One Ilfracombe

Town Team Notes

0930-1100

Wednesday 13th July 2022

The Ilfracombe Centre

Attendees:

Neil Ingram - One Ilfracombe Project Officer (Chair)	**Eric Haynes – Ilfracombe Access Group**
Netti Pearson – ITC and NDC Councillor	**Ade Drury – Devon & Cornwall Police**
Terry Elliott – ITC Councillor	**Dave Thubron – Devon & Cornwall Police**
Barbara Clarke – Events 4 Ilfracombe/IBTA	**Rob Townsend – ITC Maintenance Operative**
Stuart Coslett – Fore St Association	

Apologies:

Dan Lester – Devon & Somerset Fire Service	**Lena Hayden – NDC Parking**
Rod Donovan – ITC Councillor / One Ilfracombe Board Member	**Georgina Carlo-Patt - Harbourmaster**
Alan Matthewman – ITC Town Clerk	**Richard Rodd – ITC Facilities Manager**

1. Neil Ingram (NI) welcomed the group and thanked the representatives from Ilfracombe Police for attending.

2. Actions from last meeting

- *Approach IRB for potential to use this platform for multi-agency meeting relating to vacant buildings etc* – **NI has passed this to ITC Councillors who are on the IRB. It is intended that this will be an IRB Agenda item at their next meeting on 20th July. Following a meeting between ITC Cllr Rod Donovan and a local Guest House owner, a listing of buildings at risk is attached at the end of these notes for information and will be used at the IRB.**

- ITC to investigate how other Local Government Councils are addressing the same issues – **The Town Clerk is currently unavailable so this aspect will be investigated further by NI depending on the outcome from the IRB meeting.**

- ITC to formally approach D&CP to request an ITC hosted public meeting – **This request was passed to Dave Thubron (DT)**

- Request clarification from D&CP on the correct procedures for reporting instances of Vehicle ASB – **See D&CP comments at Item 4**

- Explore the possibility of a Community Action or Targeted Action day with Police & Fire Service – **See D&CP comments at Item 4**

• Investigate purchase and use of Street Cleaner for ITC use – **The purchase of a cleaning bowser has been passed via the Town Clerk for the next Finance & General Purpose (F&GP) Committee meeting.**

• Investigate purchase and use of Steam and or Weed Foam Equipment – **Richard Rodd (RR) has investigated this and the prices range from £17k to £35k. It is envisaged that this expense will mean sole purchase by ITC is not viable so the potential for equipment purchase and sharing with NDC and other Parish Councils is being explored by Cllr Netti Pearson. Mike Jones (NDC Parks) is arranging a demonstration but, this is not planned until October 2022.**

• Removal of Green Waste following volunteer initiatives –**It is likely that any planned town wide or local clean ups would have to be assessed on an individual basis with the removal of green waste being factored into any event planning. NP suggested the investigation of an NDC collection point. Rob Townsend (RT) stated that due to the way the local recycling centres are run that the ITC vehicle was not permitted to use these to dispose of green waste. This was questioned as to whether forward planning and speaking to the recycle centre managers as part of any clean up event was a way ahead or whether private hire of skips/containers should be considered, NI will discuss further with RR.**

• Work with Cllr Pearson (NP) on improved litter bin signage – **This is ongoing with NP having recently covered the harbour area with the Harbourmaster. NI reported (again) the bin that is no longer fit for purpose on Fore St (Albert Court). This has been reported on the NDC website which NI pointed out to NP does not have an option to report broken bins just overfilled ones.**

• Liaise with Fire Service in relation to a responsible parking campaign – **This is ongoing with NI speaking to Dan Lester at Ilfracombe Fire Station**

• Speak to NDC Neighbourhood Officer about preventing bird feeding in the arches – **NI to speak to NDC Neighbourhood Officer. NI pointed out that the arches was now being cleaned on a weekly basis by both NDC and ITC staff.**

3. **Street Scene**

Netti Pearson updated the group in her capacity as Lead Member for the Environment at NDC.

- All litter metal litter bins are in the process of eventually being replaced using non-ferrous materials. These bins will also be used for both Litter and Dog Waste. All of the "General Purpose" bins will be black in colour to assist in the public education of what rubbish goes where.
- She also added that there are also plans to see the return of on street recycling bins. These would be coloured accordingly with an intention to make this a nationwide initiative so that visitors and locals alike are educated as to what waste should be going into what colour bins.
- It is likely that Parish Council will have to identify funding for some of these bins due to a lack of District Council funding.
- The use of foam and steam to remove weeds will be trialled and if successful as alluded to previously ITC will look into purchasing this equipment outright or as part of a joint funded bid and a share of the use of the equipment with NDC and/or DCC.

4. Ilfracombe Police Update

- Dave Thubron (DT) informed the group that reduced staffing levels continued to impact on the capability of D&CP not just in Ilfracombe but across their entire footprint.

One factor being that with SWAS only dealing with Priority 1&2 call outs coupled with shortages within A&E departments the shortfall for emergency service resources to attend non Priority 1 & 2 cases was falling to D&CP.

This is therefore resulting in officers spending extended periods of time within or travelling between Devon's hospitals and the drawdown of Neighbourhood Teams to assist in these tasks. He also stressed that the demand for support for members of the public suffering from Mental Health related issues was very much on the increase with MH support facilities on the decline.

- DT also stressed that due to reduced levels of crime reporting for Ilfracombe the allocation of resources suffers from what appears to be low crime figures for the town. It was acknowledged that an element of this is attributable to a loss of faith in the 101 system. The advice on this is to use the 101 e-mail and WebChat options of the service.

It must be stressed that individuals should still call 999 when:

- ***you or someone else is in immediate danger***
- ***if the crime is in progress***
- ***you need police help immediately.***

NI said that the requirement to **REPORT – REPORT – REPORT** was something that One Ilfracombe and ITC will continue to push at every opportunity.

NI stated that the One Ilfracombe Town Team will work with Ilfracombe Police to improve the promotion of the need to report.

In a bid to not disadvantage those with limited or no online access the previous system of using cards to report issues to the police will be reinstated. **Ade Drury (AD) will investigate as to whether any of the old cards still exist.** It is intended that cards can be filled in and collected at the Ilfracombe Centre for periodic collection by Ilfracombe Police.

NI will also promote the availability and use of the 2 x PCs that are for public use at the Ilfracombe Centre which can also be used to report any issues.

- It was reported that the PCC are currently pushing for Ilfracombe Police Station to fully reopen. One stumbling block being the current lack of support staff.

- **Anti Social Driving**

DT passed on the following advice of what to make note of and then report for an instance of anti social driving, not all are required but the more detail the better:

1. Time & Date
2. Registration
3. Vehicle Description
4. Drivers Description
5. The issue

Individuals are also encouraged to make reports by uploading any video obtained to D&CP's Operation Snap at https://operationsnap.devon-cornwall.police.uk/

- It was discussed that a road safety day involving D&CP Road Traffic Officers could be arranged. It is hoped that the advice that these officers can impart on what is road legal and what isn't would be a starting point to address. Arranging this alongside Ilfracombe Fire Service was also forwarded as a suggestion. **NI will follow up with the Police & Fire Service**.

- Having been contacted by a member of the public NI asked DT whether Traffic Officers carried decibel readers to assess noise levels from vehicles. DT stated that they did not.

- NI reported two instances of recent crime to DT, one featuring ASB in the harbour (DT to follow up with Harbourmaster) and instances of threatening behaviour in St James' Park, which the Police were aware of and following up on.

5. ITC Out & About Update – Rob Townsend (RT)

- More permanent planting has taken place this month across the town.
- All plants and baskets are now out. The feedback from the basket images that were posted onto social media have created some very positive feedback. The group thanked Rich, Rob and Clive for all their efforts across the town.

- Clive (ITC Hygiene Operative) has been trying to keep on top of the pigeon mess in the arches. The feeding of these birds by members of the public remains an issue.
- The Ilfracombe in Bloom baskets need renewing and the stations require painting. This issue may well be resolved following the recent meeting of a new "Ilfracombe in Bloom" team, which took place recently. Once the organisation of this new group is known they will be approached alongside the Ilfracombe Men's Shed.
- New Veg Baskets have been installed at Albert Court (Fore Street).

5. AOB

- NI informed the Group that all 9 ITC owned bus shelters had been cleaned by a local company funded by ITC. This deep clean was the initial step in then gaining support from the community to stay on top of keeping the shelters clean. Hele Bay Community Group have already come forward to maintain the shelter at Hele and it is hoped that other groups/individuals and organisations will do the same in the very near future.
- TE asked if the 3 benches in Victoria Place could be replaced. **NI to speak to Mike Jones (NDC Parks)**
- TE suggested that the potential for Town Team meetings to be both face to face and virtual be explored - **NI to investigate with Town Clerk and Programme Manger as this would be best served with an upgrade of the current ITC digital comms set up** - TE also suggested that brief reports/updates could be submitted by those people who are unable to attend these meetings **– It was agreed that this was a good idea and NI will follow up on this.**

6. Date of Next Meeting - 7th September 1030 - The Ilfracombe Centre

List of buildings at risk in Ilfracombe

'Roslyn Hoe' (St Martins) (WM Robbins 1880s)

Torrs Park, Ilfracombe

Grade II Listed already. Seemingly abandoned since the elderly female owner passed away, rumoured to know be owned by her son. No signs of life from the building – the decorative elements of the building are in a very poor state. Large trees in the plot are not managed and pose a risk to the house. The property is empty as far as we know putting it at risk of intrusion, vandalism, and fire.

'Airdrie & Seagulls'

Torrs Walk Avenue, Ilfracombe

Early 20th Century semi-detached houses, currently crumbling and unsafe, probably beyond saving. The rear elevation seems to be falling down when last observed. Permission was granted to demolish the building in 2010 and replace with a new dwelling(s) but no progress on site has been seen since.

'Grey Gables' (Torrs Park Hotel) (WC Oliver 1880)

Torrs Park, Ilfracombe

Grade II Listed already, currently used as a foster home, in a poor general state, but minimum levels of maintenance are in hand. Currently for sale, at risk of unsympathetic redevelopment. (In addition to the poor c20 additions / extensions).

'Riversdale House' (Rumoured to be designed by the same architect as the Ilfracombe Hotel – either M.C.W Horne, or John Hayward – mid/late 19th Century)

Torrs Park / Riversdale Avenue, Ilfracombe

Privately owned, not listed, but should be considered. Last considered for listed status in 1988 but rejected by English Heritage. In a poor state of repair generally, owner occupied, recent storm

damage including collapsed chimney not repaired due to lack of buildings insurance. Has a current planning application in place to remove / reduce trees.

'Merlin Court' (formerly Hereford House and Northcote Villa)

Granville Road, Ilfracombe

Grade II Listed. Formerly 2 houses, joined at some time in the early 20th century to form a hotel. Privately owned, well restored for use as a commercial health retreat by current owner (Slimmeria) – but largely empty since Covid-19 lockdowns. Not occupied, at risk of intrusion, vandalism, and fire.

'Abbeydale Hotel' (Sunnyside) WM Gould 1876

Torrs Park, Ilfracombe

Not listed, privately owned, formerly a hotel, but not traded for many years, appears to be in a poor state of repair – but occupied.

'Tracey House Hotel' (formerly Bella Vista) mid 19th century

Belmont Road, Ilfracombe

Grade II Listed, privately owned, formerly a hotel, but not traded for many years, appears to be in a poor state of repair – but occupied.

'6 & 7 Brookdale Avenue' WM Robbins 1883

Grade II Listed, privately owned, residential, architectural features on both in a poor / fair state of repair.

'Devon Bay Hotel' (Grosvenor Hotel)

Wilder Rd, Ilfracombe

Not Listed. Currently not trading, privately owned. Has suffered many years of neglect and unsuitable extensions and alterations. Previously 4 villas known as 'Belgrave Villas', joined together late 19th century/ early 20th century to form a hotel. The southern most villa is now separate and run as a guesthouse (Grosvenor House) which is well maintained. The rest of the original hotel needs urgent attention. Recently sold, owners intentions unknown – but I am told that they are simply waiting for creditors time limit to pass and then will attempt to re-sell the building again.

'Symphony Hotel' WM Gould late 19th Century

4 Capstone Parade, Ilfracombe

Not listed. Forming part of Capstone Parade, the building is in a poor state of repair internally and externally, with the lower floor currently being leased as a restaurant, and the upper floors as a mix of hotel rooms – which have been trading as budget rooms on and off for a couple of years.

'Portland House'

21 Portland Road, Ilfracombe

Not listed. Formally a private house, then a residential care home, now back to a private house, rumoured to be owner occupied by an elderly lady. Building is in a poor state of repair and needs intervention to preserve it.

‘Alpha House’

Church Street, Ilfracombe

Former boarding house / hotel. Now flats, freehold recently sold and in need of general maintenance and refurbishment. Building brickwork was painted in the 20th century. Recent planning application to replace original wooden sash windows with UPVC double glazed units – application refused with objections from Ilfracombe TC and Heritage officer.

‘Harleigh House’

Wilder Road, Ilfracombe

Formerly Harleigh Hotel, part refurbished – but renovation halted due to UPVC windows being installed in without permission (permission refused in 2014) – now sat empty for 8yrs. Building is unoccupied, at risk of intrusion, vandalism and fire.

‘Cairn View House’

8 Marlborough Road

Private home, not listed, late Victorian, on the corner of Marlborough Rd and St Brannocks Park Rd – in a very poor state of repair, original sash windows rotting and hanging out of frames.

‘Craigmore’ (Marine Villa)

49 St Brannocks Road.

Privately owned, currently split into split into flats with tenants on a ‘peppercorn’ rent. Large Victorian detached property, formerly used as a military hospital following WWI. Many un-sympathetic ‘improvements’ including UPVC windows and conservatory. Minimal maintenance work undertaken and the whole property is in a rather unloved state.