One Ilfracombe – Town Team

Meeting Notes

1030 - Weds 8th March 2023

Present: Neil Ingram (One Ilfracombe), PCSO Ade Drury (D&CP), Insp Rich Preston (D&CP), Netti Pearson (ITC, NDC & Earth Repair Shop), Terry Eliott (ITC & Friends of Tyrell Hospital), Barbara Clarke (Events4Ilfracombe, IBTA, Ilfracombe in Bloom), Rich Rodd (ITC), Rob Townsend (ITC), Mike Jones (NDC)

Apologies: Alex Bird (DCC), Malc Kirk (D&CP), Harbourmaster, Steve Trebble (Ilf in Bloom), Suse Rolfe (NDC), Bert Gear (ITC), Bridget Gear (Ilf in Bloom)

1. NI welcomed the group and reiterated the role of the Town Team.

2. NI stated that the Spring Clean event was still planned to go ahead but to date there had been a poor response to involvement at a local level aside from the "usual suspects" – Earth Repair Shop, Cow Lane Gardens Group and Hele Community Group. ***Action – Continue to promote (All)***

3. TE and others raised the issue of the amount of rubbish in hedgerows along the A39/A361. The group agreed that although an element of self-help was possible, in some areas such as Mullacott, that DCC must take responsibility for providing a regular clean-up of these areas to prevent the current build up of rubbish. – ***Action – Pass to Alex Bird (DCC)***

4. NI raised the point that there was no communication of plans of work from DCC Highways or NDC which would enable local residents to be informed of when road marking, drain cleaning or street cleaning (scarab team). If informed the feedback from local residents is that they would find alternative parking arrangements for these actions to take place. **Action – Pass to Alex Bird (DCC) and Cllr Crabb as Ilfracombe DCC representative. Request Ilfracombe NDC Cllrs investigate***

(* this action will take place post the elections on 4th May)

5. TE updated the group on the vandalism that had taken place at Cow Lane Gardens. She also stresses her frustration relating to the reporting process, primarily focused on the 101 systems. This was echoed by all those present. This was also apparent following the damage to the Parish Church benches and a fire at Wilder Road and Harbour toilets.

The representatives from D&CP acknowledged that the system was far from perfect but that the emphasis must remain on reporting instances otherwise unreported they would in no way feature in any crime statistics which form an element of future resource allocation and planning.

For information the culprits at Cow Lane have been identified and a process of Restorative Justice has been employed to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Post meeting note from Insp Rich Preston (D&CP):

Just as a courteous update after the last One Ilfracombe meeting in March, whilst I advocated to ensure matters are reported to police via 101 we have now changed our reporting system to the Single Online Home platform to fall into line with the majority of other police Force in England and Wales. I have provided the link - please direct people to the website: www.devon-cornwall.police.uk to make a report of non-urgent or non-emergency issues

In essence, this is no different to what members of the public were already doing, however the old 101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk email is now redundant and thus please ensure it is not used but report any online matters using the link above. There is no change to the 101 or 999 telephone contact.

AOB

a. TE requested that moving forward for all Town Team Meetings to adopt a hybrid approach to encourage attendance. ***Post Meeting Note – All Town Team Meetings will be hybrid from 7th June***

b. RP stated that although Ilfracombe Police Station was not yet open, it remains an options alongside Holsworthy and Tavistock. Updates to follow once further details are know.

c. RR informed the group that the task of repainting and rewriting each of the individual finger posts was ongoing.

d. NI informed the group that the work on the murals under the Market Arches will commence in the very near future.

e. NP and the Harbourmaster are awaiting the outcome of a request to upgrade the rubbish bins in and around the harbour area. An ITC officer is currently undertaking a full survey of bin provision across the town. This will be reported back to Full Council for consideration of a way ahead to improve current provision.

f. MJ stated that the benches have been removed from Portland Street, unless replacements can be sourced locally they will not be replaced. The damaged bench in Springfield Road was reported by RT, MJ will investigate of NDC can replace.

g. RT reported that the work on the beds at Mullacott was complete.

h. RR reported an increase in graffiti "tagging" across the town.

***Post Meeting Note**: A series of photographs and locations has been compiled by ITC and forwarded to Ilfracombe Police. NI has spoken with AD and to date none of these have been reported as crimes. Ilfracombe Police have created a record and will continue to investigate in the course of their duties. AD would like to remind the group to encourage people to report these instances of damage to property so enable them to be reported as crimes.*

i. The ongoing issue of the Pigeon Feeding man at the Market Arches was raised by NI.

Post Meeting Note: RP informed NI of the process to potentially put a Community Protection Order into force against the individual. NI to follow up with RR and ITC team.

j. It was reported that the area by the Link Centre continues to be a "tipping site". **Action NI to report to NDC as "Fly Tipping"**

k. MJ mentioned that planting at the Watersports Hub would be happening in the not too distant future and that planning for the turf to be laid would also happen in the near future as the end of the project eventually appears to be happening with a potential for the Hub to open in June (2023!)

Mike also mentioned that a lack of enforcement meant that dog fouling was becoming more prevalent in Bicclescombe Park but he hoped that a reinvigorated keep your dog on a lead policy and meetings with the Bicclescombe Park User Group would begin to see this issue reversed.

The delivery of the seafront play area is still very much on the cards but has been delayed to 2024 to allow for additional funding to be utilised.

l. BC was pleased to announce that Ilfracombe will once again be entered into South West in Bloom.

m. **Mike Jones informed the group that this would be his final Town Team meeting as he retires from NDC at the end of this month to be replaced by Richard Slaney. Everyone wished him well and thanked him for all the work that he has undertaken in Ilfracombe over his many years in post at NDC.**

8. Date of Next Meetings:

Weds 26th April

Weds 7th June

Weds 19th July

Weds 6th September

Weds 18th October

Weds 29th November