

Community Panel Meeting

5th February 6.00 to 8.00 pm

Innovation Hub, Dix's Field, Exeter

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Minutes and actions from the previous meeting

Action	Update
Regional Engagement Manager to reach out to Climate Scientists to ask them to deliver research findings at a community event	Ongoing – plans for the Climate Conference later this year include community engagement
Share information relating to risk and the use of helmets and cycling	Shared
The Head of Student Engagement to share the link for the volunteering form and to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities	Shared
Head of Student Engagement / Regional Engagement Manager to look at options for making the Welcome Fayre more accessible to charities and community organisations	On-going
Regional Engagement Manager to share the link to the Community Partnership Hub	Shared
Community Liaison Manager to request further information regarding 3 Community Fund EOIs	Completed
Community Liaison Manager / Regional Engagement Manager to create guidance for awardees	On-going

3. Update on CUA Delivery Progress

Mission 1: Support the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth of the City:

- The University is working with the City Council to extend the lease for the Innovation Hub for another year and support the continued delivery of business training to local start-ups
- An AHRC Creative Clusters bid is being prepared which will help the continued contribution to the creative industries in the city.
- A Task and Finish group is being created, aligned to the work of the Exeter Partnership, focused on delivery of this mission.
- The regional engagement team is looking to align work with the redevelopment functions of the City Council

Mission 2: Innovate towards a sustainable low-carbon economy for the City of Exeter

- Creating a skilled workforce in this space is a priority and we have been mapping skills requirements and provision, providing an evidence base in the form of a Skills Escalator
- The South West Institute of Technology (SWIoT) is keen to progress this and deliver provision across the region

- A new Exeter CUA Sustainability Advisory Group has been convened and is planning 2 stakeholder workshops in active and sustainable transport to help identify good practice, gaps, and opportunities

Mission 3: Build a City of Aspiration and Opportunity

- The Urban Learning Academy continues to progress well
- The MoU between Exeter College and the University has been updated
- The Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Education Alliance is progressing well. The initial focus is on expanding the student-led school tutoring programme across the region and supporting educators with SEMH and neurodiversity

Mission 4: Support an ambitious Culture and Tourism offer

- The final 6 Creative Arc commissions have been launched. All six commissions will deliver and report by mid- March 2025
- The Exeter Heritage Partnership is progressing well and now holds the volunteer programme, acting as an umbrella heritage organisation in the city. Partners include CoLab and Hikmat

Mission 5: Enhance the Health and Wellbeing of our citizens

- The University and RDUH continue collaborate on a number of large-scale initiatives including the £6.8M UK Hub for One Health Systems: Creating Sustainable Health and Social Care Pathways
- We are collaborating with SW Health Innovation Network (SW HIN) to contribute to the regional health strategy and initiatives
- The University is delivering some CPD programmes in Participatory Methods to VCSE organisations in Devon and Cornwall
- Internal discussions are on-going about the redevelopment of St Luke's Health Campus

4. Exeter's Net Zero Journey

Update from the City-Wide Net Zero Programme Manager

- This role is focussed on partnering across the city to deliver the Net Zero plan; building links and learning from other places and approaches around place-based sustainability; working with new networks such as Nature, Towns and Cities (new accreditation scheme); and looking at joint funding opportunities
- The Centre for Energy and Environment has recently updated the Green House Gas report, showing a 9% reduction in GHG for 2022 compared with 2019 – while the downward trend is positive, we need to do more
- There is a lot of positivity and enthusiasm in the Sustainability Advisory Group about being able to do more together
- The new Climate subgroup of the Exeter Partnership is inclusive and diverse, reflecting communities across the city
- Working across both these groups will make sure there is alignment and avoid duplication
- The 2030 targets are challenging, but we need to remain positive - the focus will be on activities we can control and where we have the influence

5. Update on student / community challenge idea

- Panel members have suggested some potential challenge areas
- The Guild have reviewed these suggestions against student insights data and found alignment on community safety, sustainability, mental health and wellbeing, and social inclusion

- The Guild have identified some student leaders and societies against each theme
- We agreed we should:
 - convene a small group of student leaders, community members and university staff to agree and define the challenge and finalise the challenge topic by mid-March
 - plan a hackathon style event to work towards addressing the challenge in May
- Panel members confirmed their interest in being involved in developing the challenge

6. Update from Panel on ideas and initiatives

Friends of Hoopern Valley Association

- Membership and email list is growing well
- Over 40 people attended the AGM
- Over 30 participants including students, residents and councillors attended the first litter pick event

Fun a Day

- Now in its 3rd year, expecting approximately 65 entries
- Community Show will be in Positive Light Project in March

Exeter Stories Podcasts

- A series of podcasts showcasing some of the amazing work that is happening in the city
- Featuring conversations with people who contribute to the vision of Exeter
- A pipeline of interviews is planned – the first one has been recorded with the Chairman of Exeter City Football Club

7. Applications / ideas for the Community Fund

- Projects funded this year have included:
 - Prospect Park Street Party (contribution)
 - Multi-Faith Building Community event
 - Science Community Choir
 - Seed Bank Project
 - Fun-a-day 2025
 - Intergenerational Care Project (Med School)
- The majority of the annual community fund has now been spent, with one £300 grant remaining.
- One potential application is upcoming for a trial 'Repair Café' on campus

8. Community Panel engagement with university strategy and decision making

- Areas of interest include Circular Economy

Actions:

- Regional Engagement Manager (REM) to reach out to Director, Arts and Culture and Head of Creative Industries and Economy about attending a future Meeting
- REM to reach out to the Ted Wragg Strengthening Communities Lead about attending a future meeting
- REM to reach out to Green Futures Network and Centre for Energy and the Environment about tools to help residents make decisions about retrofit / energy saving
- REM to work with Guild to convene working group for Student Community Challenge
- Exeter Stories to reach out to the Devonshire Place Residents' Association
- Panel to review the Community Fund categories
- Panel members to let the REM know of any policy or strategy areas they are keen to get involved in