One Ilfracombe

Town Team Meeting Notes

1030 – 24th January 2024

The Ilfracombe Centre & Online

1. Welcome / Apologies / Introductions

Present: Neil Ingram (One Ilfracombe/ITC, Chair), Rob Townsend (ITC), Cllr Terry Elliott (ITC), Naomi Laurenson (NDC), Gavin Pennington-Ellis (ITC), Mark Langworthy (IBTA), Cllr June Williams (ITC/NDC), Harbourmaster

Apologies: Ilfracombe Police, Cllr Bert Gear (ITC), Suse Rolfe (NDC), Alex Bird (DCC), Suzanne Norris (NDC), Adrian Brookman (NDC), Laura Donovan (ITC)

2. Last meeting actions:

Lee Bay Litter Bins – ***Issue Resolved*** – The litter bins at Lee Bay will now be emptied by NDC over the weekends from April – October. Cllr P Coates informed as Lee representative on ITC.

Brookdale Coach Park Bins – ***Issue Resolved*** – An additional bin will be placed in the car park by NDC that will hopefully cope with the additional rubbish from coach parties. The situation will be monitored as to whether this is the correct course of action.

NDC Street Cleaning Programme- ***Issue Resolved*** – A copy of the programme is now held by ITC. This can now be used to de-conflict with ITC, volunteer and community cleaning efforts.

Domestic bins

Tarry Lane – ***Ongoing*** - Bins have been stickered to warn people not to fly tip.Following consultation between NDC staff and residents it is clear that due to poor planning decisions the flats in this area have no alternative but to store their bins in Tarry Lane. Proposed solutions to provide communal bins with limited access (locks/keys) to be stored further up Tarry Lane or to create a storage area for current bin provision are being explored. Either solution would provide easier access for pushchairs etc however without regular enforcement/surveillance whether this alone will prevent future fly tipping in the area remains to be seen

Highfield Road **– *Ongoing* -** Bins to be stickered to remind people that bins are not to be stored on public footpaths/highways, aside from between 6am-6pm on their scheduled collection date or alternative dates/times as promulgated by NDC. If the problem persists then further consultation with residents (as per Tarry Lane) will be required to identify storage issues and possible solutions.

Hillsborough Terrace **– *Ongoing*** - Bins have been stickered as per Highfield Road. Having spoken to a resident it is clear that all properties do have the capability of storing their bins

off the public path. The stickers on bins in this area has been ineffective and the pathway remains obstructed on a daily basis. Request made to NDC Neighborhood Officer to take follow up action with residents.

Telescopes – ***Issue Resolved –*** Having been an agenda item since July 2023 we remain unable to locate anyone who "owns" the telescopes. Due to the fact that they are no longer operational, that they pose a Health and Safety Risk and they look awful the decision has been made to remove the telescopes. ITC will undertake this task and store the telescopes should an "owner" come forward to claim them until such time as this is highly unlikely, when the decision to sell for scrap or refurbish will be explored.

Skate Park Litter Bin – ***Ongoing*** – The bin was removed by NDC (Parks) due to repeat vandalism which included numerous occasions that the concrete bin was set on fire. It was decided that there was a requirement for the bin in the vicinity. Potential solutions such as alternative locations in the immediate area are being considered.

Bandstand – ***Ongoing*** – The initial idea was to include the bandstand in the proposed works programme for the Community Payback Team to give it a clean and a repaint. However Rob Townsend (ITC) queried the current material state of the Bandstand and that repairs rather than a fresh coat of paint are required. The ITC team will undertake an initial inspection of the bandstand with the findings being used to either go ahead with the clean and painting or to report to NDC (who own the bandstand) for a more comprehensive assessment and subsequent repair programme. It was voiced by all that the Bandstand was an important part of Ilfracombe's infrastructure for the hosting of events and as a centre piece for the Runnymede Gardens.

Road Markings (or rather lack of) – ***Ongoing –*** The lack of road markings at 3 locations in the town remains a major safety concern. All 3 are viewed as "accidents waiting to happen" and have been on the DCC radar since pre Covid. In his DCC role Cllr Crabb has reported this on numerous occasions to DCC Highways, as has the Town Team Chair and numerous ITC Cllrs. Thus far these reported incidents remain outstanding as recorded on the DCC online reporting tool:

Princess Ave/Highfield Rd – DCC Incident number W231661635 – 14th Sep 2023

High St (opp Co-op) – DCC Incident number W231689598 – 13th Dec 2023

Church Hill / Station Road / St Brannock's Road – DCC Incident numbers ENQ231663976 – 22nd Sep 2023, W231664491 – 25th Sep 2023, W231659492 – 5th Sep 2023

Cllr Elliott strongly voiced her concern over the dangers that the lack of road markings in Princess Avenue / Highfield Road pose to children travelling to and from school and stated that with there being no apparent plan in sight to repair the road markings that stronger action be taken to highlight this issue in the public domain.

Post Meeting Note – Replacement road markings at Princess Ave/Highfield Road are scheduled in for Weds 31st January and the give way signs on the Church Hill junction will be undertaken by the contractor before the end of the week commencing 29th Jan.

Removal of Combe Haven sign at Hillsborough Terrace – ***Ongoing*** – This task has been incorporated into the ITC facilities team schedule of works.

Broken Bollard outside Ilfracombe Centre – ***Ongoing –*** The date for completion as reported by DCC (W231684053) has passed (4th Jan). NI has chased DCC for an update and is currently awaiting a response from their contractors.

3. Trade waste bins on High St – ***Ongoing, being monitored.***

Cllr Elliott had previously reported that a visually impaired resident was struggling to walk down the High Street unhindered due to the number of trade waste bins being permanently left on the pavements outside businesses on the High Street.

Subsequently The Chair has contacted NDC Trade Waste who informed him that outside of their scheduled day of collection all containers must be stored outside of the public domain.

With trade waste bins not all being contracted with NDC coupled with the fact that NDC has 3 weekly collection dates for different businesses on the High Street, the Chair proposed that any obvious repeat offenders, i.e. these trade waste bins that appear to be permanently in the public domain (footpaths), have their details (each bin should have a numbered sticker) taken and passed to the NDC Commercial Waste Officer who will contact the business concerned with a follow up visit from an NDC Neighbour Officer where necessary.

4. Wilder Road / St James' Litter Bin removal – ***Ongoing***

Following a discussion between The Chair and Gavin P-E (ITC) it was proposed that the bins identified in the latest ITC Bin Audit as beyond repair and at the end of their useful life be removed and not replaced.

4-5* of these bins are those along Wilder Road from the junction of Runnacleave Road to St James' Place on the park/Landmark side of the road.

With these bins being highly visible and reported on numerous occasions as eyesores it is not believed that their removal would be detrimental to any littering as there are numerous new black bins in the vicinity, in Runnymede Gardens and along the front by Wildersmouth down past the Crazy Golf.

Following this meeting The Chair had a discussion with Naomi Laurenson (NDC Project Officer, Planning & Development Services) with a view to joining up the Ilfracombe elements of a current NDC bin audit with those findings already established by ITC. This joint working will continue, with an aim to inform NDC, using local knowledge, of where their limited funding can be used to best effect in Ilfracombe.

Point of note for ITC – these bins are all owned and emptied by NDC.

**Post meeting note* – 2 of these bins, at the Runnacleave Road end of Wilder Road, have now been replaced by NDC with new Black Litter Bins.

5. Northfield Road phone box **– *Ongoing***

Following on from discussions between The Chair / Cllr M Newland / ITC Proper Officer / ITC Facilities Manager, the use and potential relocation of the ITC owned red phone box on Northfield Road is being explored. The possibilities of it being a living feature (plants/flowers) or as an ever changing art project, information point, defib housing are just a few potential ideas being floated.

6. Water on road Tesco roundabout **- *Ongoing***

This has been a hot topic on social media and via the Report It! trial.

Following discussions with DCC and subsequent enquiries made by Cllr Crabb it has been established that the problem is caused by run off from the land adjacent to the road where a French drain (adopted by DCC) has proved to not be fit for purpose.

Longer term it is likely that new gullies will be installed at the back of the footway to catch the run off. However the views expressed at the meeting realised that with the current housing development works meaning the Old Barnstaple road is currently closed, extensive works in the area of the roundabout would not be beneficial to the diversions current in play. Hence the timescale for this is currently unknown.

In the meantime as and when it is likely that the run off could freeze DCC will grit the area and put the appropriate warning signage in place.

DCC thanked ITC staff for previously reacting to reports of the road icing over and by undertaking the task of gritting on their behalf.

7. Ilfracombe Spring Clean 2024: 16th- 24th March 2024 - ***Ongoing***

The promotion of this event is ongoing with groups and organisations being encouraged to get out and about across the town clearing, cleaning, painting and generally giving Ilfracombe a tidy up.

The Chair will liaise with NDC in relation to the collection of rubbish and vegetation.

With the Harbourmaster mentioning that all the railing in the Harbour area require a repaint it was suggested that this activity forms part of the Spring Clean alongside potential assistance from the Community Payback Team.

8. Ilfracombe Report It! – ***Ongoing, to be reviewed March 2024***

The Report It! trial is attracting approx. one issue per day. From a public perspective the main reason for not reporting issues direct to NDC/DCC/Police appears to be , it far easier to drop into the Ilfracombe Centre, post/message via ITC Facebook or send an e-mail to ITC direct, instead of having to research who is responsible for what.

Internally, Report It! is proving useful as it clearly identifies those issues at the forefront of the community.

Overall, issues are being recorded, acted upon by ITC where possible or redirected to those who are responsible for them, with the majority of this taking place between the One Ilfracombe Town Team partners.

9. AOB

Gavin P-E – ITC team have a list of areas that they have been working on, as posted on ITC socials and Facebook groups by appreciative members of the community. The feedback on these clean ups have been extremely positive.

One problem they have encountered is that they have no way of disposing of the green waste that this work generates.

Whether this problem is overcome by getting a license to use the recycling centre, obtaining green waste bins/skips that are periodically emptied or a plot of land to use as a disposal site are all options currently being explored.

The Chair has approached DCC to see if an agreement can be establish, bearing in mind that the majority of the work being undertaken by ITC staff is their (DCC) responsibility.

Gavin also posed a question raised by Clive (ITC Hygiene Operative) as to whether a replacement commemorative Oak could be found to replace the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) funded tree which had been vandalised alongside the memorial plaque. The Chair stated he would raise the issue with the AJR.

Post Meeting Note – The AJR will fund and provide a replacement Oak which will be ordered by them and delivered directly to the Ilfracombe Centre. The tree will then be planted by ITC staff with some form of caged protection alongside the restored plaque in the War Memorial Gardens.

Rob Townsend - All the Christmas lights are now down. Some of the normal hanging lights had blown down but had been replaced early a.m. in the past week.

The recent work undertaken in the War Memorial gardens, which included the pollarding of some of the trees has drastically improved the physical views of the church itself with members of the public commenting on the improvements.

Cllr Elliott – Repeated a previously reported increase in the amount of dog fouling especially in Highfield Road, around Capstone, Lantern Hill and the Torrs. Again this has been a recent hot topic on social media and features in Report It! data.

The Chair stated that he had reported this issue to Suse Rolfe (NDC Environmental and Dog Warden, Planning, Housing and Health) and that she will increase the NDC patrols in these particular areas and also provide some additional signage.

It was discussed that making some local signage that featured “eyes” would also be a good idea as these have been proven to be more effective than conventional signage in other areas of the town such as the graveyard. This will be explored by the Chair.

It was also pointed out that the areas being cleared and then maintained by ITC were less likely to be sites for dog fouling when compared to areas where weeds and debris accumulate.

Gavin P-E added that the ITC Hygiene Operative also covered these areas on a regular basis as part of his daily/weekly tasks.

Cllr Elliott went on to question the lack of an NDC Neighbourhood and Environmental Officer presence in Ilfracombe. The Chair stated that the number of officers compared to the considerable size of their patch was problematic however he did state that he was in weekly contact with our NDC Neighbourhood Officer, who is part of the Town Team, on a range of local issues

Harbourmaster – Offered ITC a free wooden bench. Offer taken up by ITC with a thank you from Rob T.

10. Future meeting dates for 2024 - all at 1030-1200 at The Ilfracombe Centre and online.

Weds 6th March - Weds 17th April - Weds 29th May -Weds 10th July

Weds 4th September - Weds 16th October - Weds 27th November

One Ilfracombe Town Team Role – *The role of the Town Team is to rectify identified issues that are within the remit of the individuals present. The primary focus being on self-help, local knowledge and partnership working that results in quick wins and fixes to get the job done. Anything requiring strategic or further approval will be passes onto the relevant group, board or Council for action.*