Ilfracombe Town Team Meeting Notes

Wednesday 6th March 2024

Attendees: Neil Ingram (One Ilfracombe, Chair), Eric Hayes (Ilfracombe Access Group), Naomi Laurenson (NDC), Dan Turton (ITC) Cllr June Williams (ITC/NDC), Mark Langworthy (IDBTA), Lena Lliffe (NDC)

1. Welcome from the Chair – apologies from Laura Donovan (ITC Proper Officer), Cllr Terry Elliott (ITC), Cllr Bert Gear (ITC), Insp Rich Preston (D&CP), Alex Bird (DCC), Suse Rolfe (NDC), Gavin Pennington-Ellis (ITC)

2. Outstanding actions:

a. Domestic Bins - Constant issues surrounding those domestic "wheelie" bins which are left obstructing pavements and/or attracting fly tipping at sites like Hillsborough Terrace, Springfield Road and Ropery Road Car Park remain. OI and ITC staff are working with NDC to escalate this issue with the potential to permanently remove offending household and trade waste bins.

The issues of repeated fly tipping and the storage of household and trade waste bins on private property at Ropery Road (ITC owned) has prompted several suggestions to prevent this which are currently being explored these include:

- Planters and flower beds being strategically placed in the vicinity.
- Posts/bollards to restrict access being installed.

b. Bandstand – The bandstand is owned and maintained by NDC. ITC staff are not qualified to give a detailed engineering assessment but the structure appears to be OK despite having a few holes in the roof and some rust patches here and there. There were reports that some painting had been undertaken on the bandstand but neither ITC or NDC sanctioned or undertook this task. With there being no further action required this action will now be removed.

Road Markings

c. War Memorial / Church Road / Station Road – DCC have undertaken the road markings on the road junction and the markings in the immediate vicinity of the roundabout will be completed as part of the resurfacing of that area which is planned to take place in mid-March.

d. Road crossing near Junior School – DCC have completed this task although the actual junction markings have not been repainted. This is scheduled in with their contractor but the date is not known. The Town Team will continue to push this for action.

e. Road crossing and road markings Co-op High St – This has still not been completed by DCC. The Town Team will continue to push for this action.

Combe Haven sign Hillsborough Terrace This will be removed by ITC.

Litter Bin Replacement The previously undertaken bin audit has been used in working alongside NDC in the procurement and replacement of the worse of the old style metal pedestal bins. Current plan is for this to happen by the end of May focusing on Wilder Road, Fore St and the High St. With there being no further action required this action will now be removed.

Green Waste The ITC Facilities Team continue to undertake work across the town that generates green waste. The majority of this work is undertaken on behalf of NDC and DCC however, neither council is able to provide a local solution for the disposal of this waste.

The Chair will continue to try and find a solution through social media and Cllr networks.

Dog Fouling Remains an issue with around Capstone and Highfield Road being a specific hot spots at the time of the meeting. These continue to be reported and the Chair continues to work closely with the NDC Neighbourhood Team to try and address this. Latest initiatives include increased patrols in the worse area and additional signage. Unfortunately with so few boots on the ground NDC are reliant on people "calling out" offending owners and education through online campaigns and signage.

It is hoped that the new dog specific PSPOs in areas such as Bicclescombe Park will prove successful in the reduction of dog fouling in these areas.

3. Update from DCC Highways

a. New Barnstaple Road ploughing and hedge cutting recently completed (any outstanding potholes to be done asap)

b. Church Hill Give way markings & Junior school zebra crossing recently completed

c. Marlborough Road landslip is currently being dealt with by our legal team, land ownership was disputed by homeowner but DCC records show that it is not DCC.

d. A361 from Mullacott X down to Ilfracombe – Jetter has been out to deal with what it can however it will need a closure to clear a number of the gullies (due to 3 lane section complications). Jetter will be returning under closure to clear other gullies

e. Issues with drainage and pothole repairs along High Street have been raised to contractor. Any repairs will be audited.

f. Jetting machine will also be attending Channel View to clear overflowing manhole cover

Church Street (War Memorial) roundabout and surrounding area is being resurfaced 11th March to 16th March (meaning roundabout markings will also be replenished)

4. Update from Ilfracombe Police

a. The PEO front office at Ilfracombe is now fully open and functioning. This is open Mon-Sat 1000-1500 hrs each day and will provide a great facility to open our policing engagement across the wider North Devon area and reduce the travelling distance for local residents having to visit Barnstaple station, as has been the case over the past 10 years.

b. The neighbourhood policing team at Ilfracombe/Braunton are currently working through the national week of Op Scorpion (4-10th March) to tackle and address drug exploitation. This has involved increased visibility in our urban High Street areas and targeted activity towards individuals know to be linked to drugs and also vulnerable premises / occupants to drug activity. We are also conducting visits to other susceptible premises that may be being utilised, i.e. Hotels, B&B's, Guesthouses etc to raise awareness of tactics used by County Lines groups as well as how to report concerns discreetly and anonymously.

c. Our Force direction is to continue the focus and drive to address ASB and drug activity in our communities beyond the national week of action during Op Scorpion, and therefore we are reliant on yourselves as partners and local stakeholders to assist this process and report any issues or locations of concern to us asap. This will enable us to focus our time more efficiently on those problem areas and we can then direct our response colleagues we work across the 24/7 period to be visible in these 'Hot Spot' areas. Please utilise the ilfracombe@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk and braunton@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk to communicate any 'non-urgent' issues or concerns.

5. Fly Tipping

Fly tipping continues to be an issue with the hotspots being Ropery Road Car Park, Highfield Road, Tarry Lane, High Street (top of Fore St), Torrs Park. These instances are being reported via the Report It! system and NDC crews are quick to respond and remove items.

If viewed cynically without any further investigation into these instances NDC are effectively just providing a free pick up for offenders.

The most recent instances appear to be from landlords clearing out properties on the change of tenants and in the case of the Prince of Wales the brewery leaving items in Fore Street for too long a period prior to collection.

6. Road Signs

Cllr J Williams raised the issue of many of the road signs around town needing a clean. The Chair will raise this with DCC Highways although feedback from the meeting was that this was likely to be a very low priority and self-help may be a better option. The ITC Facilities Manager will be asked for his opinion on this.

Cllr Williams also mentioned that she was pleased to see that the Police station in Ilfracombe was now back open for business but that there was no signage around the town to direct people, locals

and visitors. The Chair will contact the Police to see if there are any plans underway to address this and take it from there.

7. Spring Clean 2024

The Chair promoted the Spring Clean and stated that thus far the response from the community had been poor but it was hoped that this would improve during the planned week of the clean. He also stated that the Spring Clean was being promoted at every opportunity when town cleanliness issues were raised on social media to encourage participation.

8. Ilfracombe Report It!

This 3 month trial has proved to be a success and a recommendation will be made to ITC Full Council to adopt it as standard procedure. Full details at https://ilfracombetowncouncil.gov.uk/ilfracombe-report-it/

9. AOB

None

10. Date of next meeting

Weds 17th April