



University
of Exeter

Exeter University Community Panel

Meeting 5: 10th October 2023

1	Welcome and Introductions All attendees introduced each other, and the Chair welcomed two new panel members
2	Minutes and actions from the previous meeting The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the previous meeting in June 2023
3	Creative Arc Programme Manager for the Creative Arc provided an overview of the programme <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A strategic collaboration between the UoE and ECC, focusing on cultural innovation to shape place.- Part funded by university and ECC's Shared Prosperity Fund (part of levelling up funding)- Six community-led projects will be commissioned, involving local arts, culture and heritage, along the themes of Environment, Health and Wellbeing and Place Shaping - themes which align with the university and City Council strategies- The team has spent a couple of years developing ideas within these themes - with various "sandpits" with researchers and stakeholders looking at the most pressing challenges such as net zero, eco anxiety, heritage and place, supporting community cohesion and justice, blue health etc- Three pilot projects have already taken place:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Round About Town - Community engagement in a shop in Exeter High Street, using lego to reimagine the future of the high street - engaged with over 3000 peopleo The Salmon Run - a 50 mile run from the source of the Exe to the estuary - highlighting biodiversity losso Sound Tracks - working with local composer and musician, looking at how awareness of the climate crisis can be embedded in practice- Looking at the city's challenges, Creative Arc is tied into the city's plans for development of brown field sites and will help embed creativity in the planning process- Creative Arc will be working closely with the Director of City Development at ECC, performing the action of the "culture think squad"- The programme was officially launched in August, and has a new website https://www.creativearc.co.uk/ and the team are now getting ready to commission projects- The commissioning process<ul style="list-style-type: none">o £20 to £22K for a creative practitioner to work on each project and each will have an academic input - linked in with people working within each of the themeso First project will be an open callo There will be an information session which anyone wanting to apply for the commission will have to attend
4	Panel feedback on CUA Delivery Progress Headlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A workshop was held at the end of July to revisit and refresh the ambitions of the CUA.- This involved a wider stakeholder group, including people who were part of the original consultation

- Following these discussion, we have proposed some revisions to one of the mission titles, and several of the ambitions.
- These will go to the board for review at the end of this month.

Summary of progress since last meeting:

Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

- The Innovation Hub - the University of Exeter's first city centre space which will deliver SETsquared support to the City's entrepreneurs - was due to open this month but has been delayed until Winter 2023 due to a delay over the lease
- The SetSquared Partnership has also been successful in securing some additional funding to support the delivery of innovation training programme designed to support Innovators in Net Zero Technologies, and bid writing for Collaborative R&D
- A new business brand for the University - [Exeter Innovation](#) - has been developed to improve business access to University expertise.

Deliver a Net Zero Exeter

Proposed New Title: [Innovate towards a sustainable low-carbon economy for the City of Exeter](#)

- The [Green Futures Solutions](#) Hub was launched in June - providing businesses with access to university research and sustainability expertise
- We are building on the legacy of Exeter City Futures e.g. through supporting an Exeter Green Events Calendar and the Exeter Doughnut Group and applying for Reaching Communities Lottery Funding to build on the Changemakers programme
- Exeter's Net Zero Plan was recently discussed by Exeter City Council members and we are expecting an announcement regarding the leadership of the Plan for the City shortly.

Culture and Tourism

- Creative Arc has been launched (see previous item). This is going to be key to supporting social change across the city

Health and Wellbeing

- We are working with the new *One Eastern Devon Partnership Forum* (a cross-sector collaborative forum who are seeking to reduce health inequalities) to identify ways in which the University can help respond to local priorities
- We are working with the course directors of the [Master of Public Health](#) and the [Independent Research Module](#) to facilitate masters projects with local external partners

Aspiration and Opportunity

- A "Strengthening Communities" post has been recruited – jointly funded between the Ted Wragg Multi-Academy Trust and the University to support the development of a Community Hub model for Exeter
- We'll be working closely with this post to make sure that the work is evidence-based, and is transferrable to schools outside of Exeter

Discussion

- Members voiced their concerns that Ted Wragg Schools have been criticised in recent months
- The Chair explained that the University and Exeter College were the original sponsors of the Trust - the Trust has a significant track record of turning around schools and several University employees sit on the Board of Trustees
- The Chair confirmed that he will consider how best to feed the panel's concerns back to the Trust

<p>5</p>	<p>Hoopern Valley Update</p> <p>The Chair provided feedback on the Hoopern Valley consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 171 responses to the original consultation were received and all responses are being fed into the detailed design being drafted by LDA Design, with input from the Sustainability Team and the Biodiversity Task and Finish Group. - The team is hoping to go out to consultation again in November with more proposals around access and additional biodiversity options such as a pond - There have been discussions around a visitor centre - but we would need to think about how that would be funded - MSN assured the panel that he has fed back to the sustainability team that the previous consultation period was too short - It was noted that DCC is closing the Hoopern Valley Bike Path near Velwell Road from 12th October 2023 to 11th April 2024 to do repairs to the retaining wall <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure panel members are included on the distribution list for the next stage of the consultation
<p>6</p>	<p>New CUA with Devon County Council</p> <p>Overview and discussion on how to include the broader Devon community perspective</p> <p>An overview was given of the new Devon County CUA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Document will be signed by the 2 leaders and launched on 23rd October - There are Three Missions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Thriving futures for young people o Carbon considered housing for all o Innovation and skills for a sustainable future - An initial workshop has taken place with representatives from both organisations to identify opportunities for more joined-up and strategic collaboration - The Agreement is based on the same Partnership Framework as the Exeter CUA and states that “The partnership will adopt ways of working that support effective community and stakeholder engagement” <p>The Chair sought input from the panel on how we can best do this across the broader Devon Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The panel felt that while a virtual panel would be feasible, the richness of the engagement in online meetings would not be the same as in person workshops. <p>A separate conversation followed around skills – specifically the need for training more bicycle mechanics in Exeter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is currently nowhere in Devon or Cornwall where you can get a professional standard cycle level 2 training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Could this be an opportunity for Exeter College? - There is also a gap in the city since Co-Bikes and Co-Cars collapsed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Could we consider bike sharing / renting options for students? o This needs to be part of a holistic strategy to reduce car use in the city <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These concerns / suggestions will be passed onto the Climate Emergency Group and the CUA Heads of Sustainability Group
<p>7</p>	<p>British Science Festival update</p> <p>An update was provided on the British Science Festival and Community Grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Around 7,200 participants over the four days. - Approx. 76 public events, about 33 of those involving Exeter staff and students.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Festival Director described the festival as “our most participatory Festival, with more hands-on, drop-in activities than ever before.” <p>Nine Community Projects were funded, and each organisation will create a blog of their event - either written, video, or audio - so there is some legacy of their activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Art and Energy CIC ran 4 workshops with people from the Exeter Diocese Network across Devon to look closely at mosses and discover the roles that they play in responding to the climate and ecological emergencies. - CoLab ran two workshops on the theme of Planets and Stars, guided by academics in the University of Exeter’s Astrophysics Group. - Exwick Community Association organised a bioblitz to help the residents find the nature that lives around them, whilst highlighting the science of observation and recording data. - Interwoven Productions CIC worked with Chestnut Nursery and Wynstream Primary School to engage families in Wonford with a community-led landscape/heritage project. - Makeshift CIC ran a workshop for women, who are traditionally underrepresented in tech, introducing them to electronics in a fun, unusual way; by hacking children’s toys in a process known as ‘circuit bending’. - Maketank Cultural Lab & Devon Ukrainian Association organised a 2.5-day workshop with young Ukrainian women who are currently living in Exeter, to envision the future of the city by introducing them to behavioural science and placemaking. - Positive Light Projects ran a day of experimental cameraless photography workshops for the public. - The Pelican Project Exeter CIC worked with Sciencedipity, to organise a sensory workshop for its members in response to Exeter Science Centre’s Climate Exhibition - Seed-Exe-Change (Exeter Seed Bank) organised the first-ever Exeter Tomato Festival (ETF) for the public, promoting tomato diversity and seed saving.
<p>8</p>	<p>Student Recycling Focus Group update</p> <p>Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This group was set up in response to a suggestion by the Community Panel- encouraging students to come up with solutions - The second meeting took place on the 4th October and focused on the ideas that came out of the first meeting as well as some of the ideas that came from the Community Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community composting • Exploring an end of term car boot sale • Creating a “starter pack” for new students • Library of things • Campus charity shop <p>Highlights of the discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a really positive response to the library of things, and the idea that we work with the Exeter Library of Things to understand what students might want to borrow e.g. Gardening tools - The use of different sharing and re-using apps and the potential impact of their use on the charity shops - Having space on campus to store some of these things
<p>8</p>	<p>Applications / ideas for the Community Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have not had any applications to the Community Fund around the theme of “Communicating the ecological and climate crisis to residents” and suggested that we might want to review the current four priorities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was noted that is the right priority, but £300 maybe not enough money for this challenge -psychologists and communicators need to engage and mobilise the public and act on climate change - It was suggested that while there is so much good that could come from this, it needs to sound more fun. Suggestions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creating a challenge around sustainable transport to events ○ Ideas/solutions for residents to have a positive impact on the climate crisis ○ Encouraging volunteering from the community - However, while it is important that the fund is used to champion the crisis, we need to be honest about what is gaining most traction - therefore reframing this to be more active and engaged – we could be more targeted in our approach – e.g. reach out to specific student societies such as cycling groups <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss options for the Community Fund with Guild Officers
9	<p>Update on Community Panel ideas or priorities for future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was noted that MakeTank has now moved out of their premises on Paris Street but has found a new venue on North Street - Members are concerned that cultural organisations are getting pushed out of the city - Lots of charities and voluntary organisations are also at risk of losing their spaces- they are losing contracts and there are no grants available - this could be catastrophic for the city - Is there anything the University can do to support this sector? <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider how we can take this forward
10	<p>AOB Next meeting – February</p>