Town Team Meeting

Wednesday 16th October 2024

1030 – The Ilfracombe Centre

Attendees

Neil Ingram – One Ilfracombe (Chair)	Rob Townsend – ITC TMO	Alex Bird – DCC Highways
Gavin Pennington-Ellis – ITC Facilities Manager	Laura Donovan – ITC PO	Trevor Huggins – ITC Cllr
June Williams – ITC & NDC Cllr	Eric Hayes	

1. The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Slade Update

North Devon Homes led clean up with assistance from ITC/OI and additional volunteer support from Perrigo and Community Resources Devon (CIC) planned for Monday 25th November.

The Chair explained that ITC had arranged for Perrigo volunteers and has laid on the Vision Centre with possible funded refreshments. Other ITC/OI involvement was centered on networking and promotional activities.

Tasks for the volunteers would be identified by NDH a couple of weeks prior to the event.

Laura Donovan asked for confirmation that the risk assessments and public liability for any ITC volunteers be established so there was no risk for ITC/OI.

Action - Chair to speak to NDH and Sarah Maddocks to establish situation with volunteers.

3. Ilfracombe Regeneration

The Chair outlined the 4 elements of the plan with a focus on the High Street element. He then explained the Vacant Unit Action Plan that had been established for use in Barnstaple. It was stressed that lack of funding for implementing this plan in Ilfracombe and lower rateable values, were barriers in making this plan work locally although it is hoped that ongoing work with NDC Officers will be fruitful.

The additional 14 benches recently procured by NDC will be delivered by the end of October and a plan for replacing broken benches will be put into place by the ITC team.

Alex Bird (DCC) was asked whether changing out the existing bollards was an option. Unfortunately they can not be changed out for purely aesthetic purposes. ITC will explore professional options for the repainting of High St bollards noting that there is no additional in house funding available

Action - The Chair is meeting with his NDC counterpart next week to further discuss the High Street

4. Police Update

The Chair and the ITC/OI Programme Manager are meeting with Inspector Rich Preston (Sector Inspector – North Devon) on 24th October so that he can bring us up to speed with their collective policing response to the growing issues around the street drinking cohort in Ilfracombe. The intention is also to try and link this into the One Ilfracombe / Task Force forum. The outcome of this meeting will be fed back to the ITC Proper Officer.

Action – The Chair and Programme Manager meeting with Insp. Preston 24th Oct

5. Ilfracombe Report It! **–** As per previous meetings the Chair once again stressed how important it was for local concerns and issues to be officially reported to those responsible for them. To enable this to happen Report It! exists for local people to report issues to ITC and then have them reported on their behalf. This could be for multiple reason due to uncertainty over who does what and/or those who find themselves the victims of digital poverty.

Those main concerns over the past 6 weeks have been and in most cases remain:

- Cow Lane – Moss is making the surface very slippery. Gavin stated that this was very difficult to remove on the rough tar mac surface but that NDC may have the necessary chemicals to remove it.– **Action - Reported to NDC**
- Fly Tipping Wilder Road Gardens – This continues to happen. It is reported to NDC and in the majority of instances removed. **Action - Chair to discuss with NDC Neighbourhood Officer next week.**
- Street Lighting – Need to continue to report online. The Proper Officer requested that Alex investigate whether DCC could contact National Grid for an update and/or action plan. **Action – DCC to check with National Grid, Chair to follow up.**
- Watermouth Road Hele – Full road repair not scheduled in until 2025/2026. The Chair asked Alex whether an elastomac fix for the worse areas could be undertaken in this financial year. Alex to take away and hopeful that this can be actioned. The Chair also asked whether in having a non-permanent fix this would alter the timescale of the scheduled full surface repair. Alex stated that it would not. **Action – Chair to follow up with DCC.**
- Tesco Run Off / Road Repairs –
  Old Barnstaple Road to be opened 25th October with new traffic lights to be placed on the roundabout to allow drainage works on the run off to commence on 28th October until 22nd November (DG100-HDDRAORD2303317). New Barnstaple Road to

be closed 11th November – 14th March 2025 for excavation of damaged retaining wall and construction of new retaining wall (DG004SB-22252B2)

- Drains – This is an ever popular issue with Report It! Unfortunately all we can is keep on reporting via the DCC system with 99% of responses being that unless there is an imminent risk to life or property we remain reliant on the 3 year cycle of inspection. However even the latter does not mean the issues will be solved. Two examples of this are the drains at the bottom of Oxford Grove (GY 450174586) and one outside Pedlars (GY450003777) which remain unable to cope with any sudden or prolonged period of rain causing localised flooding.
  Action – Post meeting the Chair has inspected these drains and although there does not appear to be any visible cause for any blockage they have been reported to DCC as incident numbers W241791623 and W241791624. Our DCC representative has also been informed and will investigate.
- Marlborough Road Cemetery Pavements – It has been reported that the pavements are becoming very slippery due to moss and other vegetation.
  Action – The Chair has reported this to NDC.

5. **AOB**

Neil Ingram

- At the Ilfracombe Regeneration Board, Cllr Crabb pointed out that the Verity viewing point on Marine Drive was totally obscured by overgrown trees and vegetation. He requested that this be raised at the Town Team. **Action – The Chair will report to NDC**.
- Trade Waste Bins Ropery Road – This ongoing issue was discussed. The conclusion being that the Chair would liaise with those local business owners who use Ropery Road to locate their trade waste bins to come up with a workable solution acceptable to all. The Chair will keep the Proper Officer informed of any developments with any solutions potentially requiring Council approval. **Action- Chair to discuss with local business owners.**
- Household bins (including but not limited to Ropery Road & Springfield Road) This ongoing issue was discussed. **Action – Chair to discuss with NDC Neighbourhood Officer next week**

Rob Townsend

- Overgrown tree on High St by Victoria Place (old Jeffrey's) is now overhanging the road and touching properties either side. **Action – Chair passed to DCC**
- The green waste disposal ticket system for use by ITC when carrying out works on behalf of NDC and DCC is up and running. This will reviewed in 2025.
- The lighting at the skate park has been installed and is successfully up and running. There are still outstanding works from NDC required to clear out the area around the lights to increase their efficiency. **Action: The Chair will contact NDC Parks**

Gavin Pennington-Ellis

- Pavement Sweeper – The sweeper is currently under repair. Once these have been completed the sweeper will be back into its monthly routine in Ilfracombe being operated by ITC staff on behalf of NDC.
- Gavin asked Alex (DCC) for an update on the Marlborough Road wall situation. Alex stated that this was still in the hands of the DCC legal department.

Eric Hayes

- Eric asked for an update as to the plans for this year's Remembrance Parade and reminded those present that it was the 100th anniversary of the monument. The Proper Officer assured him that plans were fully underway and that the war memorial area was a focus for the ITC team. The memorial has been cleaned and she has been assured that the replacement plaques will be in situ before the event. Large poppy ornaments and hanging poppy decorations similar to those sea themed ones on the High Street would also be in place. The Chair added that he is also in discussion with a WWI historical group for a couple of their members to attend on the day in period costume and that he is also in contact with local and regional media outlets. The Chair has also been in touch with Ilfracombe Museum who will be putting on some form of display to tie in with the 100th year anniversary.

6. Date of next meeting: Weds 27th November