

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. In May 2016, early in the process of producing the Plan, households and businesses in Exmouth had the opportunity to complete a survey which included two questions about local facilities. They were given a list of facilities: open space/parks; health services; leisure and sports facilities; recycling; library; eating out; education/retraining; cultural/community facilities; social services; public toilets and bins; employment opportunities. They were asked to rate these from excellent to inadequate.
2. The overall picture is that most services and facilities are at least average, and over half of those listed were considered 'good' or 'excellent'. However, achievement of the Neighbourhood Plan's vision for Exmouth requires a range of high quality community facilities to be available to meet the needs and interests of the whole population. This includes:

Education through schools and further education opportunities

Library services

Medical and health/wellbeing facilities

Leisure and sports centres

Town Assets available for meetings and activities

Convenient shops offering a good 'shopping experience'

Modern public toilets throughout the town

Opportunities to rent allotments

Efficient refuse collection and recycling.

3. The town is generally well-served with such facilities and there is a strong sense of community, but the growing population and the expectations of more and higher quality provision require significant improvements in all aspects, as detailed in this chapter.

EDUCATION

4. Devon County Council is responsible for the provision and maintenance of primary and secondary schools, other than independent schools, and has

to ensure that there are sufficient pupil places available in each Local Learning Community (LLC).

5. The Exmouth LLC includes primary schools in East Budleigh, Otterton, Budleigh Salterton, Lypstone, Woodbury and Woodbury Salterton. The schools in Exmouth are:

Exmouth Community College

Bassetts Farm Primary

Brixington Community Nursery & Primary

Exeter Road Community Primary

Littleham C of E Primary

Marpool Primary

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary

The Beacon C of E Primary

Withycombe Raleigh C of E VA Primary

6. Responses to the NP survey (May 2016) indicated that education and training services in Exmouth were rated as 'average and above' by a substantial majority and as 'good' by more than a third.
7. Given Exmouth's increasing population and anticipated housebuilding, the analysis by DCC of pupil numbers and available places is significant. The analysis covers the period 2013 - 2031 and provides a planning area breakdown of the implication of major housing development, a short to medium term analysis of potential pupil numbers and capital maintenance priorities.
8. The position projected for 2015-16 was a shortfall of 21 places (534 desirable and 513 available) and a surplus of 13 (500 desirable and 513 available) for 2016 - 17. While this is not a substantial difference, it does indicate that the situation needs to be monitored to avoid problems for parents in securing a place at their preferred school and also for schools in providing appropriate accommodation.

9. The increasing pupil population is expected to require an increase in available places during the period 2016 - 2026 of 210 primary places plus nursery provision. While a substantial part of this increase is expected in the north of the town resulting from planned residential development at Goodmore's Farm, the building of a new primary school in that area is anticipated. It should be noted that the Local Plan refers to the pressure of pupil numbers throughout the town and that discussions in the north of the town suggest that the extra pupils may be catered for in the existing schools.
10. With 2,600 pupils Exmouth Community College is already the largest school in the country and is expected to grow to about 3,000 in the next few years. Major capital building programmes are planned at the Community College. There is recognition of the aspirations, registered clearly in the NP May 2016 Survey, that new opportunities for further education and skills training for school leavers and experienced workers will be provided in Exmouth, rather than just in Exeter and beyond. The community considers that enhanced further education opportunities are required in Devon's largest town.
11. The Local Plan states that EDDC will enhance Exmouth by promoting new educational facilities. This relates to improved skills training of the kind that were anticipated to be provided under the now aborted plans for the former Rolle College site.

Action CFA1: Seek engagement with DCC and EDDC about the implications of increasing pupil numbers, the appropriate location of extra pupil places, the need to recruit quality teaching staff for key posts in education and training and the strengthening of further education and post- experience training opportunities.

LIBRARY

12. Exmouth Library is housed in a prominent building but it has been, for several decades, high on the list of Devon libraries due to be replaced. The 2011 Masterplan proposed this should be in a new building close to the railway station and sports centre. The service it provides was rated in 2016 as 'excellent' or 'good' by more than 60% of respondents to the NP Survey in 2016.

13. The establishment in 2015 of 'Libraries Unlimited', a not-for-profit mutual with charitable status, as the provider for Devon Libraries was aimed at giving the library service a viable economic future. It will not only operate as a traditional library, but will continue innovative IT and other activities and more closely engage with schools, playgroups and other community organisations, promoting greater library premises utilisation. It aims to be at the heart of the community supported by the 'Friends of the Exmouth Library'.
14. Future relocation to more appropriate and sustainable premises to be shared with other Community Service providers remains an aspiration, which the Plan supports and looks to the review of the Master Plan to propose a way forward to providing Exmouth with suitably modern library services, in a new library building.

Action CFA2: The continuing expansion of activities and closer association with community organisations and schools is a welcome feature of Exmouth Library and will be supported and encouraged together with support for a new library and better premises for the Museum.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH/WELL-BEING FACILITIES

15. The East Devon Local Plan 2016-2031 identifies Exmouth as a growing Town with a strategy of new housing, increasing the population by 4,000 to 5,000 people, which will lead to increased pressure on its infrastructure. Exmouth has a number of Council Wards that are among the most deprived in Devon, some of which are significantly more deprived than the England average, added to which Exmouth also has some of the lowest life expectancies in the County, highlighting health inequalities in the Town. Investment in the provision of cost effective sustainable health and social care is essential to sustain a healthy and vibrant community for all ages

16. The Local Plan's aspirations regarding health in Exmouth suggest the need to:

Promote new health facilities.

Enhance medical services.

Ensure that the infrastructure of both physical and service elements is adequate for the population, especially including medical and social care.

Promote social well-being, which includes providing facilities to meet people's needs such as health care.

17. The Plan supports these four goals as the basis of a Health and Wellbeing strategy and recognises the contribution of the Woodbury, Exmouth and Budleigh (WEB) Community Health & Wellbeing Board to enable the communities of the towns and villages of the WEB area to retain ownership of and develop their own health and care services, delivering the aims of:

- High quality, more cost effective, sustainable health and social care services
- Improving the experience for service users and carers
- Integrating care to improve outcomes for the communities of the towns and villages of the WEB area
- Promoting independence for adults and children with complex needs
- Promoting early intervention through prevention and improved patient education
- Ensuring robust links with the third sector throughout the WEB area
- Promoting the development of a robust transport model which will ensure access across the whole community
- Developing the services provided at Exmouth Hospital and the Budleigh Salterton Health & Wellbeing Hub in line with the needs of the community
- Promoting high quality mental health care which is coordinated and integrated with the social care system
- Improved working with younger people around how they access support for general health, mental health and social care services
- Engaging with as diverse a cross section of the WEB area population as possible, on specific health and social care matters ensuring that these are considered and represented appropriately.

18. Land in Exmouth is a scarce resource and if any existing health facilities (land or buildings) are lost or changed to non-health use, the resultant effect would undermine the strategic aims of the EDDC Local Plan.

Objective: Health and Wellbeing services in Exmouth should be enhanced and developed to serve the needs of the whole community, with special focus on combating deprivation and inequality. It is therefore vital that all existing healthcare facilities/buildings are retained and used to their full potential to provide integrated health, social care, wellbeing and health promotion for the Exmouth community of all ages.

Policy CF1: Development that contributes to enhancement of health and well-being facilities within Exmouth will be supported. Enhancement and development to improve the capacity of medical and wellbeing services in the Brixington and Goodmores areas of Exmouth will be given priority. Any development proposal which leads to a reduction in current health and wellbeing facilities will not be supported unless mitigated by improved or increased capacity for the delivery of health and wellbeing services through the development proposal.

Objective: Exmouth is the largest town in East Devon with a demographic that requires the full range of health and social care services expected for a community of its size. Exmouth's hospital services should not only be retained and fully utilised, but be extended to provide more accessible medical services for all, to deliver identified gaps in the health and well-being landscape, to achieve the vision of a healthy and vibrant community, with the building of a new Health and Wellbeing hub.

Policy CF2: Development proposals for a new Health and Wellbeing hub, located near the LED Sports Centre and the Imperial Rugby Ground will be supported, provided it incorporates:

Sufficient parking

Public transport access

Connection to Exmouth cycle ways

Action CFA3: The proposed sale of St. John's Court Mental Health Unit caused considerable concern in the community over the future provision of mental health services in Exmouth. The building, which is fit for purpose, should not be relinquished, but should be enhanced to provide a range of mental health services that not only support the current increased demand across the whole community but enables the services to respond to the future demands of a growing population.

LEISURE AND SPORTS FACILITIES

19. There is an obvious link between health/well-being and the availability of good leisure and sport facilities. The Local Plan aims to promote new recreational, health and education facilities in Exmouth. As indicated by the NP Survey in 2016, most residents consider that the provision of Leisure/Sport is reasonably good.
20. Exmouth serves as a regional centre for archery. It is also a regional centre for water sports, for which the town now has a national reputation, including sailing, wind-surfing and kite-surfing. The Plan supports proposals to develop this reputation, provided that related facilities are sympathetic in proportion and design to the surrounding environment.
21. Indoor leisure facilities include the Leisure Centre, Tennis Centre, Ocean, Pavilion and Phear Park, run by a not for profit organisation LED Leisure Management Ltd. All are well run and are in fit for purpose buildings, having had substantial money expended on them over the past few years. There should be no need for major change or expenditure during the term of the NP, although some residents have suggested that the swimming pool is due for refurbishment. All are held on leaseholds beyond the NP period. In addition, there are numerous keep-fit opportunities in educational and private gymnasiums and through clubs covering most sports and catering for all levels from novices to high-level competitors.
22. Outdoor facilities, including accessible and well-maintained playing fields, are not so well provided for, despite an increase in the number of multi-use games areas (MUGA). It is appreciated that public playing fields are protected from development for other purposes. This is good, but there is a need for more playing fields, as recognised in EDDC's Playing Fields Strategy (2016) which the Plan supports, catering for the whole community, whatever their age, gender or ability. Locations where there are imminent changes to reflect this need are Warren View and the former Rolle Playing Fields. Phear Park is another important asset which must be protected and developed for leisure pursuits, perhaps adding a tree-top walk, floodlighting for the resurfaced tennis courts and incorporating a cycle way to link with the route to Littleham and Budleigh Salterton. This could possibly include an access base promoting a vision for footpaths and cycle paths linking to Woodbury Common, Budleigh Salterton and

Lympstone.

23. The connection to Health and Wellbeing is important and full of potential. This can promote more links and co-operation between Health and Leisure groups, possibly with joint activity hubs, especially working on combining preventive medicine and leisure activities to combat obesity, diabetes etc. There are recognised links between poor mental health and poor physical health. Exmouth would be suitable for a more integrated approach. A main centre for health promotion activities could be located near the popular LED Sports Centre and the Imperial Recreation Ground- possibly tied in with the future of Camperdown Creek - in conjunction with medical provision. Subsidiary centres could be developed elsewhere in the town.

Action CFA4: Promotion of innovative connections between health/wellbeing and leisure/sports provision through more facilities possibly funded through CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy).

TOWN ASSETS

24. Exmouth is the largest town in the County and naturally has the full range of public services that is to be expected. It is recognised in, for example, the Local Plan that these fall short in some ways, including the availability and location of buildings with suitable accommodation and facilities. Among the enhancements mentioned for the town centre are improved community facilities. At the same time the Local Plan recognises that, as a result of the outward expansion that occurred in the late 20th century, the town centre is some two miles from the north of the town and therefore remote from many of the residents.
25. This presents a planning dilemma. Clearly there is a need to maintain and improve community facilities, such as play areas and youth clubs, in all local neighbourhoods. But given that most of the available buildings are in or near the town centre (see table below) the most obvious solution is to improve access by public or private transport to the town centre and create more and cheaper parking there. This approach would also increase footfall to the benefit of the town centre shops and businesses. The public buildings are:

Exmouth Town Council Offices & EDDC Offices

Integrated Transport Interchange (proposed)

Tourist Information Office

Kennaway Adult Education Centre

Museum

Railway Station

Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool

Places of Worship (see list in Chapter 2)

Savoy Cinema

Library

Tennis Centre

Gorfin Hall

Exmouth Hospital

The Pavilion

Medical Centres

The Ocean

Head Post Office

Blackmore Theatre

Open Door Centre

Indoor Market

26. While most villages have a Village Hall as a focal point for events and meetings, Exmouth lacks a recognised community facility of this kind. A first step to achieve this would be to make provision, when the Town Council Offices are relocated, for community associations and organisations to be suitably accommodated for meetings and events.

27. A second step would be support for the lively and popular arts culture in Exmouth. The availability at Rolle College, for just a short period in 2016, of space for drama and musical rehearsals and performances and for arts exhibitions demonstrated the demand there is in a town which has a strong

tradition in the arts.

28. Exmouth Museum has been established for over 30 years. During this period, it has saved a wealth of local memorabilia that would otherwise have been lost. Housed in inadequate buildings and at present faced with the possibility of termination of its lease, it is an example of how Exmouth should renew its efforts to support community facilities in general and, in particular, the arts.
29. In providing community support and facilities, Churches are a significant asset as they have substantial buildings located throughout the town. They are not there simply for the worshipping congregations but potentially for everyone. There are already numerous community groups, as well as church-run groups in churches, such as parent and toddler groups, concerts and musical events, groups for the elderly, youth clubs, Scouts and Guides, a repair café, coffee mornings, art clubs, the Exmouth Food Larder at the Salvation Army, the Glenorchy Work Club, Men's Shed and many more.
30. 'Christians Together Exmouth' (CTE) is ready to see even better use of its assets and to work in collaboration with other organisations to enable this. A policy to encourage joint working and helping it to happen through planning and funding mechanisms would be good. There is already a strong sense of community and a large army of volunteers in Exmouth. An action to build on this would be a 'volunteer hub' to pool ideas, pull initiatives together and promote the benefits of being a volunteer.

Action CFA5: Encourage the development and improvement of community facilities throughout Exmouth with particular focus on the town centre and on improving provision for the arts.

Action CFA6: Engagement with CTE to promote the opportunities and benefits of volunteering to support their community.

SHOPPING

31. A key finding identified through the May 2016 questionnaire to residents was that they undertake a significant amount of their shopping within the town, but they believe the experience could be improved by smartening shopping areas, discouraging the proliferation of charity shops and encouraging a greater diversity of shops.

32. The survey gave insight into shopping habits. Most respondents recorded that they mainly divided their shopping between Exmouth and Exeter. In summary, they principally shopped in Exmouth for: food; alcohol; household goods; plants and garden equipment; newspapers books and stationery; health aids. In Exeter, they generally shopped for: sportswear and outdoor equipment; gifts and jewellery; clothes and shoes; TVs, audio equipment, computers, mobile phones; cookers, fridges etc.; furniture; DIY equipment.
33. The national trend towards increased online shopping was reflected in Exmouth with over 50% of those under 40 purchasing TV's, audio equipment, computers and mobile phones online and almost 50% purchasing cookers, fridges etc. online. The anticipated growth nationally, in online shopping in 2016 was 14.9% - a growth expected to continue in future.
34. Exmouth is clearly not able to compete as a shopping destination with the range and variety available in Exeter, but it could offer a much more attractive shopping experience than is currently available. Pursuit of the Local Plan's vision for Exmouth, which includes "a focus on town centre enhancement... increased retail provision and community facilities", would build on the very good levels of food shopping retention, although this is dominated by the out of centre Tesco. There is yet to be an assessment of the impact of the M&S Food Hall which opened in March 2017.
35. The Local Plan noted Exmouth's capacity for additional food and non-food shopping. The Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and suggests that it will be more quickly achieved by:

The promised renewal or refreshment of the 2011 LDA Masterplan

Redevelopment of the Magnolia Centre

Better use, partly for retail as well as commercial development, of the London Inn Car Park, the former Post Office and yard, and of the builders' merchant premises in Fore Street

Completion and careful maintenance of recently improved street design in the Strand and at "Station Square"

Extension of improved pedestrianisation and road surface design to

include Rolle Street, the Magnolia Centre and the Parade.

36. Redevelopment of the Magnolia Centre to provide an attractive, varied and high-quality shopping experience will be supported. (Policy EE3)

Policy CF3: Updating of the 2011 LDA Masterplan, with particular reference to the Parade, Station Square and the London Inn area, will be supported.

PUBLIC TOILETS

37. The most common theme commented upon concerning local facilities in the returns from the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire (May 2016) was a clearly identified and strong desire to see more, better and cleaner public toilets, particularly at the sea-front. The complaints were twofold: closures over the past few years have left the town grossly under-provided and the toilets that remain are in a dreadful condition.

38. The town centre and the seafront, primarily the western end, were areas that were readily identified with the former complaint, and the London Inn car park and former bus station with the latter complaint. Exmouth Town Council recently tried to put in place a 'community toilet scheme' utilising toilets in private ownership within existing businesses, but this was not successful.

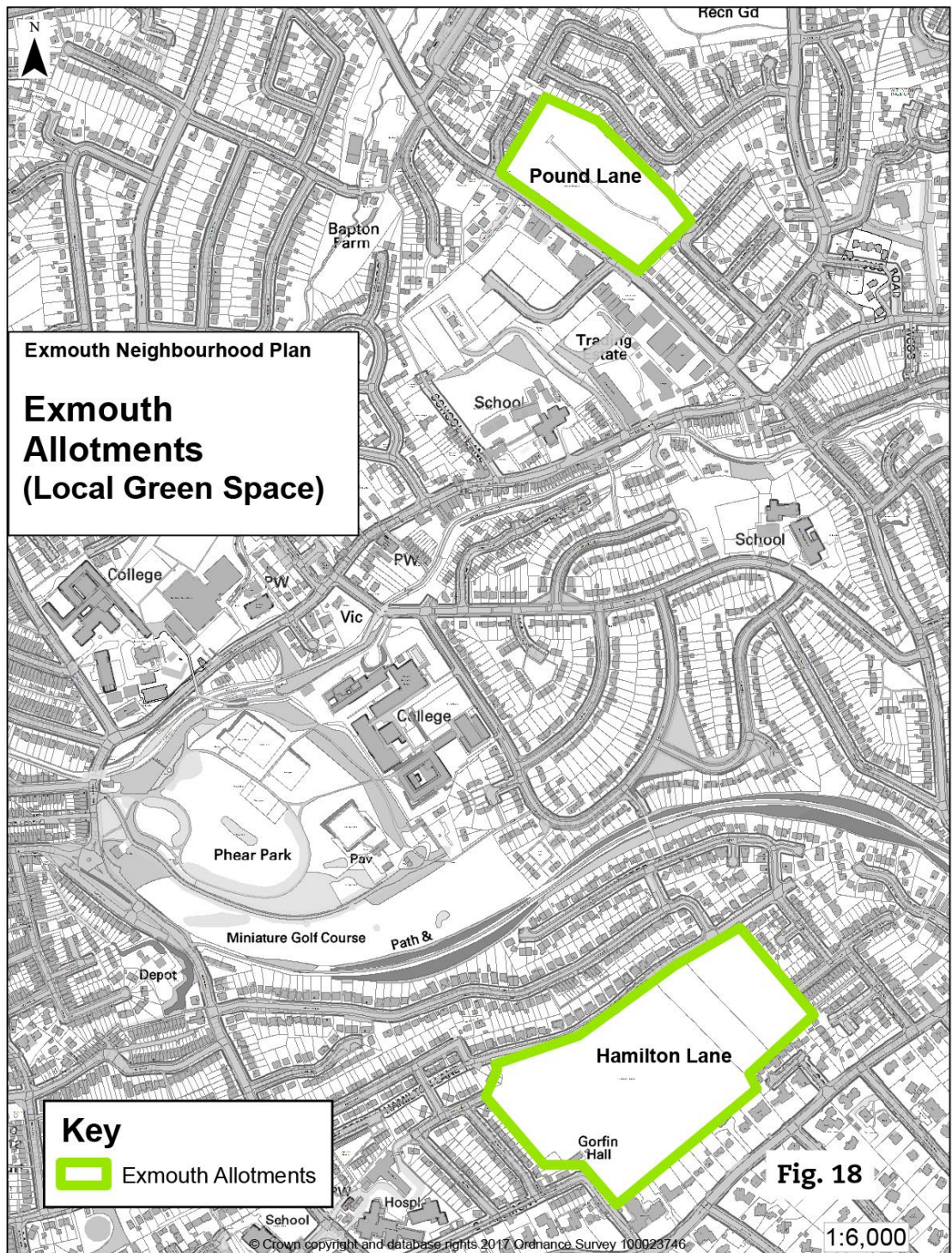
Action CFA7: The Local Authorities with responsibility for, and/or ownership of land in the town, are strongly encouraged to identify any sites in relevant locations for use as public toilets and to explore all possibilities, including the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy, to fund the provision of such facilities.

ALLOTMENTS

39. It is very fitting that Exmouth, being the birthplace of Jesse Collings MP, the founder of the Allotment movement through the Allotments and Cottage Gardens Act of 1887, has the second largest Allotment Association in the country.

40. The present-day Association in Exmouth has over 450 members, utilizing 400 plots on two sites, Pound Lane and Hamilton Lane, and manages the whole on behalf of Exmouth Town Council. There is a continual waiting list for new members.

41. The new housing development at Plumb Park will have allotments attached to it. In Neighbourhood Plan discussions with stakeholders it is encouraging that there might be still more possibilities for land to be made available for allotments elsewhere in the future.
42. The National Planning Policy Framework makes provision for the allocation of Local Green Space, the designation of which is subject to the following criteria:
- where the green space is reasonably close to the community it serves
 - where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife
 - where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land
43. The allotments within Exmouth fulfil these criteria, being close to the community (Fig 18) and valued by it (as evidenced by the community consultation responses) are of local character and not extensive tracts of land.



Objective: The continuing use of the allotment sites in Exmouth is fully supported, as would be any efforts to negotiate further allotment land use in appropriate locations, such as the Maer Valley and Lower Halsdon.

Policy CF5: The allotments sites, indicated in Fig 19 are allocated as Local Green Space, being areas of local value, character and located close to the community.

Policy CF6: Opportunities to further develop allotment sites to meet demand will be supported in appropriate locations.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

44. The aspiration for Exmouth to be an eco-friendly town has been strongly expressed in response to the May 2016 Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire and in subsequent discussions with interested parties. This is reported in the chapter on the Natural Environment. Recycling of household and garden waste is one aspect, now a part of our daily lives, at which Exmouth excels. A related issue, the collection from households and businesses, was raised many times by residents and, since then, in contacts with Councillors as well as correspondence in the local press.
45. The criticisms were mainly that people wanted more items to be collected, such as cardboard, plastics and garden waste, because of the problems for the many households without a car. EDDC has now addressed this and all but garden waste is collected for recycling.
46. The Colony, located off Exeter Road, Exmouth, was chosen by EDDC as the first place in East Devon to engage in the recycling of additional items. This has been welcomed by residents and successful enough to be considered for industry awards. The amount of materials collected for recycling increases weekly and EDDC is currently exploring the feasibility of recycling garden waste.
47. The main issue still causing concern is the untidiness and unsightliness of four containers stacked outside properties for a whole day on collection days and, worse still, the permanent display of such bins in streets where there are no storage facilities within or behind the houses. This can add a most unsightly and sometimes smelly detraction from the look of a street – seen often in Conservation Areas. When this is added to by the accidental spillage resulting from animals and birds rummaging for food, the picture is not good.
48. In the case of new development this problem could be addressed by planning policy or conditions. In some existing developments the use of carefully located neighbourhood containers could be considered.
49. While Exmouth is generally a clean and tidy town there are some places where commercial and, occasionally, residential units cause offence to the

public by the unsightliness of the bin storage and lack of care in their use, resulting in them becoming unlocked with consequent spillage by wind, animal activity, birds or careless behaviour. Specific areas mentioned by the public almost always involve bins permanently stored on the public highway. Examples are Queen Street, the rear service area of the Magnolia Centre, Bath Road, Crudge's Lane and Staples Buildings.

50. There is now minimal nuisance arising from dog faeces in public places, but accentuated reaction when it does occur. Places have been identified where there is a lack of dog bins, such as Lime Kiln Lane and Long Lane. It is also not well known that with double-bagging ordinary litter bins can be used.

Action CFA8: Rigorous action be taken to avoid the continuation of careless or inappropriate management of litter disposal.

Action CFA9: The improvement of collection procedures be sustained by regular review and action, including pursuing the possibility of kerbside collection of garden waste.