



# Newsletter

## Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme

Reducing tidal flood risk to 1,800 properties



### Welcome



This newsletter is to keep you up to date with our progress on the Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme. Team Van Oord is the design and build contractor for this Environment Agency and East Devon District Council project.

Now the scheme is complete 1,400 homes and 400 businesses in the town will be better protected from tidal flood risk. The scheme includes new flood walls, ground raising, flood gates and property flood resilience measures along the sea front and estuary.

The £12 million tidal defences will reduce tidal flood risk from the current 4 per cent chance of happening in any one year (also known as 1 in 25 year flood event) to a 0.5 per cent chance of happening in any one year (1 in 200 year flood event).

Design of the scheme takes into account the impacts of climate change and sea level risk and also enables improvements in the future if needed.

### Estuary View Carpark NOW OPEN

We are pleased to announce that the Estuary View Car Park was opened on the 2nd August 2021. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community for your patience and cooperation.

### Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is pleased to announce the completion of the £12 million Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme. Improvements to flood defences in the town will help to reduce the impact of tidal flooding to over 1,400 residential and 400 commercial properties. The defences have been built so they can be easily improved in the future, as we all adapt to a changing climate.

We'll be returning in the autumn to carry out the final landscaping work, including the planting of trees along Royal Avenue. I'd like to thank the local community for their understanding as we carried out the work - we have very much appreciated your patience.

David Hancock, Project Manager,  
Environment Agency.

### Exmouth In Bloom



The Exmouth in Bloom planting team have worked their magic on this eye-catching bed at Alexandra Terrace. The plants have been specifically selected for their drought and salt tolerant properties and the beautiful new stone clad wall makes a perfect backdrop.



Reinstatement of Alexandra Terrace Junction

## Historic Traffic Bollards

The three historic traffic bollards which have recently been restored to their original positions at the junction of the Esplanade and Alexandra Terrace probably date back to the 1880s - they are certainly identifiable in a photograph taken in 1894. There are no distinguishing marks to show where they came from, but the strong possibility is that they were made by the Exmouth Dock Foundry, which was responsible for much of the street furniture along the seafront including the old lamp standard incorporated in the extreme western end of the sea wall, which still bears the foundry name.

There were originally four bollards, but one was destroyed by an errant motorist in the 1920s, and a second nearly went the same way only last year, but fortunately it was able to be repaired. They should be rather more protected in future, given the changes in their surroundings. They were originally on the very edges of an exposed traffic island at what was then a three-way junction. The relatively small island has always contained a lamp standard – until the early 1960s there was one with an elaborately cast base of waves and leaping dolphins, which was last seen being offered for sale by an antique dealer as a garden ornament!



Article and photo provided by the Exmouth Historical and Archaeological Society



Exmouth's historic traffic bollards have now been repainted and restored to their original position

## Hello Lamp Post

**Have you ever texted an inanimate object? Well, now you can say, "Hello," to Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme!**

We've just launched a collaboration with Hello Lamp Post. It offers citizens a unique opportunity to engage with Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme.

So if you want to:

- Understand why the tidal defence was built
- Share your thoughts and feedback on Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme
- Find out the simple actions you can take to reduce your flood risk

... All you need to do is scan the QR code or text the number on the sign to begin the conversation - it's that easy!

We'll be launching more talking objects around Exmouth in a few weeks' time, so make sure you keep an eye out for our interactive objects.



Hello Tidal Defence #2

Good morning. It's too cloudy for my liking today. What do you think is the most common and widespread natural hazard in the UK?

Flooding

It's flooding - although the Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme aims to reduce flooding from the sea, it's important to note that the risk can't be eliminated completely. Flooding remains a risk from surface waters and rivers still. One more thing... When do you think the tidal



## Highway flood Gates

27 new flood gates form part of Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme. These specially made gates will spend most of their lives open, but will need to be closed when floods threaten, to reduce the risk to local homes and businesses. They can be opened to enable normal pedestrian and vehicle access through the line of the defence, when the tidal flood risk has passed.

Some of the bigger gates along the seafront, such as those that cross roads, require traffic management. They result in temporary road closures when flooding is expected.

There are three main routes onto The Esplanade that may occasionally be impacted by Exmouth's highway flood gates (Image 1):

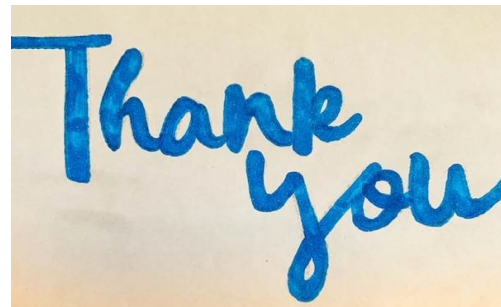
- Western Route, via the Esplanade, with gates adjacent to The Grove
- Central Route, via Alexander Terrace, with gates opposite Morton Road
- Eastern Route, via the Esplanade, with gates adjacent to the Premier Inn

### When will the highway gates close?

The highway gates may need to be closed temporarily, approximately twice a year, over the winter storm period. The criteria to close the gates will be precautionary and we are expecting to reduce the frequency that we close the gates once we have seen how the additional drainage on the seafront performs.

The Environment Agency will issue an operational message to East Devon District Council to inform them to close the highway gates when flooding is expected (and to re-open them when the risk has passed). East Devon District Council will manage the traffic accordingly.

We recognise that the occasional prospect of road closures may impact on your travel around Exmouth. Sign up for free coastal flood warnings for Exmouth, to help you plan your journey. Call 0345 9881188 or sign up online: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> These highway gates (Image 1) will be operated by East Devon District Council.



We'd like to say a massive thank you to all of the volunteers who have come forward to operate Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme's flood gates. The merry team includes:

- Residents from Morton Crescent, with support from Exmouth Town Council
- Wil and his team at The Grove
- Lisa and her team at Best Western Exmouth Beach Hotel
- Tim and his team from Imperial Hotel.

15 of the 27 flood gates will be operated by community volunteers. Community-closed gates can offer more flexibility for gates to be opened between tides, and also sooner once the all clear is given. Thank you for being an integral part of Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme!



Image 1: location of Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme Flood Gates that close the highway when flooding is expected

## Alexandra Terrace Junction



The junction where Alexandra Terrace meets The Esplanade has been redesigned as a key part of the Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme. As well as providing benefits to reduce flooding it has also improved road safety by simplifying the junction with improved traffic management.



The new junction at Alexandra Terrace

## East Devon District Council

Councillor Geoff Jung, East Devon District Council portfolio holder for Coast, Country and Environment said: "On behalf of East Devon District Council and the many owners and tenants of the vulnerable properties within the lower parts of Exmouth who will now benefit from the Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme. I would like to thank the Environment Agency and their contractors Kier for their work to provide the Tidal Defence Scheme that will protect residents and businesses from the increasing danger of the sea overtopping during a storm event. This is only one of many projects that are required to be carried out to ensure that the impact from global weather changes and sea level rises will not adversely affect East Devon."

## Landscaping Works

Landscaping for the project is made up of three elements: trees, low level planting and hard landscaping.

In the woodland at the north of the works, natural regeneration has been allowed. The removal of trees here has introduced light into the woodland and enabled a natural understorey to develop.

- Around The Gut wildflower seeds were planted and have had a summer of blooming, providing habitat for insects.
- Hard landscaping is complete around Alexandra Terrace Junction with the provision of seating and an updated community space.

Over the winter new trees and hedging will be planted within and next to the grounds of the Imperial Hotel.

New semi-mature trees will be planted along Royal Avenue and on towards the Imperial Recreation ground where trees were removed to enable construction.

Low level plants will also be put in along Royal Avenue and on towards the Imperial Recreation ground. This will be a mixture of :

- Flowering lawn mixture
- Species rich grassland
- Estuary side planting (a mix of spiky shrubs, herbaceous species and grasses of different planting densities)

Challenges of getting species agreed alongside the effects of the pandemic on stock availability of some trees has delayed the landscaping programme. The best time to plant trees is November to March, all trees will be planted during this period in 2021/22.

## Alston Terrace

A SECTION OF ALSTON TERRACE IS NOW ONE WAY - Please be aware that there is a new road layout now in place. The section of this road, shown below, is now one way only and no parking is permitted. These changes have been necessary in order to allow for operation of the tidal flood gate and to maintain highway safety for both road traffic and footpath users.



## Take our online survey Your opinion matters...

We would appreciate your feedback to help us evaluate how much you know about the Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme, and also understand where we may be able to improve services in the future. Participation through this link or QR code is anonymous. Please click on <https://forms.office.com/r/gJ57Ts14Q8> or scan the QR code below.



### Get In Touch

Email: [Exmouth.PLO@kier.co.uk](mailto:Exmouth.PLO@kier.co.uk)

Mobile : 07716 223056

<https://m.facebook.com/Exmouth-Tidal-Defence-Scheme-311737652832611/>

