

# Exe Estuary Management Partnership Forum Feedback Report 2018

---



Exe Estuary Stakeholder Forum  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
Coaver Conference Room, Coaver Club, Exeter

## **Introduction**

The first summer Stakeholder Forum was a success with 48 people attending to hear presentations and provide feedback on:

- Review of Governance of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership (Forum Vice Chair)
- Role & current work of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership (Exe Estuary Officer)
- Role & current work of South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership (Habitat Mitigation Officers and Councillor Humphrey Clemens)
- Snapshot Updates from Around the Exe Estuary (Exe Stakeholder Representative)
  - Exeter City Council/Harbour Authority
  - Queens Drive Consultation
  - Exmouth Flood Defence Works

Forum members were given the opportunity to provide feedback on how codes of conduct could be further promoted and reach a wider audience.

Following the recent review of the structure of the EEMP, members were also given the opportunity to suggest how the Forum should operate in the future to allow stakeholders better engagement and input into the management of the Exe. Members were also asked to provide feedback on future Forum events, including future topics.

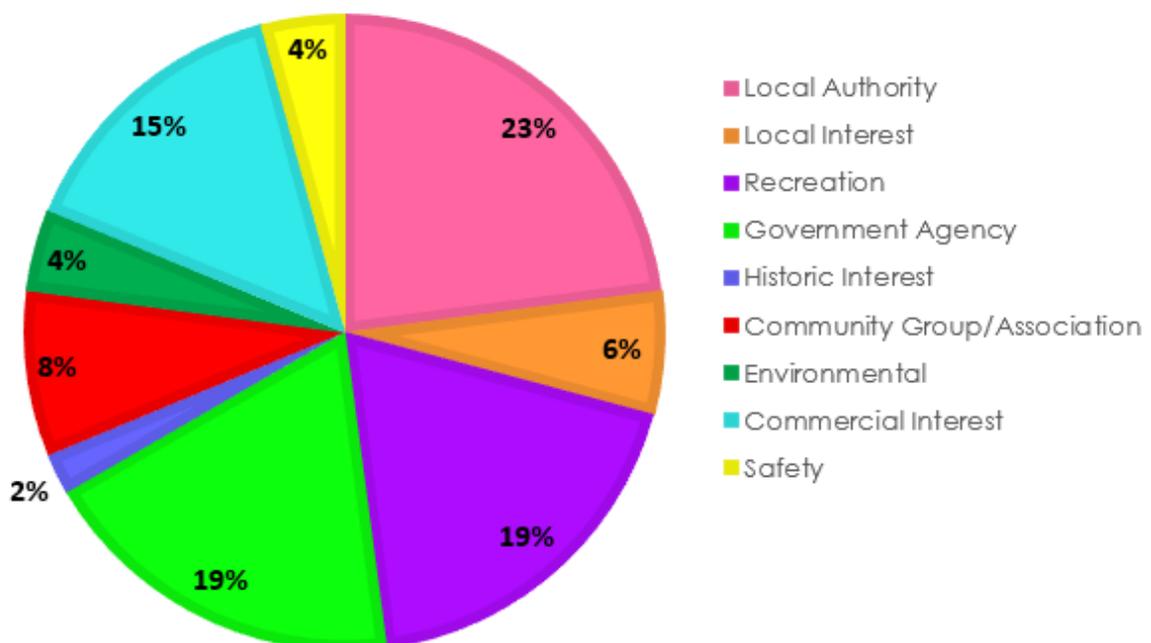
The Forum presentations and key discussion points can be found on the EEMP website at [www.exe-estuary.org/exe-forum](http://www.exe-estuary.org/exe-forum).

## Sectoral Balance

The sectoral representation of attendees was analysed to investigate the balance of interests presented at the Forum. The attendees have been grouped according to sector, for example “Environmental” covers site managers, conservation charities, and other wildlife interest groups.

As shown by the pie chart below there was a range of representation of different sectors from commercial interest to those representing Local Authorities around the Exe including several councillors. These groups are fairly well balanced and are generally in line with the expected proportion of interest groups on the estuary, with representation from all sectors. A large representation from the recreation sector was present, likely due to the discussion of the codes of conduct as well as updates from SEDHRP and Harbour Authority which are particularly relevant to recreational users. There was large representation from Local Authorities on the Exe, this included a range of authorities from parish councils, district councils and Devon County Council who attended to discuss management of the estuary with local stakeholders.

Sectoral Representation of Attendees



## Feedback

Of the 48 people that attended the Exe Estuary Forum, 14 completed feedback forms, the results of which can be seen below:

Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The Forum was worth attending	50%	50%			
Everything was well organised	50%	50%			
The presentations were interesting	43%	57%			
The themes covered were relevant to me	36%	57%	7%		
The venue was suitable	36%	50%	7%	7%	
I would like to attend the Forum again in the future	57%	29%	14%		
The Forum is a key opportunity for me to learn more about the Exe Estuary, get involved and have my views heard	64%	14%	21%		
I value the work of the Exe Estuary Partnership	64%	36%			

These are positive results for the future of the Stakeholder Forum with 100% of feedback stating that the Forum was worth attending, well organised, that the presentations were interesting and the work of the EEMP is valued. A large majority of attendees found that the themes covered were relevant, the venue was suitable and that they would like to attend the Forum again in the future.

Comments received through these feedback forms are included at the end of this report in the Appendix, along with the feedback received during discussions at the event. Below is a summary of the general points made:

### Summary of feedback for future Forum events:

1. Venue: Although the Exeter venue is convenient for attendees from both sides of the estuary, attendees suggested that future events could be rotated around the estuary, with a particular preference for Exmouth. Overall suggestion that Winter Forum is held in Exeter and summer Stakeholder Forum is rotated between different areas around the estuary,

depending on where the subject matter is focused at that particular event.

2. Topics: Suggestion to have a balance between public sector and users (representing their views / achievements / positive stories / sharing ideas).
  - Strong response to Harbour Authority presenting at next Forum (to include pollution contingency plan).
  - Wildlife sighting reports / monitoring of bird population
  - South West Water: management, overflow/sewage issues & water quality.
  - Powderham Estate: access on west bank
  - SEDHRP & monitoring of use of the estuary.
  - Soapbox session – presentations from users.
  - Absent relevant representatives should be invited to the next Forum.
3. Format: Feedback generally suggested that this event had the right balance of presentations and discussion, with attendees wanting a fairly even split between the two.
4. Event length: Suggest 2.5hrs for Winter Forum and 2hrs for summer Stakeholder Forum.  
Start time: There was a split in opinion regarding start time. Later start times allow people to attend after work. Suggest Winter Forum remains at a 7pm start time, and summer Stakeholder Forum begins at 6.30pm to avoid rush hour (but will request feedback on this from attendees at next Winter Forum).
5. Number of Forum events: Majority voted for two events per year. Suggestion to call additional meetings when required for items which require urgent discussion.

### **Summary of items for consideration by the EEMP:**

1. Explore how to measure the success of the partnership, without diverting too much effort from active management of the estuary.
2. Make partnership documents more accessible.
3. Work with partners to ensure the work of the partnership is being communicated to the relevant people within each organisation.
4. Bring together relevant and existing data when reviewing the State of the Exe Estuary report, to ensure that relevant data is analysed and publicly available (e.g. trends in number of people on the Exe).

The feedback and comments will be used to develop the Forum in the future, taking onboard ideas for improvements and integrating them into the successful format of this event.

## **APPENDIX**

### **A. Feedback Session Notes**

#### **Session 1: Forum Role and Future Operation**

**Question:** Are there recreational user representatives on the Management Committee (Note: Delegate meant Executive) in a formal capacity?

**Answer:** The Executive has one non-statutory Funding Partner - recreational/commercial representative. The Partnership Committee contains five "Other Interests" voting members, which includes both commercial and recreational representatives, namely British Canoeing and RYA from a recreational perspective.

**Question:** In terms of funding parish councils, on the Executive Group it suggests only one representative will be from a town or parish council, should this representative be providing views from all other funding town/parish councils? Was this agreed by all parish/town councils during the process?

**Answer:** This was agreed by the parish/town councils during this process and it is the responsibility of these councils to feed information to the Executive through this representative, and to have any relevant information fed back from the representative.

**Question:** How do these people get appointed to the Executive?

**Answer:** It was discussed at the Management Group meeting, during the Review of Governance discussions that the partnership undertook to become more streamlined. It would have been communicated to the parish clerk for dissemination within the council. It was agreed that one representative would be there for town/parish councils, and that this would change depending on availability of representatives and the relevance of the meeting discussions. The new structure has only just come into use, we will work to communicate better with you.

**Question:** What is the difference between the Partnership Committee and the Executive? Do the Executive just do what they are told?

**Answer:** The Executive drafts plans and guides the delivery of projects whereas the Partnership Committee provides a strategic overview, and approves documents prepared by the Executive.

**Question:** What is the role of this Forum? Can issues be raised?

**Answer:** The role of the Stakeholder Forum is an informal platform for stakeholders to discuss and feedback on specific items and issues around the Exe Estuary. At this Forum, Session 3 will be an opportunity to raise issues.

## Session 2: Presentations

### Exe Estuary Management Partnership – Codes of Conduct Interactive Feedback Session

Table	Names	Suggestions
Table 1	Notetaker: Kirstie Pritchard Delegates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harry Griffin</li> <li>- Alec Carter</li> <li>- David Preece</li> <li>- Peter Chamberlain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marina – when annually subscribed</li> <li>- LEMA/Powderham Castle Mooring Authority – targeted mailing</li> <li>- Holiday Parks</li> <li>- QR codes on signage at access points, notice boards</li> <li>- Digital promotion – possible app</li> </ul>
Table 2	Notetaker: Kate Fortnam Delegates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dave Curno</li> <li>- Chris Rogers</li> <li>- Jane Evans</li> <li>- Alan Wood</li> <li>- Stephanie Clark</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hotels/B&amp;B</li> <li>- Holiday Parks/Camps</li> <li>- NGBs – RYA/Canoe Union</li> <li>- Facebook and Twitter – links and image of codes</li> <li>- Short 1 minute videos giving an introduction to the codes, provide a link to full code</li> <li>- Larger retail stores in specific aisles e.g. dog walking code in pet aisle</li> <li>- QR codes on signage</li> <li>- Google promotion and links to interest groups</li> <li>- School groups and activities.</li> </ul>
Table 3	Notetaker: Neil Harris Delegates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Louise Clarke</li> <li>- Hugh DeSouza</li> <li>- Ivor Jones</li> <li>- Ian Coupe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lookout – 2 codes – water/PWC</li> <li>- Café, other retail outlets</li> <li>- Rowing, sailing, RNLI, Marina Users</li> <li>- Hotels, B&amp;B</li> <li>- Leaflet drops</li> <li>- Libraries, TICs</li> <li>- Exmouth Town Hall reception</li> <li>- Dispensers on sea front</li> <li>- Tourism businesses</li> <li>- Railway stations</li> </ul>
Table 4	Notetaker: Julie Owen Delegates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Councillor Andrew Cadbury</li> <li>- Martin Wrigley</li> <li>- Rob Skinner</li> <li>- Tim Faulkner</li> <li>- Ian Bethwaite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pubs in Dawlish Warren and retail outlets</li> <li>- Secondary Schools – Watersports clubs</li> <li>- DCP leaflet dispenser – on site</li> <li>- Holiday camps and accommodation providers, welcome packs</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carrie Darby</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce print costs – smaller, simpler codes, dog codes – mini version on dog bins</li> <li>- Website links from Parish/Town Councils</li> </ul>
Table 5	<p>Notetaker: Anne Mountjoy</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rex Frost</li> <li>- Dave Rochester</li> <li>- Neil Downes</li> <li>- Richard Crisp</li> <li>- John Monks</li> <li>- Ray Alexander</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adverts in local papers – press release</li> <li>- TICs websites</li> <li>- Determine who to target then how to reach them</li> <li>- Clubs</li> <li>- Boxes on slipways and signage</li> <li>- Leaflet dispensers at railway stations</li> <li>- Places where people obtain licences</li> <li>- The Turf Pub and other pubs</li> <li>- Cycling clubs</li> <li>- Facebook groups</li> <li>- Condense into single code? So that it is well known like the countryside code</li> <li>- Campaign e.g. safety matters</li> <li>- Exe Estuary Poster as a general guide, in shops and pubs</li> </ul>
Table 6	<p>Notetaker: Amelia Davies</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Michael Trout</li> <li>- Phillip Speedy</li> <li>- Dave Ashman</li> <li>- Councillor Humphrey Clemens</li> <li>- Mark Tribe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clubs</li> <li>- Schools</li> <li>- Facebook</li> <li>- YouTube</li> </ul>
Table 7	<p>Notetaker: Rowena Garne</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Councillor Fred Caygill</li> <li>- Colin Trudgeon</li> <li>- Pete Blyth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schools e.g. Exmouth Community College, Primary Schools</li> <li>- Watersports companies (Edge, RedRock, AS Watersports)</li> <li>- Freestanding leaflet dispensers in popular areas</li> <li>- Pubs/restaurants/cafes</li> <li>- Post Offices</li> </ul>
Table 8	<p>Notetaker: Sama Euridge</p> <p>Delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shaw Edwards</li> <li>- Dennis Macwilliam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leaflet dispensers</li> <li>- Turf and Double Locks</li> <li>- Avocet line user group, Great Western Railway, Stagecoach Buses</li> </ul>

## **South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership – Role & Current Work**

**Question:** Were the environmental impacts of the boat weighed up before it was purchased?

**Answer:** The boat will be out all year, hence the need for a cab. The boat will not be racing up and down the estuary therefore the fuel consumption will not be large. The size of the engine is not excessive whilst also being large enough to get through currents / waves. This was all weighed up as part of the procurement process.

**Question/Comment:** Patrol boats are not new to the estuary and should be welcomed. The new codes of conduct are very good, they are long overdue and need to be distributed on the water. The work that the Exe Estuary Partnership is undertaking is good and all of this should be welcomed. Look at the positives.

**Question:** How are you going to be measuring the benefits of the wildlife refuges?

**Answer:** SEDHRP are working in conjunction with Footprint Ecology to monitor the wildlife refuges. This will form part of a 3-year review.

**Questions:** Can we see regular updates rather than after the 3-year period? Will the base data be made available?

**Answer:** Annual data will be made available which will then form part of the 3-year review. The review which was started in March will contain annual reports. The base data is provided in the Exe Disturbance Study, along with publicly available WeBS data.

## **Snapshot Updates from Around the Estuary**

**Question:** Harbour Authority notice to mariners was sent out in OS grid references, this needs to be available in latitude / longitude.

**Answer:** This has since been amended.

**Question:** Does the Harbour Authority have a pollution control plan?

**Answer:** Currently booked on for a new contingency planning training course, which will be in the new year.

## Session 3: Forum Feedback Session

### Items or issues from attendees for further discussion:

- To demonstrate clear need for what the EEMP is doing, need to look at how to present measurement of success of the partnership. Would like to see key performance indicators.
- Need clarity of purpose.
- Use existing data to work from so we aren't starting from zero.
- Performance indicators can be dangerous, yes let's measure success but we still want a focus on objectives to manage estuary successfully and get work done.
- Management Plan outlines objectives, with Delivery Plans, Annual Reviews and Highlight Reports produced which illustrate how actions are delivered. These aren't evident to the public at present.
- Make partnership documents more accessible.
  
- Query raised about relevance of Bishops Clyst being part of EEMP.
- Exe Estuary Management Partnership's geographical remit does cover the River Clyst as a main tributary and therefore our remit does include the Bishops Clyst parish.
- Can't see Management Plan online (images not displaying) – request for geographical clarification of area covered by EEMP.
  
- Counts of wildlife are common, would like to see counts of people to see if there is a significant increase in people.
- There are a number of data systems available. For example, State of the Exe Estuary, online data, club memberships.
- The EEMP cannot collect new data, but potentially could collect existing data and bring this together. Can be explored when reviewing the State of the Exe Estuary report.
  
- When monitoring disturbance, activities which aren't causing disturbance need to also be recorded.
- This is already being recorded through HMOs and current monitoring.

### Suggested Topics for Winter Forum:

- Harbour Authority update (all attendees in agreement).
- National Contingency Plan.
- South West Water – overflows (e.g. Shutterton Brook into Dawlish Warren Wildlife Refuge), untreated sewage issues, water quality (over the years). Would like to hear about management.
- Powderham Estate - access on west bank, Environment Agency flood defence work which has potentially opened up new slipway.
- SEDHRP - monitoring of use of the Estuary.

## **B. Comments Received from Feedback Forms**

### **Suggestions for next Stakeholder Forum:**

#### **1. Venue**

"Maybe vary the venue to Exmouth, Dawlish, Exeter on a rotational basis."

"So much of the subject matter concerned Exmouth, perhaps the meeting should be in Exmouth."

"Perhaps a location in Exmouth."

"This venue is very convenient."

#### **2. Topics/presentations**

"ECHA on how they are and intend to carry out their statutory responsibilities."

"Role of NCI with regard to requirement of harbourmaster patrols."

"What actual impact the SEDHRC are having."

"Bring back the soapbox session - encourage the users to present. Harbour Authority, SWW, water quality."

"It would be good to see rep from Harbour Authority."

"Harbour Authority talk and presence  
Information on monitoring of bird population – updated statistics – how the monitoring method is undertaken e.g. time of day, locations, survey for how long?"

"Wildlife sighting reports – unusual species/numbers/area used."

"Exeter City need to attend (I know it's not easy) + present."

#### **3. Format (how much of the event should be dedicated to presentations / questions / discussion, etc.)**

"This forum was better than previous ones – more questions and comments requested from audience."

"50/50"

"Make sure there is plenty of time for questions to be asked."

“Equal split between.”

“About right. Issues should be able to be put on the agenda.”

“About right.”

“Not sure about the value of the interactive session – tended to inevitably end up with repetition.”

“70% / 10% / 20%”

#### **4. Event length / start time**

“2 hrs was fine.”

“Yes, would be good if it could start and finish earlier.”

“Slightly earlier.”

“Fine – but a bit later start. 1730 is a difficult time to attend as it is within rush hour could it be later?”

“2hrs.”

“Timing right.”

“2 hours is adequate.”

“Could extend by a bit – maybe 30 mins.”

“A ‘short’ time does concentrate minds but a ‘longer’ time could allow the development of ideas / augment / to be discussed by the EEMP.”

“It was fine.”

“Start 6.30pm – 2hrs was well managed.”

#### **5. Number of Forum events per year**

Number of respondents indicated:      Yes = 12                      No = 2

“Quarterly.”

“If it is less frequently then you cease to feel that you are engaged.”

“Forum called when changes need to be communicated as soon as possible rather than too late to feed in points and be discussed.”

## **6. Other suggestions for future Forum events**

“The snapshot session was devalued by the non-appearance of the relevant representatives. This should be corrected in the future.”

“Would welcome annual address by EEMP rep to Exmouth NCI general meeting.”

“Ensure balance between public sector - telling us what we must do - e.g. SEDHRP, EA etc. and users of the estuary representing their views.”

“Promoting what recreational stakeholders are doing and have achieved - positive stories and sharing ideas.”

## **Feedback on Promotion of Codes of Conduct**

“An Exmouth sea front information centre providing advice/information/leaflets and code details and leaflets.”

“Nothing over and above feedback session.”

“I think ideas from the table discussions provided some good ideas.”

## **Feedback on four Exe Leaflets – Exe Explorer, Activities, Wildlife, Heritage**

“Please remove the areas “where particular care is needed”.”

“Not all sailing clubs on the lists e.g. Starcross YC, Lympstone SC.”

“RYA logo and Starcross YC on Exe Activities. RYA logo on other leaflets – this will make boat owners more accepting.”

“Our table thought they could be simplified to one page to reduce costs and make them more user friendly.”