

Member Champion – Exmouth
Name: Darryl Nicholas

Key activities involved with since 2009 annual council/appointment

I have been involved in a seemingly endless array of projects and meetings- so we must be doing something right. Two of the big Projects are highlighted below.

The Strand Project – the £3million regeneration of The Strand area of Exmouth Town Centre. The Project has several aims including :-

Reducing flooding in the area by completing structural work underground.

Dramatically enhancing the urban landscape by creating a ‘Piazza’ type area to include the addition of new paving, new street furniture, a new lighting scheme and increased areas of pedestrianisation. New trees and areas of grass and planting will also be added.

The final stage will be to erect a new building in the vicinity of the old Strand shelter. This building could potentially house the Tourist Information Centre and will stand adjacent to a new performance stage that will face out to the Piazza area.

LDA Masterplan – The Exmouth Masterplan is an important new project for the town that is specifically intended to bring forward significant improvements in the town centre. EDDC and Devon County Council have worked in partnership to fund the process and commissioned local company, LDA Design, to draw together a vision for Exmouth to directly inform the town centre-focused masterplan and the preparation of comprehensive proposals and a delivery plan to bring about investment in two key sites: the Royal Avenue/estuary side area and the London Inn area.

LDA Design will prepare Development Briefs for the two sites setting out the type of development, layout and design that will be appropriate for the site and that will help achieve the vision for the town centre and Exmouth as a whole. They will set out the principles and aspirations for the sites’ futures, identify the uses that should be accommodated and establish design guidance to ensure that the layout, buildings and streets and spaces create a high quality environment.

As stated there are many projects ongoing - an example of a smaller project I have been involved in is the creation of a new play park for St Sevan Way in Brixington. This involved an EDDC community consultation and meeting local residents. Sadly I am too big to use the slide but I have it on good authority that the installation of new equipment as made a real difference to the area, with many young families enjoying the new facility.

There have been several large issues that have stoked the interest of Radio & Television. To this end I have represented EDDC on BBC & ITV news discussing the likes of the horrific Town Centre fire in Exmouth, the water quality off Exmouth beach and the Kite Surfing ban on the Imperial Recreation Ground. I must say that the media course put on by EDDC has genuinely proven invaluable.

Conferences/Workshops - if attended and their benefits

I have attended numerous local Workshops- in particular those that have involved the Community Liaison Panel in Exmouth. A tremendous initiative that has seen Councillors and Community Groups working together positively and harmoniously for the future good of the Town.

Partnership Working:

(This could include working with officer teams, other authorities, outside bodies).

I meet regularly with the Exmouth Project Group- a mixture of EDDC, DCC and Exmouth Town Council Officers.

I am a member of the Exmouth Regeneration Board.

I meet regularly with the Community Organisations Liaison Panel.

Future plans – what are your aims/work programme for the year to come:

The year ahead is a big one for Exmouth. Many of these projects will be coming to fruition.

In addition to the previously mentioned projects I am ambitious to see the following:-

The completion and opening of the Jurassic Coast Gateway centre next to Mamhead Slipway.

EDDC to adopt a policy of creating a future Masterplan for Exmouth Seafront. The LDA Town Centre approach is working very well and a similar process is a must if we are to achieve the very best for our seafront.