

FOCUS on EXMOUTH

Liberal
Democrats



LET'S WORK TOGETHER!



After thirteen years in office and, most recently, with four prime ministers in four years, the Tory party has shown itself to be incapable of running the country or managing the economy. In a few short weeks, Prime Minister Liz Truss pushed the UK into a financial and political crisis. No wonder that many voters are desperate for change. In East Devon, in May 2020, after years of Tory rule, **Cllr Eileen Wragg** for the Liberal Democrats, proposed to other opposition councillors, both Independents and Greens, that they should all work together.

As a result, the Democratic Alliance administration was born. On taking control, its leaders uncovered neglect, mismanagement, underinvestment and a culture of secrecy. That had to change. The new administration clearly spelt out its new priorities, appointing portfolio holders for Climate Action; Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism; as well as Democracy and Transparency, among others.

Balancing the budget as well as repairing previous neglect has not been easy and difficult decisions have had to be made, whether in raising car parking charges or finding imaginative ways of renovating crumbling public conveniences. In real terms, the Council has lost £50 million in government grants over the last decade but is now finding new ways of raising finance and getting value for money.

EXMOUTH WELCOMES £15 MILLION INVESTMENT IN TOWN

Major improvements, worth over £15 million, will come to Exmouth town soon. They result from a successful joint bid for Government infrastructure funding by Devon County Council, East Devon District, and Exmouth Town Councils, aided by the local MP. Councillors of all parties worked together on the bid, supported by a talented and dedicated staff team.

What is involved?

- **The long-requested extension of Dinan Way**, from Hulham Road to the A376 main Exeter Road, will finally be implemented. This will relieve traffic congestion and reduce emissions in central Exmouth and provide Brixington residents with speedier access into and out of town. **Cllr Andrew Colman** and other Lib Dem councillors have repeatedly stressed the need for safe crossings on Dinan Way, secure cycle and footways along the route, and sensible arrangements at the two ends of the new road. More is needed to create a 21st century sustainable transport network

- **Better facilities near the railway station**,

for interchange between trains, buses, taxis, more bike parking, and, in particular, improved crossing points into the town centre. Lib Dem Councillor **Tim Dumper**, Chair of the Town Council's Transport Partnership, said "Although the project is being led by County and District Councils, the Town Council will have a real involvement in detailed plans."



IMPROVED SERVICE - BETTER SHELTERS

Alongside improvements to local bus services (including a doubling of buses, to every 15 minutes, on the No.57 Exeter to Brixington service), local residents will be relieved to see new 'winter-proof' bus shelters being erected in various parts of Exmouth. This has resulted from a partnership between Exmouth Town Council and an advertising company.



Old, unfit shelters are being replaced, including at the Parade and along Salterton and Exeter Roads.

Cllr Steve Gazzard, commented: "As a regular bus user myself, I am delighted that this agreement will provide those using the service with improved shelter against bad weather."



EXMOUTH'S POTHOLE 'MOONSCAPE'

Exmouth's potholes are getting worse – damaging tyres and cars and putting the lives of cyclists at risk. One local resident has described his road as a 'moonscape.' Tory-controlled Devon County Council, responsible for our roads, seems overwhelmed, saying "we are currently dealing with a very high number of pothole reports". Devon County says it will only deal with potholes which have a 40mm or more vertical edge (not those which have a depth of at least 40mm). Road surfaces are crumbling, as **Matt Hall's** picture of Moorfield Road shows.

Pressed by Liberal Democrat Councillors, Devon has just announced more money to repair potholes in the coming year's budget.



Your Lib Dem team - working in partnership all year round



FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

A GREENER DEVON

If we are to avoid catastrophic climate change, it is clear that local councils, businesses and communities cannot leave the task to governments or international agreements.

We too must be part of the change that is needed. That is why Lib Dem councillors, on both Town and District Councils, have as a priority been working with others to improve water and air quality, reduce waste and increase recycling. Measures have been taken to address the local effects of global warming, such as flooding, and support emerging green technologies, among many other initiatives. Under East Devon's Climate Change Action Plan, the Council aims to be carbon-neutral by 2040. It is preparing a new Local Plan that will protect biodiversity and increases the sustainability of local communities.

NEW FLOOD DEFENCES READY

Exmouth's new flood defences are now complete, with new and improved protection installed at the mouth of the estuary (at Royal Avenue and Camperdown Terrace) and on the seafront. As a result, 400 town businesses and 1,400 homes in Exmouth should now have a much reduced chance of flooding. **Eileen Wragg** has been one of those long campaigning for the scheme, which has been a partnership between the Environment Agency and East Devon District Council, supported by government funding of £12m. In addition to the installation of an extra twenty-six flood gates, work has also taken place further inland, including at Withycombe Brook.



WASTE & RECYCLING



East Devon's excellent record in waste and recycling continues to improve, according to the latest figures from DEFRA. It now recycles 61% of its waste (an increase of 1% over last year), making it one of the best in the country. By contrast, there has been a decline in Devon overall in recycling rates. Labour-controlled Exeter City Council only recycles 25.5% of its waste (a decline since last year of 2.3%). Local Town

Councillors, **Alex Sadiq**, **Tim Dumper** and **Angela Boatwright** have led a drive to recycle more street waste in the town, particularly plastics.

RAW SEWAGE UP - BONUSES TOO!



Storm Water outflow at Exmouth beach

Residents and visitors alike are outraged about raw sewage on Exmouth beach and the Maer. Although the beach retains its 'Excellent' rating (awarded as a result of summer months' testing) it is the increase in winter discharges at the storm outflow at Maer Rocks (and on the Maer) which is causing serious concern. South-West Water's most recent figures show that over the last three years of study the month of February was the worst, showing an average of 196 hours of raw sewage discharged at Exmouth beach. Yet, despite a damning report from the regulator, Ofwat, annual bonuses to water company executives rose by 20% in 2021 (with 22 water bosses paying themselves a total of £24.8m in 2021-2).

Richard Foord, the new Liberal Democrat MP for neighbouring Tiverton & Honiton, in February this year successfully introduced a legislative change which will force water companies to put infrastructure improvements ahead of bonus payments. Meanwhile, only 14% of English rivers meet good ecological standards, with most contaminated by 'a dangerous chemical cocktail' in their waters.



Richard Foord and Littleham Councillor Nick Hookway

No wonder local people are telling water bosses: **"Clean it up!"**

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Name: _____ House No: _____

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VOTER ID: SAFEGUARD YOUR VOTE!

Beware! You will now need photographic ID if you intend to cast your vote at a polling station (rather than as a postal vote). The Tory Government has rushed through legislation requiring ID despite there being just thirty-three allegations of voter impersonation at the last general election.

Search for 'East Devon Voter ID' for acceptable forms of ID or apply for a postal vote NOW!

- I will put up a poster at election time
- I will help deliver leaflets in my area
- I will donate to the Lib Dems
- I want to join the Liberal Democrats
- Add me to the Lib Dem mailing list

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www.eastdevonlibdems.org.uk

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