**One Ilfracombe Town Team**

**1030 – 19th July 2023**

**The Ilfracombe Centre & Online Teams**

**Meeting Notes**

Attendees:

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| Neil Ingram (One Ilfracombe) Chair | Alex Bird (DCC Highways) |
| Bert Gear (ITC Cllr) | Matt Reed (D&CP) |
| Georgina Carlo-Paat (Harbourmaster) | Ade Drury (D&CP) |
| Pat Coates (ITC Cllr) | Barbara Clarke (TIC) |
| Trevor Huggins (ITC Cllr) | Peter Joyce (ITC Volunteer) |
| Rob Townsend (ITC Town Maint) | Adrian Brookman (NDC, SSO Environmental Enhancement) |
| Eric Hayes (Ilfracombe Access Group) | Susie Norris (NDC, Manager Works & Recycling) |
| Terry Elliott (ITC Cllr) | Laura Donovan (ITC PO) |

Apologies: Suse Rolfe (NDC) Steve Trebble (Ilfracombe in Bloom) Insp Rich Preston (D&CP) Sgt Malc Kirk (D&CP)

1. NI welcomed everyone to the first hybrid Town Team meeting and thanked the representatives from DCC, D&CP and NDC for their time. It was good to see a fuller conference room and attendees online as well.

2. **Police Update** – A new data collection system is now in place that will assist in the deployment of resources to key areas. This has resulted in a tweaking of the 101 system and although acknowledged it is not perfect *One Ilfracombe / ITC / D&CP will continue to promote the requirement to Report – Report – Report* which is even more important with the influx of seasonal visitors and the issues that accompany this temporary population increase.

Following a previous meeting which included D&CP - NI stated that a bid by Ilfracombe Police had also been submitted for funding via the Safer Streets scheme to be used in Ilfracombe.

TE reported that the facility to report via a postcode on 101 was not working as people very rarely know the postcode of where an incident is taking place, indeed if it has one at all.

PJ asked whether he should contact the Police or Ambulance Service in the instances when he comes across any drunk incapacitated individuals. The response was Ambulance.

RT asked whether it would be possible to ITC to once again use the old dog cages at Ilfracombe Police Station to store some of the street signs, cones, barriers etc. AD to find out.

3. Last Meeting updates / follow ups:

4. **Litter bins**

- Following some town walkabouts the state of the rubbish bins was at best observed as in need of some TLC and in some instances bins were clearly identified as no longer fit for purpose and beyond just needing a lick of paint.

  NI had spoken to a NDC representative in relation to them replacing the worse of these bins to be told that no funding was currently available, this was supported by AB who stated that he has just enough budget to replace any bins across the district that are the victims of accidental traffic damage.

  It was deemed highly unlikely that ITC would be able to provide funding and the question as to whether local attractions/businesses could effectively sponsor a bin. It was felt that this could work in the Harbour area however the Harbourmaster informed the group that a review of the Harbour "Binfastructure" was already well underway.

  Following a discussion it was suggested that OI/ITC pick up work on the bin survey that was shelved as a victim of Covid. This could then act as a platform to identify exactly how many bins currently need removal/replacing for reporting to NDC to get the notification that funding was not available and for this then to be passed onto the NDC members to assess whether to divert funding from elsewhere to address the issue.

NI suggested that with the Harbour area already in hand that a sample area including the High Street and main tourist routes be audited and that this data be used to pass onto the Proper Officer for further action. This was agreed as a starting point.

**Action** – *NI to work with PO and Projects Team to set audit process in motion.*

- **Dog Poo bins –** PJ requested that the Dog Poo bin (No10) at Oxford Grove be replaced**.** AB reminded the group that dog waste can now be placed in any not recyclable bin and that NDC are gradually replacing those dog poo bins at the end of their useful life with 112 litre black plastic bins, but with the budget for this having been halved progress is slow. Campaigns to pick up dog waste continue across the region and locally.

**Action:** *NI will continue to Share NDC social media campaigns and remind people of the responsibility of cleaning up after their dogs. They will also be reminded that if a bin is unserviceable to report it and that if it is full, to use another bin or take any waste home for disposal.*

**Refuse Bins – Domestic Waste / Fly Tipping**

The group acknowledged that there was a town wide problem with where bins are placed and collected from as a direct result of, amongst other things, Ilfracombe's geography and high number of HMO's and flats.

However it was deemed useful to cite a specific example to clearly identify the problem and how it could potentially be rectified at the "street level" by those around the table, whilst the larger strategic issues are addressed at District level with pressure from ITC.

The area chosen was Tarry Lane – this has been broken down into bullet points to make it simpler to read.

- A problem exists in that the row of black domestic bins allocated to the residences in and off Tarry Lane remain there 24/7.
- In turn this leads to the accumulation of rubbish with other individuals and residents simply pilling bags on top of full bins and this subsequently attracts others to regularly fly tip items ranging from furniture to mattresses.

- TH queried as to whether this was fly tipping or domestic waste – the answer being both and differing at various times. Bins with bags on top attracting fly tipping.
- BG suggested an educational approach to recycling and warning of what constitutes fly tipping.
- Enforcement of this particular area is problematic as there are no cameras, lack of enforcement officers across North Devon, and you would have to be on the spot to physically catch someone in the act to record/photograph then submit report.
- AB came up with a few suggestions to provide solutions in this particular area. It is clear that people are leaving their bins in this particular area and not retaining them at home. To encourage assistance from local residents and to get a full understanding as to what problems they are experiencing, with a bit of education thrown in, he will arrange for an advisor (Brett?) to visit the local residents in that area. A plan of action can then be put into place. AB also suggested the use of the Gull Guard bags which are available on request via NDC. The potential for communal bins was also discussed and although not dismissed the identification of what the issues are was seen as the priority.

**Action**: *AB to arrange advisor visits. NI will promote Gull Guard availability.*

**5. Overgrown Vegetation**

- Alex Bird (DCC) encouraged the continuing push to ensure that people Report –Report – Report all instances through the DCC website. If an instance is just mentioned on Social Media and not reported it has NOT been reported so will go unseen.

  He also pointed out that in relation to pavements with overgrown vegetation that this would only be prioritised if there was less than 1m left of passable remaining pavement. Any vegetation covering traffic warning signs or lights would always be treated as a priority.

  He also stressed that contractors are only employed to remove vegetation at the point that it becomes an obstruction and not completely remove the object from the roots up.

  In relation to overgrown vegetation originating from private property there is a 2 week process to inform the land / property owner to undertake any work. If nothing is forthcoming then there is a 2 week

lead up time until the work is undertaken by DCC contractors with the work being charged to the land / property owner.

**Action**: *NI to liaise with Alex B on identifying a programme of cyclic work in Ilfracombe to assist in ongoing upkeep and maintenance.*

- Alex B asked what grass cutting tasks are currently undertaken by ITC. RT answered that there are some areas that he will routinely cut but this is on a favour basis. Alex will speak to the DCC contractors to ensure that as many areas as possible are cut by DCC.
- RT stated that the ITC team continue to undertake various tasks that would normally be the responsibility of DCC. One of these tasks comes under the Road Warden Scheme for which RT asked of there was funding (or equipment) available for tools and hi-viz etc for ITC to continue to undertake this task. Alex B happy to help and requested Rob contact him with any requests.
  **Action**: *Rob to contact Alex with funding/equipment request(s)*
- RT asked whether any DCC contractors were actively spraying with chemicals. Alex B said that to the best of his knowledge that this was only taking place to curb outbreaks of Japanese Knotweed and that any identified outbreaks of this be reported directly to DCC.

6. **Ilfracombe in Bloom / Volunteer Gardening Crew – written update from Steve Trebble**

It has been a really difficult season , With weather conditions being ridiculously hot throughout April, May and June . I have used 4000l of water during May , giving me a major problem with water and manpower moving plants out and into the shade .

But have a plan B & C in place for next year . So water , heat and manpower hopefully won't be an issue .

Although all baskets that I can manage this summer are out , I have learnt a lot , and will be improving ready for next years blooms .

On a positive note , we have introduced 10 planters around the town , 6 of which are down Fore St . Filled with salad , veg and blooms , enhancing this area and importantly stopping cars from parking on this area which has been effecting the businesses in this area .

The gardening club is doing really well and we are still going out fortnightly.

I have been told we've had a bit of vandalism again which I'll put right this week .

All in all I'm very positive - moving forward and projecting  a couple years before we can make a real difference in town . I have some good ideas to continue our progress but need to discuss with my committee before trying it out in town.

**7. AOB**

- BC requested some additional bins for around the seafront stalls on the day of the Ilfracombe Carnival – 27th August. In addition to this NI requested half a dozen bins for around the Ropery Road Car Park area for Sea Ilfracombe Festival on 2nd & 3rd September. AB agreed to assist
  **Action**: *AB (NDC) to provide bins*
- Correspondence has been received by ITC expressing a concern over the poor state of the railings on the seafront.  This has been passed for discussion at OI Town Team. NDC Dept responsible not present.
  **Action**: *NI to get update from NDC*
  **Post meeting note –** *NDC Engineering Dept who have responsibility for the railings have stated that they do not have a budget to undertake any works outside of that which relates to Health & Safety and a potential risk to the public. Having spoken to the ITC team, with them having fallen foul of a previous charge resulting from a member of the public leaning on a painted railing, it has been suggested that if any planned works were to be undertaken by ITC that these would not commence until after the main summer season. This of course assumes that ITC will make the resources available.*
- NI informed the group that the new NDC pavement sweeper would be in operation in Ilfracombe on a monthly basis, however dates may vary due to the use of hoses being restricted to H&S identified risks only whilst the SWW enforced hose pipe ban continues.
- TE amongst others raised the issue that there are volunteer groups within Ilfracombe who regularly undertake general upkeep of areas, such a cutting back vegetation and weeding. The problem that always arises is the disposal of the green waste. ITC are unable to remove as they have no way of tipping. It was requested that NDC make available a supply of purple bags, which can be collected alongside a regular NDC pick up point. AB happy to provide some bags but as pointed out by NI

these must not be overfilled and contain a minimal amount of heavier stones and soil. The issue of these bags will be controlled via ITC/OI and only provided to organised groups and organisations for specific tasks on request.
**Action**: *AB to arrange drop off of purple bags to the Ilfracombe Centre*

- RT reported that the damaged finger posts were gradually being replaced and / or repainted. TE asked if there was a plan to put the Tyrrell Hospital MIU on the finger posts. NI asked Alex B if there was a possibility that DCC could provide and install MIU signs
  **Actions:** *LD to follow up on fingerposts. NI to follow up on DCC MIU signage.*
- PJ asked whether there were any planned roadworks to fix the block work featured in the mini roundabout opposite the War Memorial. Alex B responded that this work was planned in for commencing within the next 2-4 weeks.
- PJ asked whether numerous drains could be cleared. The consensus that in having addressed this on multiple occasions with the answer always being due to limited funds these would only be cleared on a cyclic (3 year basis) to continue to Report Report Report via DCC website.
  **Action**: *NI to raise possibility for PJ to report instances directly to Ilfracombe Centre for the issue to be uploaded by ITC staff to DCC & NDC websites.*
- TE said that the road markings outside the Junior School, which had been reported 24 months ago, had all but disappeared and that remarking must be a priority. The same also applied to the road markings on the Co-op / Delta junction of the High St. Alex B responded that they would be remarked as soon as possible and that he would chase these works up.
- The question was raised as to the ownership of the Electric Shop on the High St and the possibility for this to be wrapped or have some sort of imagery placed into the window. NI went through the history of trying to achieve this with multiple “vacant” businesses in the High St and that a new method of attack was being explored that featured joint working with the NDC regeneration team utilising recently launched funding streams.

Next Meetings:

6th September

18th October

29th November