage to Westbank Centre, Deepway Centre, RSPB Exe Estuary Reserve, Exe Estuary Trail, St. Martin's Football Club, Crockwells Meadow, Public Toilet and The Wilderness.

Partners:

Parish Council, Devon County Council, Westbank Centre, St. Martin's Football Club, Deepway Centre Trust, RSPB.

Champion:

Steering Group.

Priority:

Low.

Action Taken:

The Steering Group is looking into the possibility of installing a display panel with a village map on the Main Road near the Victory Hall.

Issue LA05:

Provide additional age related child and youth facilities, including skate park.

How this might be dealt with:

A wider range of equipment could be considered for Deepway Green and Gissons, with a clear division of play and activity facilities by age.

Partners:

Parish Council, Teignbridge District Council.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

A multi-use games area, tennis court, upgraded skate park, upgraded under-eights play area and outdoor gym equipment at Deepway Green are now in place and have proved very popular. These were part funded by a Viridor landfill tax grant.

Issue LA06:

Provision of more facilities for young people are needed during the week, including a dedicated youth meeting place.

How this might be dealt with:

Exminster Youth Club and uniformed groups could collaborate to explore (a) the demand and (b) the possible solutions.

Partners:

Exminster Youth Club, Guides, Scouts, Steering Group.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

The Youth Club that met at the Deepway Centre has now closed, because of a lack of volunteers. However, a new youth club has recently started at the Emmanuel

Chapel.

Issue LA07:

Some residents are keen to see more wild flower and tree planting in open spaces.

How this might be dealt with:

The Steering Group to explore opportunities for improving green spaces with established groups and with individuals.

Partners:

Steering Group, Community.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – John Tucker).

Priority:

Low.

Action Taken:

“Exeter Green Spaces”, a group of volunteers from the village, has undertaken several projects since its formation in 2014 – sowing bulbs in Dryfield and Reddaway Drive, reinstating the hedge bank in Crockwells Meadow and creating a community orchard in Townfield. It has future ambitions to plant more bulbs and wild flowers around the village.

SHOPS

Issue SH01:

The provision of an additional range of goods and shops, including a community shop, to serve the growing population.

How this might be dealt with:

The Parish Council will consider suitable zones for shops in its Neighbourhood Development Plan, with preferences for the types of shops suggested in the survey returns.

Partners:

Existing shops, Parish Council, Teignbridge District Council, Coffee on the Corner (a Community Interest Company), Steering Group.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

The provision of shops is a commercial decision. Although there was provision for retail space in the original plans for Milbury Reach, this was not pursued because of an apparent lack of demand. However, the Matford development will include provision for retail space and, meanwhile, the Matford Garage has expanded its Spar shop.

Issue SH02:

The provision of an additional range of goods and shops, including a community shop, to serve the growing population.

How this might be dealt with:

Teignbridge District Council and the Parish Council should respond positively to planning applications by prospective shop owners in the light of the types of shop and locations suggested by the survey returns.

Partners:

Parish Council, Teignbridge District Council.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

No planning applications for retail outlets have been received in the last 12 months.

Issue SH03:

The provision of an additional range of goods and shops, including a community shop, to serve the growing population.

How this might be dealt with:

The list of additional goods and services highlighted in the survey could be circulated to existing shops, to test commercial interest in expansion.

Partners:

Existing shops, Parish Council.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – Eleanor Bridgman).

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

Eleanor Bridgman has circulated the list of goods and services to our shops (including the mobile shops) and submitted a short article to the Scene magazine.

COMMUNITY SERVICES – PARISH COUNCIL

Issue COM01:

Monitoring and implementation of the Community Plan's Action Plan.

How this might be dealt with:

Set up a Steering Group and seek volunteers from the Community.

Partners:

Parish Council.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

The Parish Council set up an independent Community Plan Steering Group in January 2013, consisting of up to three representatives of the Parish, District and County Councils and up to seven residents of the village. Its current membership falls short of this and it has unsuccessfully tried to encourage more residents to join the Group.

The Steering Group is responsible for 'championing' those actions assigned to it in the Community Plan, the remaining actions being the responsibility of the Parish Council or the District Councillors.

Issue COM02:

Monitoring implementation of the Community Plan's Action Plan.

How this might be dealt with:

Provide regular updates to the Community on progress.

Partners:

Steering Group.

Champion:

Steering Group.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

Progress reports on individual actions are published from time to time in the Scene magazine and on the Exminster.net website.

This composite report is prepared in March each year, with copies available to download from the Parish Council website. A summary is presented to the Annual Parish Meeting in that month.

The Steering Group uses its meetings to question the Parish Council about the decisions it takes over those actions it 'champions'.

Issue COM03:

Some residents do not understand the role of the Parish Council or its influence and feel the Parish Council does not communicate effectively.

How this might be dealt with:

The Parish Council should review the way it communicates with residents of Exminster, including the possible use of a website, regular newsletters and making meetings as accessible as possible.

Partners:

Parish Council, Community.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

The Parish Council continues its efforts to communicate with the public via its notice board outside the Victory Hall, its website and Facebook page (Exminster online). It also sends copy to the Scene magazine and contributes to the Express and Echo community news section. It has appointed a Lead Councillor for Media to try and ensure a consistent approach to news.

There were many public events held at various locations to explain the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the proposed work at Deepway Green.

COMMUNITY SERVICES - POLICING

Issue COM04:

Reduce anti-social behaviour, notably at Deepway Lane.

How this might be dealt with:

An increased police presence at key times in the village would be very welcome. The role of Neighbourhood Police and how to deal with anti-social behaviour could be dealt with in a series of 'drop in' sessions in a central location.

Partners:

Police Authority / Neighbourhood Police, Parish Council, Steering Group.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – Judith Brothers).

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

Judith Brothers has met our new Community Police Officer (PC Sharon Kerridge-Smith) and exchanged information about ongoing problems. She has been advised that in the current economic climate it is not possible for the police to provide a frequent presence. In the event of any incident, residents should contact the Police by phone. Judith has been assured that all such reports will be responded to.

Issue COM05:

Speeding traffic through the village is an on-going concern.

How this might be dealt with:

Consistent enforcement of existing measures and speed limits is key to successful reduction of speeding. (There is a general feeling that additional traffic calming measures are not the way forward).

Partners:

Police Authority, Parish Council, Steering Group, Devon County Council.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – Judith Brothers).

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

Judith has discussed this with our Community Police Officer. The police have checked the speed of traffic at both ends of the village and have found that one in

five motorists exceed the 30 mph limit at the Milbury Reach end. Further speed monitoring is planned.

The police have spoken to the Head Teacher at the Junior School and Judith has asked them to talk to the children about road safety.

Issue COM06:

Improve Neighbourhood Watch scheme awareness.

How this might be dealt with:

Work with the existing Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator to discuss how they could be expanded and promoted.

Partners:

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Steering Group.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – Judith Brothers).

Priority:

Low.

Action Taken:

In 2013, Judith Brothers met the Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association based in the Teignmouth Police Station and contacted all the current co-ordinators in the village to find out if they are still prepared to continue.

After advertising for additional co-ordinators, she arranged a meeting in the village in June 2014. This was well attended, but so far no new Neighbourhood Watch groups have been formed.

COMMUNITY SERVICES - HEALTH

Issue COM07:

**Quicker access to medical care at the Limes Surgery (preferably without getting referred to the Starcross Surgery) or other access to medical advice.
More flexible opening hours, including evenings and weekends.**

How this might be dealt with:

Steering Group to discuss survey results with the Practice Manager with a view to achieving a better booking system and more flexible opening hours.

Partners:

Westbank Practice, patient Participation Group, Steering Group..

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – Haf Edwards).

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

Discussions led by the Parish Council are taking place to ensure that following the Milbury Reach development adequate services are provided at the Limes Surgery and the proposed development at Matford does not have an adverse impact on health care in the village.

The Patient Experience Survey 2014/15 reported that 83% of patients scored the practice Good, Very Good or Excellent. Evening appointments at the Limes Surgery are available on Mondays 6.30 - 7.30pm and it has recently joined other practices in the Exeter area in taking turns at week-end opening on a trial basis.

Issue COM08:

Provision of additional medical services, such as physiotherapy, healthy eating, weight management, chiropody, walk-in centre for treatment of minor ailments.

How this might be dealt with:

Steering Group to discuss survey results with the Practice Manager. Negotiation with service providers

Partners:

Westbank Practice, Patient Participation Group, Steering Group.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – Haf Edwards).

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

A range of specialist clinics is available at the Limes Surgery - physiotherapy, healthy eating, stopping smoking, chiropody, acupuncture, well woman, maternity, diabetic and hypertension. Information about these is available on the Practice website and in the Surgery waiting room.

The Westbank Centre focusses on Carers, Children's Services, Health & Fitness, Hospitality and Older People and is an additional option (on payment) to the medical/nursing services offered by the Limes Practice. They have a website and leaflets are available explaining what they can offer. In addition they have a regular page in the Scene magazine with information.

The business 'Chiropractic Matters' in the centre of the village provides hands-on chiropractic treatments. This is not NHS funded.

Issue COM09:

Increased use of the local dental practice could help to secure its future in the village.

How this might be dealt with:

Steering Group to discuss survey results with the Practice Manager. More information about services available and longer opening hours.

Partners:

The Clocktower Dental Practice, Steering Group.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – Terry Channell)

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

Terry Channell had several telephone discussions with the Group Co-ordinator of the former DEN Dental Group. As a result, adverts were placed in the Scene magazine promoting the dental surgery in the village and large notices were placed in the surgery windows emphasising that they provide NHS dentistry. In response to patient feedback, they have employed a new dentist and are considering a second hygienist. Since then, the practice has been acquired by Oasis Healthcare Ltd.

COMMUNITY SERVICES - BUS SERVICES

Issue COM10:

Lack of disabled access from bus stop opposite the Victory Hall.

How this might be dealt with:

Discussions with Stagecoach and Devon County Council.

Partners:

Stagecoach, Devon County Council, Steering Group.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – David Nappin).

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

The dropped kerbs have been installed.

Issue Com11:

Request for new bus stop at Exminster Hill.

How this might be dealt with:

Discussions with Stagecoach and Devon County Council.

Partners:

Stagecoach, Devon County Council, Steering Group.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – David Nappin).

Priority:

Low.

Action Taken:

County Highways have rejected this request on safety grounds.

Issue Com12:

Late running and missing buses.

How this might be dealt with:

Discussions with Stagecoach and Devon County Council.

Partners:

Stagecoach, Devon County Council, Steering Group.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – David Nappin).

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

The reliability of the bus service in Exminster has improved significantly, with the B service continuing to be subsidised by the Milbury Reach developers until 2018.

Issue COM13:

Availability of family tickets to reduce costs.

How this might be dealt with:

Discussions with Stagecoach and Devon County Council.

Partners:

Stagecoach, Devon County Council, Steering Group.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – David Nappin).

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

Stagecoach has introduced reduced fares for children travelling with adults during weekends and holidays.

Issue COM14:

Integration of new bus route for Milbury Reach with buses 2 and 10.

How this might be dealt with:

Discussions with Stagecoach and Devon County Council.

Partners:

Teignbridge District Councillors, County Councillor, Landowners and service providers as appropriate.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

The B bus service continues to be subsidised by the Milbury Reach developers until 2018. Meanwhile, it is proving to be very successful, serving the whole village and providing an alternative route into Exeter via Marsh Barton.

COMMUNITY SERVICES – RAIL SERVICES

Issue COM15:

Provision of a railway halt for Exminster.

How this might be dealt with:

Councillors could assess interest in forming a working party to poll the village in detail and, using that information, determine what provision can economically be provided.

Partners:

Teignbridge Councillors, County Councillor, landowners and service providers as appropriate.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

Low.

Action Taken:

Construction of a new railway station at Exminster is some years off due to its cost, but it is firmly on the agenda of all the decision makers and is included in Network Rail's forward plan, the Exeter Metro Rail project, Teignbridge Local Plan and Exeter Master Plan. Earlier stations in the plans are progressing, such as Newcourt (which is now open) and Marsh Barton (due to be built later in 2016).

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT - RENEWABLE ENERGY

Issue COM16:

Support the implementation of more renewable energy.

How this might be dealt with:

Steering Group to assess interest in setting up a community working party to investigate renewable energy opportunities.

Partners:

Steering Group, Community.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person – David Nappin).

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

David Nappin arranged a public meeting in October 2013, but there was very little interest from the village. The Home Energy Officer from Teignbridge District Council has offered her help to answer any queries over grants to residents for insulation and boiler replacement schemes.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT - BINS

Issue COM17:

A “Keep Exminster Tidy” campaign.

How this might be dealt with:

By a publicity campaign in the Scene, Exminster.net, notice boards and any other suitable means arising from discussions.

Partners:

Steering Group, Community.

Champion:

Steering Group (lead person - David Nappin).

Priority:

Low.

Action Taken:

David Nappin has organised litter picks around the village in the spring and autumn each year since 2013, meeting at the Deepway Centre. These are supported by Teignbridge District Council, who provide insurance, supply all the equipment (tongs, gloves, vests and bags) and remove the substantial amount of litter collected. These events have been well attended.

Issue COM18:

Litter.

How this might be dealt with:

Review the provision of litter bins, consider funding priorities and promote any solution

Partners:

Teignbridge District Councillors.

Champion:

District Councillors.

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

Cllr. John Goodey reports that it has become noticeable that the main roads around the village are becoming more litter strewn, as are all the major routes around the county. Teignbridge District Council empties the litter and dog bins around the village on a weekly basis.

Issue COM19:

Dog Mess.

How this might be dealt with:

Review the provision of dog litter bins, consider funding priorities and promote solution.

Partners:

Teignbridge District Councillors and Dog Warden.

Champion:

District Councillors.

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

There are several dog bins in the village and more have now been provided on the Milbury Reach development. Following the recent change in the recycling policy, it is now OK to deposit bagged dog mess in litter bins and black bins.

On a recent litter pick at the north entrance and Reddaway Drive carried out by Cllrs Goodey and Lake it was shocking to see the number of bagged dog mess left on the verges and hanging from branches of bushes, no amount of bins will prevent this shocking antisocial behaviour.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT - PUBLIC TOILETS

Issue COM20:

Publicising the existing public toilet at the Victory Hall.

How this might be dealt with:

Parish Council to review the need for better signage, for the toilets to be open longer and opening hours to be widely publicised.

Partners:

Parish Council.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

The toilet is now open for longer hours and there are additional signs.

Issue COM21:

The possibility of increasing public toilet provision could be explored.

How this might be dealt with:

The Parish Council to review the need for additional public toilets at the Victory Hall and/or the Deepway Centre.

Partners:

Parish Council, Deepway Centre Trust.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

Low.

Action Taken:

Investigations are in progress to install public toilets on Deepway Green. South West Water are carrying out a feasibility study and costing for the Parish Council to provide a connection to the foul drainage system.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT - COMMUNICATIONS

Issue COM22:

Poor Broadband speeds are experienced by more than half of residents.

How this might be dealt with:

Promote priority for Exminster with Devon and Somerset Broadband Partnership.

Partners:

Parish Council, Steering Group.

Champion:

Parish Council.

Priority:

High.

Action Taken:

Fibre optic broadband has now been installed in parts of the village.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT - COMMUNITY EVENTS

Issue COM23:

Some residents felt there should be more community events and activities.

How this might be dealt with:

Steering Group to explore opportunities with established groups and with individuals to encourage community events.

Partners:

Steering Group, Community.

Champion:

Steering Group.

Priority:

Medium.

Action Taken:

No action taken so far.