Town Team Meeting

Wednesday 5th June 2024

1030 – The Ilfracombe Centre

Attendees

Neil Ingram – One Ilfracombe (Chair)	Rob Townsend – ITC TMO	Eric Hayes – Ilfracombe Access Group
Gavin Pennington-Ellis – ITC Facilities Manager	Bert Gear – ITC Cllr	George Coulter – ITC Cllr
Suse Rolfe – NDC Environment & Neighbourhood Officer		

1. The Chair welcomed the group

2. Outstanding Actions

- Domestic bins – There remains an issue with household wheelie bins being left in prominent positions which in turn attracts fly tipping. This includes but is not exclusive to Springfield Road, Tarry Lane, Hillsborough Terrace and the ITC owned Ropery Road Car Park. **Action** - Suse Rolfe to do a walk around and follow up within NDC. These are long standing problems where short term fixes clearly have not worked. Longer term solutions therefore need identifying.
- Green waste removal for ITC – The situations remains where ITC work undertaken by NDC and DCC is not being met with the necessary assistance to dispose of the green waste created or in those instances when instances of fly tipping are cleared directly by ITC. **Action** – ITC Proper Officer is on the case taking this to senior management at both DCC and NDC.
- Road Signs – It was previously reported that some of the road signs on the approach to and in town were in need of a good clean. ITC would self clean them but due to the majority of locations requiring a Chapter 8 this is not practical. **Action** – Passed to DCC Highways and ITC to create a list of the worse offenders.

3. Dog Fouling - Fouling around town is not a new problem and is not something specific to Ilfracombe. Suse Rolfe stated that patrols, online campaigns and increased signage continue. The ITC team also have a supply of signs. **Action** – ITC continue to use social media, poster and sticker campaigns to address the issue. The Town Team would more than welcome additional ideas that do not feature increased patrols by those with

the power to issue on the spot fines etc as currently without additional funding for more staff this not an option.

4. Any updates received – Insp Rich Preston D&CP provided the following update that was also distributed to ITC Cllrs by the Proper Officer:

To provide an update, you will undoubtedly be aware of the prevalence of our local street drinkers and the associated ASB that appears to be more obvious than normal. To provide some local assurances, we are acutely aware of this and despite concerted efforts by my team to address the individuals that are causing the majority of these issues, this ultimately will not resolve the issue long term. As such a broader approach needs to be considered now around involving partners and greater support services to address their social needs and consider the appropriateness of their placement and housing in Ilfracombe. I'm under no illusion that there is a short term fix to this, as many have been here for years however simply escalating them through our ASB processes and the ultimate sanction of a court appearance hasn't and isn't going to address their long-term ingrained behaviours. In the interim period, we will continue to response to calls around their behaviours and whilst many are already on the ASB escalation pathway, we will continue to pursue these matters but in acceptance that this might not be the ultimate solution to their individual problems.

We will keep you updated around plans and considerations with this focus and obviously the wider OI group will be integral to assist any future problem solving around this local issue. If any OI members have any suggestions or ideas, or indeed knowledge of how to scope greater influence of support for support services into Ilfracombe to assist the individual circumstances of these residents, then we would welcome any inputs or support that can be offered.

Outside of this local issue, we are experiencing a peak period for our services which is concerning given that we are not fully into the summer period yet. As such we can foresee a busy few months approaching and have a number of community events and commitments to provide visibility and reassurance to as well as tackling local issues, therefore we will do our best as always, but please understand as a service we are under an incredible pressure to meet current demands at present.

5. Painting & Artwork – Initial prep work at Ropery Road completed, discussions around Gold Coast site are at an advanced stage as is for the work on the wall opposite the Co-Op on the High St. More locations are also being sought.

Post meeting note: One of the walls in the Ropery Road car park has had the artwork completed and the initial undercoating on the Montebello has been done. More updates to follow.

6. Skate Park Lighting – Cllr Gear questioned whether the £3k estimate to repair the currently lighting would be better spent on exploring the option of using solar powered lighting as an alternative similar to the used in the harbour, or whether the option to feed off the Watersports Hub was also a viable option. **Action**: The Chair will speak to the Harbourmaster.

Post meeting note: Harbourmaster confimed that solar options they use would not be suitable for skate park lighting. If the Watersports Hub option was to be explored further this would need to be taken up with NDC Facilities Management.

7. Ilfracombe Report It! – The system continues to be a success. The next move is to continue to raise the profile.

8. AOB

a. Cllr Elliott raised (via e-mail) that the insufficient junction markings at the junction of Highfield Road / Princess Ave / Oxford Grove were making it impossible for drivers to comply with the Highway Code hence they are putting children crossing the road in danger – **Action:** With the DCC representative having submitted their apologies the Chair will raise this directly with them.

b. Cllr Coulter asked about using the PA system at The Lantern for the Big Lunch. Chair suggested he speak to the ITC facilities Team.

c. Gavin Pennington-Ellis raised an issue with overgrown trees along Whittingham, St Brannocks, Brookdale Roads and Brookfield Place. **Action**: Need to establish who is responsible for each of these areas. The Chair will then use Ilfracombe Report It!

d. The Chair raised concerns over the continued fly tipping at Ropery Road which appears to be as a direct result of the trade waste bins at Ropery Road. **Action**: Suse Rolfe to raise with Trade Waste team at NDC.

9. Date of Next Meetings: Weds 10th July - Weds 4th September - Weds 16th October - Weds 27th November