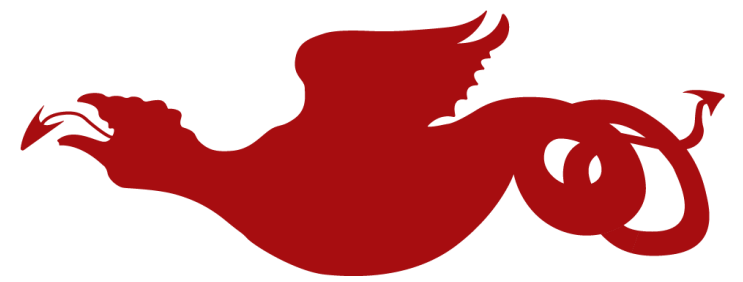


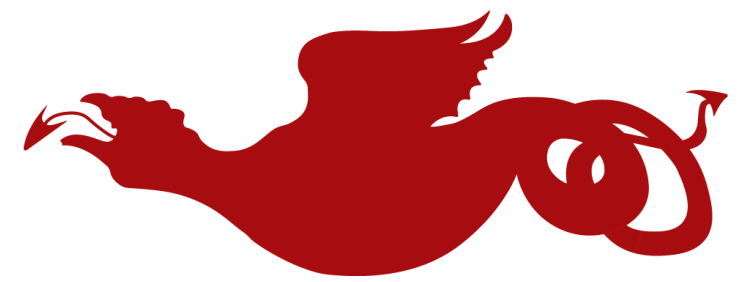
EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY

Book Launch and Planning Ahead for 2025

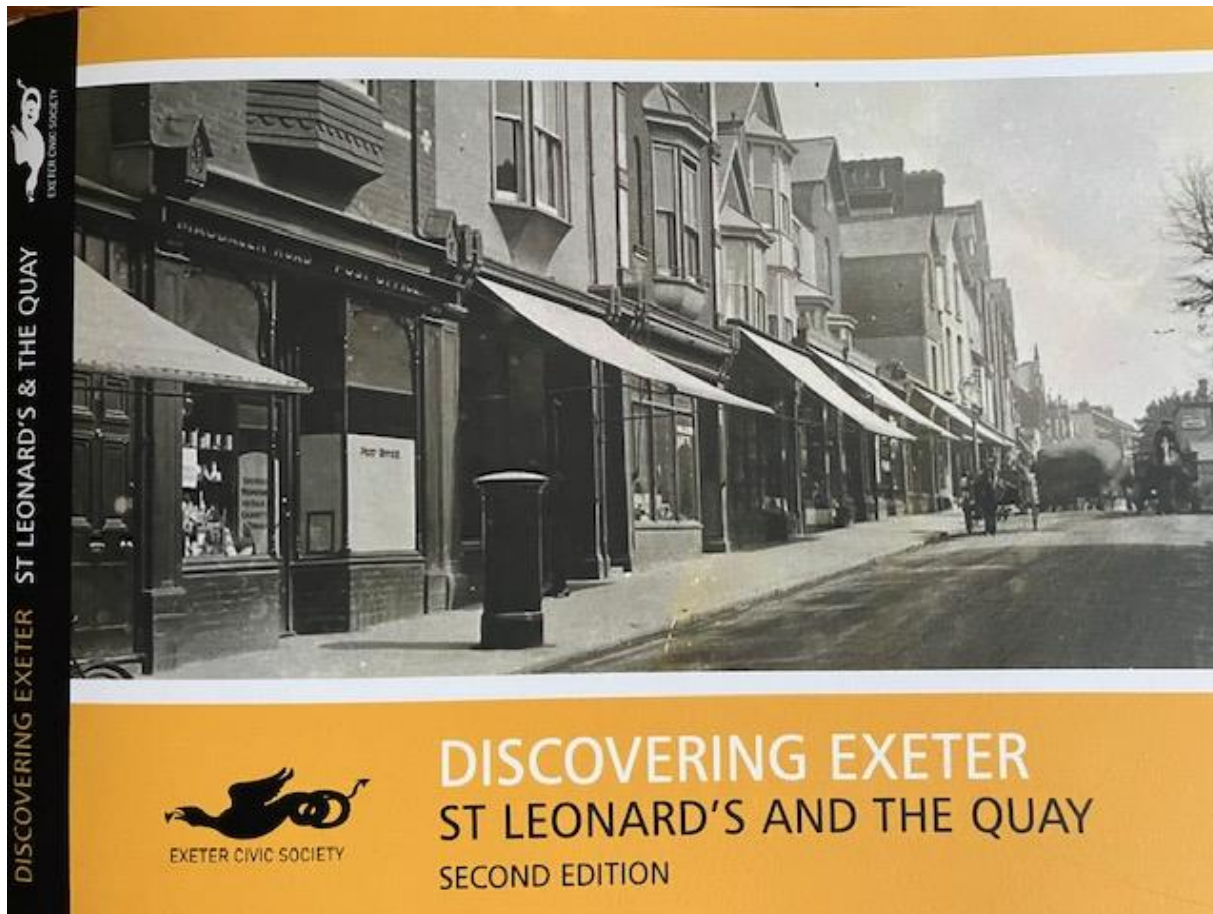


- 1. Book Launch: the new St. Leonards booklet
- 2. New lead for the Tree Preservation Taskforce
- 3. Future of the Walks (volunteers needed, list going round)
- 4. Exeter Energy Ltd and the Riverside Valley Park: How best to engage
- 5. Potential forming of a 'West of the River Exe Working Group'
 - as follow-up of the Wider Water Lane Area project (trial for a more local working party bringing together existing groups, associations, councillors)
- 6. Development of Eastgate: Do we want a group working on a prospectus for this site?
- 7. What should we aim to improve in the City?

EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY Book Launch



- 1. Book Launch: the new St. Leonards booklet

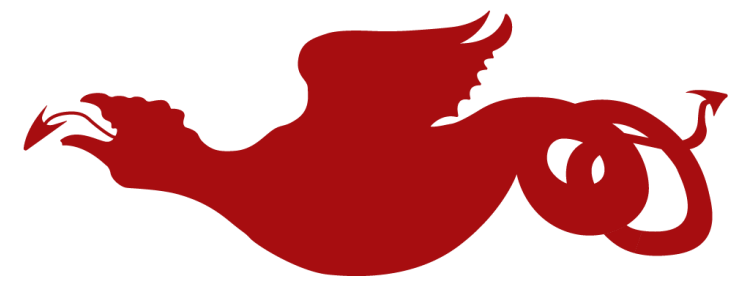


Discovering Exeter: St Leonard's and the Quay

- 2nd, fully revised edition
 - Updated for all the changes in the last 40 years and with colour photos.
 - Cover designed by Aylwyn Bowen - will have seen his work around Exeter
 - Price £5, you can buy your copy here today
 - Selling it at the Magdalen Street Fair on 7 December - volunteers to help man the stall welcome.
 - Working on the next revisions - part way through the Sidwell Street area one and discussing a revision to the West of Exe booklet.
- Ian Maxted was presented with a little present for his hard work on republishing our booklet.

EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY

Planning Ahead for 2025

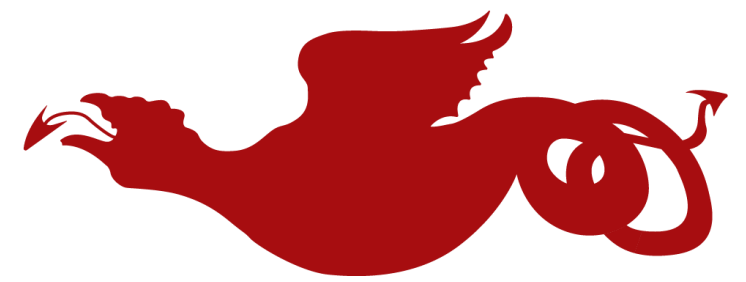


- 2. New lead for the Tree Preservation Taskforce
 - Stephen Mariner and Ruth McLeish lead the taskforce since summer 2023
 - Contact to tree officer at Exeter City Council established and documents received; after Joe Morshead left, new contact to be developed
 - Contact to Devon County Council: no replies to countless letters and emails
 - 'Larkbeare House and Grounds' – early engagement with report on trees in the grounds, campaign to save Larkbeare resulted in listing of grounds and got media coverage
 - New lead needed to continue with work & a few more active members who wish to continue with the taskforce: **David Solman suggested he would take on the lead, with support from other members.**



EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY

Planning Ahead for 2025



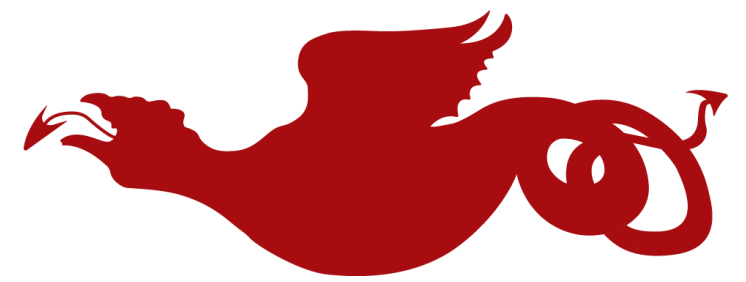
- 3. Future of the Walks (volunteers needed, list going round)

- Jim Perriam organised and lead monthly walks since autumn 2023.
- Since Sep 2024 the walks have been led by individual members. Gert advertises the walk on our webpage, sends details to our monthly News Bulletin and provide information on our Whatsapp Group.
- **The walks normally take place on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 2-4pm.** We find that shorter walks (up to 2 miles) get a better turnout. **The idea is to stroll though an area of Exeter, talk about its history, local developments and future planning for this area.** This can be your neighbourhood. Or you can take our 'Discovering Exeter' booklets which include walks to cut out a section and have a lot of information from the booklet already. All on the walk will chip in with what they know, which creates a very nice atmosphere of sharing.
- **Planning and leading a walk should not be too much work. Individual members were asked to come up with an idea and liaise with Gert.** Provide a bit of information where the walk will lead us and most importantly where we will start and stop (with transport links if it is not in the city centre), maybe with a photo. Do a tracky to familiarise yourself with any obstacles.



EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY

Planning Ahead for 2025



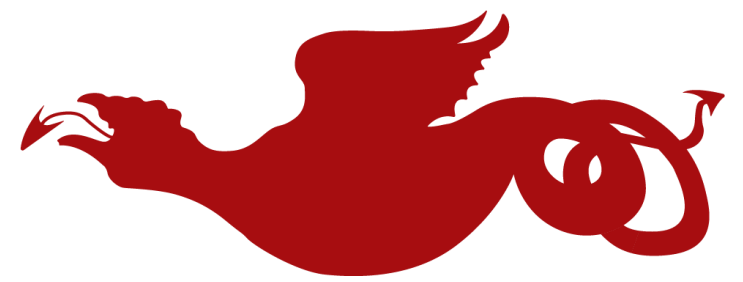
- 4. Exeter Energy Ltd and the Riverside Valley Park: How best to engage



- The developer has a £40m+ government grant to create a district heating system for premises along the Topsham Road corridor.
- This will be a £100m investment in the city.
- The city council has agreed in principle to grant a lease to the developer on Grace Road Fields.
- BUT. The site is in the Riverside Valley Park which is supposed to be protected from development.
- AND. The site is identified in the Local Plan as a community area for the 1,000s of homes planned in the area.
- **Should we campaign to retain this green space and possibly lose this green energy proposal?**
- **The meeting was in favour of this motion and agreed that proportioned steps should be taken.**

EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY

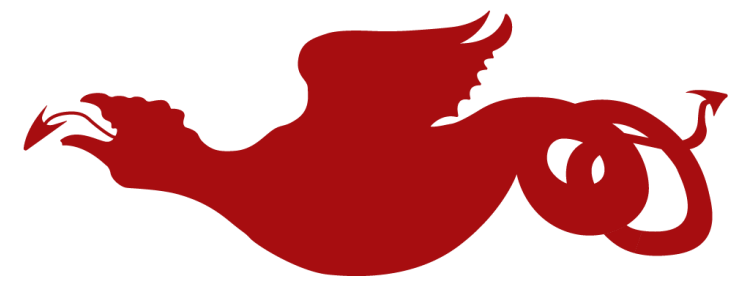
Planning Ahead for 2025



- 5. Potential forming of a ‘West of the River Exe Working Group’
 - we discussed local working groups at our last AGM – can we find **a lead** to follow this up
 - The ‘West of the Exe’ group as a follow up to our *Wider Water Lane Community Engagement* in 2022 to monitor development and issues across the area with community groups
 - trial for a local working party bringing together local people, existing interest groups & neighbourhood groups, associations, councillors etc
 - it would focus on issues in Alphington, Cowick & Exwick
 - the working group would be answerable to our ‘Strategic Planning & Highways Group’
 - The meeting was in favour of this widening the remit of our Wider Water Lane work, as in the past issues on this side of the city have been underrepresented; it was pointed out that many organisations and groups exist and that it would be beneficial to try to bring them all together. SP&H was asked to establish contacts while trying to find a ECS co-ordinator to lead this potential project.

EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY

Planning Ahead for 2025



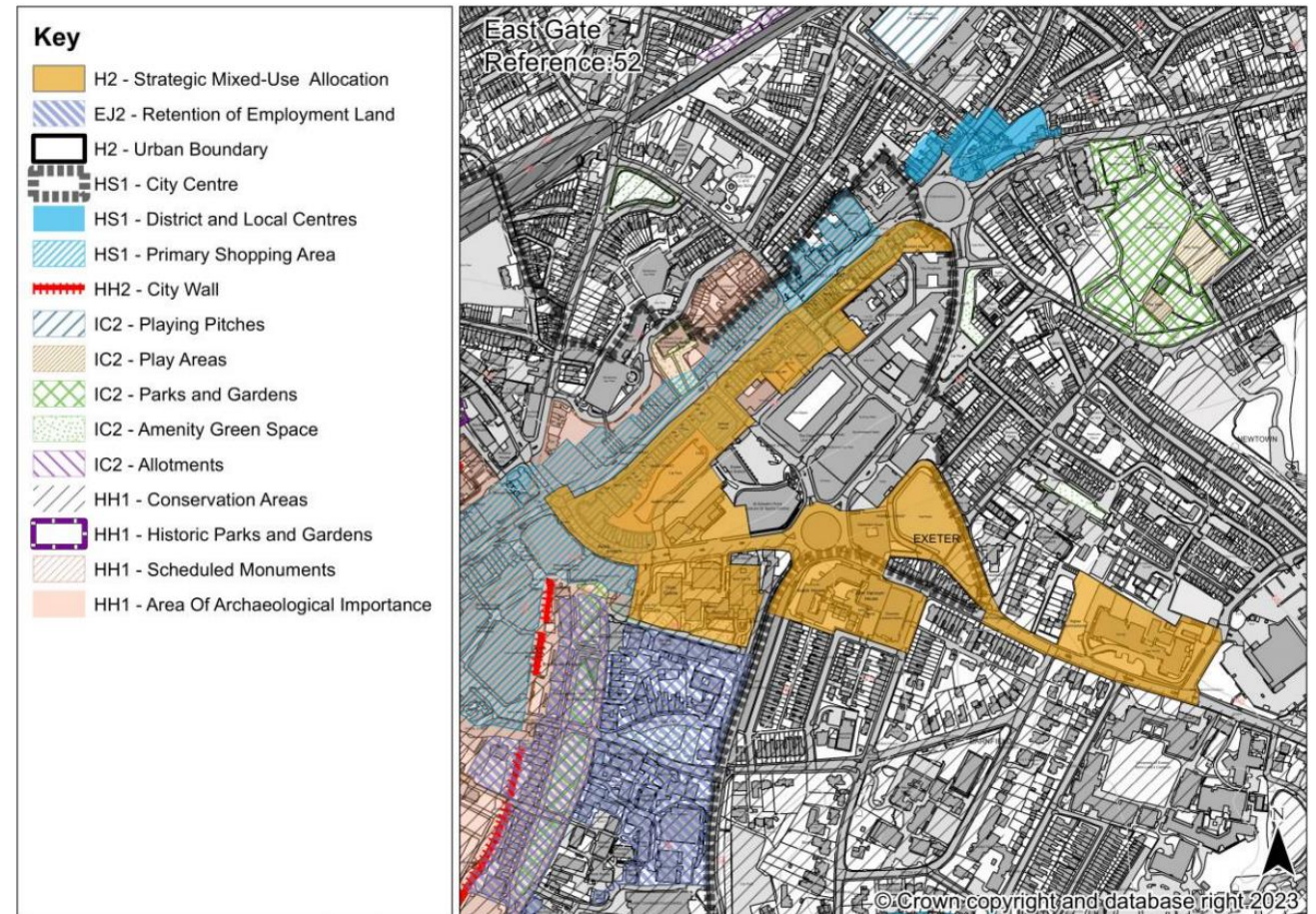
• 6. Development of Eastgate: Do we want a group working on a Prospectus for this site?

We know that ECC does not have the resources to develop a masterplan for this area

For impact we would need:

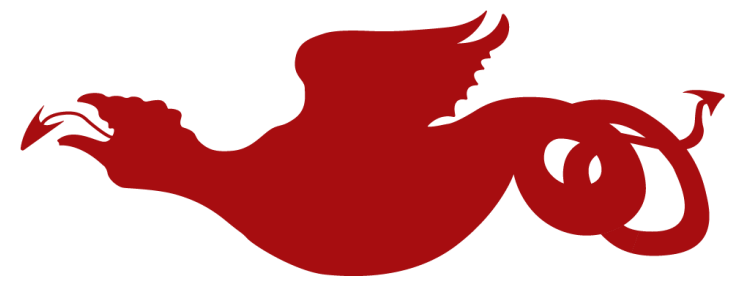
- councillors and InExeter and traders to be engaged, and some ECC input

The meetings decided to try to establish a working party with other organisations, SP&H to make contacts and see whether there is enough external support for an 'Eastgate Prospectus'. It was agreed that this is a multifaceted site with a lot of potential for the future of the city centre.



EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY

Planning Ahead for 2025



- 7. What do you think we should aim to improve in the city?
 - Further ideas that can be taken back to Committee for consideration
- The meeting had the view that the agenda was full enough already with these potential projects, while at the same time carrying on with the existing initiatives and projects, like 'Wider Water Lane', 'Exeter Plan', 'Active Travel & Streets'. Working together with other organisations and with local councillors should be intensified with the aim to strengthen the impact of our work.