

**EXE ESTUARY FORUM**  
**7<sup>th</sup> February 2017**  
**Q&A Sessions – Key Discussion Points**



**Introduction**

The Exe Estuary Winter Forum took place on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at County Hall. Below are the key points which were discussed during the question and answer sessions of the presentations.

**1. Martin Davies - Flood Defence Schemes on the Exe**

- i) *Dave Preston, Exe Sailing Club: Concerns about protection of Exe Sailing Club.*
  - MD: Will contact you directly about this.
- ii) *Gordon Guest: Concerns about accessibility for mobility scooters, namely gates at Dawlish Warren.*
  - MD: Where it is considered that accessibility is needed, it will be included.
- iii) *Cllr Hughes: Are the EA certain that there will not be an adverse effect on Exmouth Beach?*
  - MD: The EA have confidence that there will be no adverse effect, due to modelling, expert advice and peer review.

**2. Alison Hayward - Exmouth Development**

- i) *Exe Power Boat & Ski Club: What use will the Watersports Centre offer?*
  - AH: Windsurfing and kitesurfing, hire, training, sporting events.
- ii) *Exe Power Boat & Ski Club: Concerns about safety – fast tidal stream and navigation channel.*
  - AH: Identified as suitable for kitesurfing, windsurfing and as a launch point for rowers. Not for learners, they will be taken to safer areas.
- iii) *Nick Hookway:*
  - Why would people use the Watersports Centre?*
  - Have you taken consideration to the environment of the Queens Drive (green) area?*
  - The suggestion that the centre will be used all year round is flawed, as don't believe it will be used in winter.*
    - AH: The demand is there, a Watersports operator has come forward.
    - AH: Adhered to environmental assessments, working with necessary authorities such as Natural England, have taken consideration to badgers, bats, etc.
- iv) *Cllr Wragg: From her knowledge, there is no funding that has been allocated to this project, particularly from DCC for road.*
  - AH: Full funding has been agreed by EDDC, all other funding applications will be a bonus if successful.

**3. Dave Smallshire - Bird Trends and Disturbance on the Exe Estuary**

- i) *Dave Curnow: Why were crab tilters considered low risk and anglers considered medium risk?*
  - DS: Just personal perception, not to be taken as fact.
- ii) *Graeme Smith: How does this estuary compare with others?*
  - DS: Hasn't the data to hand so can't comment in detail. WeBS alerts indicate changes compared to other sites.

**4. Stephanie Clark - Review of Zonation & Codes of Conduct**

- i) *Jane Evans: Exmouth VEZ: okay to use 2hrs either side of HW or not? Need clarification in codes of conduct. Is the Exmouth VEZ just for kitesurfers or other users?*
  - SC: At present, only allowance to use Exmouth VEZ 2hrs either side of HW is power boats and water skis, as both their activity areas overlap with the VEZ. Will clarify in code of conduct. The

new VEZ currently proposes to exclude all users apart from the two mentioned above, unless there is good reason not to exclude them. This will be investigated during the consultation.

*ii) Paul Loveless: Query why necessary to exclude anglers?*

- Looking to exclude all activities from just the two areas that are significantly important for birds, unless there is a good reason to not exclude, e.g. crab tilers who rely on area for a living. This is a good proposal that will allow activities to continue in other areas of the estuary, whilst allowing space for birds.

*iii) Paul Loveless: Query reason for expanding area westward – won't block Imperial Road slipway?*

- The area won't block the slipway, it is to the east of the slipway. We will confirm the boundary of the VEZ through the consultation – need to speak with kitesurfers, for example, to confirm which area can be included in VEZ.

## **5. No questions for Soapbox Sessions**

Forum presentations and feedback can be found on our website at [www.exe-estuary.org.uk](http://www.exe-estuary.org.uk) under Events > Forum.