

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it on Monday night, and welcome to our two new attendees, Lawrence (Ilfracombe Aquarium) and Graeme (a filmmaker/videographer who has recently moved to the area).

It was another great meeting with lots of productive conversations and great ideas raised; it's lovely to be in a room full of creative 'do-ers'!

It also looks like we may be rebranding as the Culture Club!

Below are some notes from the meeting.....I say "some", I mean lots! I apologise in advance for the epic read coming your way. Get a cup of tea and strap in!

Firstly, just a couple of handy links:

1. The Ilfracombe Culture Plan - Culture Team - One Ilfracombe (scroll to the bottom) or there is a downloadable version here – https://northdevon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-06/Ilfracombe_Cultural_Plan_2024.pdf
2. Google Cultural Assets Spreadsheet - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16DLStyTYmahTpX7-YWCgYgY6WpvlUmIMbabpsVsl7ow/edit?usp=sharing>

Agenda:

1. Introductions and apologies

2. Laura Donovan, feedback from the Minehead Eye visit - mineheadeye.co.uk

Laura (Ilfracombe Town Council Proper Officer) and Steve Seatherton (Ilfracombe Town Council and One Ilfracombe Programme Manager) visited the Minehead Eye following an email from local GP Dr Sarah Williams. She is seeing multiple families who are struggling for activities, especially indoors/non-weather dependent one in Ilfracombe and she has visited the Minehead Eye with her family and felt it was a model that could work well in Ilfracombe.

The concept of "hubs" is raised in almost every forum we are a part of including wellbeing, mental health, and youth and also through this Culture Team so they booked a trip to visit the site and meet with the people who run it.

It is a multifunctional space with an indoor skate part, recording studios and a revenue generated through a café, room hire and affordable annual membership.

They were lucky enough to be gifted the land by the local authority and receive £3m in funding to build and run the space.

Mel Turnbull commented that there was a new wellbeing centre in Chelfham Mill that by the Grow Forward Project are leading on and it may be worth following up on - The Project & Purpose | The Grow Forward Project

ACTION: Laura to contact The Grow Forward Project.

Whilst we were talking about 'hubs' it felt relevant for Paul Batemate from IDBTA to talk about a scheme that he would like to see developed in Ilfracombe.

He has helpfully emailed through the following, so you get an idea for what he is envisioning:

Content Studio

The idea is for a space based around digital content creation – such as photography, video, podcasting & audio recording. Just to brainstorm a few ideas:

It could include any or all of the following:

- Photo studio space – basic lighting and backdrops available to be rented / used by photographers
- Kit for taking photos of products for online selling
- Podcast /audio book recording facilities
- DJ decks
- Band rehearsal / recording space
- Editing tools for video, photo, audio, graphic design
- Tools for digitising slides / cine / VHS video etc.
- Radio & TV 'down the line' interview facilities
- Equipment hire

Potential ways it could be used:

- 'Membership fee' to book facilities
- Workshops for digital skills of all sorts
- Private hire by photographers
- Use by businesses, clubs, organisations for product shoots, creating presentations, YouTube videos, staff headshots
- Club for sharing best practice in Social media and learning together
- School holiday / after-school activities
- Skills training for creators, young people, parents, businesses – equipping people with the skills for a career in creative arts
- A creative hub for bringing enthusiasts together

- Developing skills and contacts useful to other organisations and the town in general

People to consult:

- Local photographers & videographers (commercial & hobby)
- Ilfracombe Academy
- NDMI
- IBTA & local businesses
- Marketers & trainers

Does it tie in with any existing spaces or organisations? The Space / Emmanuel Church, The Landmark, ITC business hub, The Lantern, The Museum, Ariel Studios?

This kind of gives an idea of the concept <https://youtu.be/hKWi0nVyhRw?si=GyzlusTUcZY1BBXL>

Dan from Silk Crystal added that this type of environment is important for developing and retaining our local younger people within cultural industries. This is something that aligns with our Cultural Plan.

ACTION: Paul to liaise with consultees list to try and establish the current local provision and need and Charmain to support with contact details

3. Project Area Updates

Blue Plaques – Lindsay from the museum emailed to say that they have identified additional people and places worthy of note to add to the list. They haven't had anyone from the group come forward to work on this project but they are happy to go it alone.

Trails – SOOOO many discussions!

Existing Trails: Barbara Clarke kindly emailed through prior to the meeting the following links to existing trails promoted through the TIC/Visit Ilfracombe:

Ilfracombe Town Trails - Visit Ilfracombe

RNLI-A4-Lifeboat trail leaflet

KIDS-Fish-Trail-Leaflet-Web-A4.pdf

Ilfracombe Fish Trail Leaflet WEBA4.indd

Trail Search – Treasure Trails

As a quick win, we think we can update and print the Kids Fish Trail and distribute them to places such as the family hub, schools, playgroups etc. This also ties in nicely with an email we received from Cllr Terry Elliott who was keen to see some affordable trails for families/wellbeing.

ACTION: Charmain to get the original design work, update and source funding to print.

Dan from Silk Crystal said he'd like to see a fossil trail based on his experience of finding fossils locally and researching them at the museum and working with a palaeontologist.

Barbara and Paul raised that the RNLI now also have a guided map which can be found here - RNLI-A4-Lifeboat trail leaflet

Carol Turner then told us about the fabulous project they are doing in collaboration with Running Dog Theatre CIC called The Goat Show - THE GOAT SHOW — Running Dog Theatre CIC

The production is happening on 30th March, aimed at 7-12yr olds and is free to attend.

As part of the production there will be goat trail around town for people to follow and they will be working with the Junior School on developing the map.

They are also dropping goat craft packs to playgroups, the library and the wellbeing team.

Dan and Hayley said they'd like to see a street art trail and said we should look at the Sea Walls project in New Zealand as a great example of a place-based street art approach - Sea Walls: Murals for Oceans | Napier City Council

Recycling Sculpture – Mel has had preliminary conversations with the company she knows that could make it and there are some nice ideas already popping up around using recycled materials.

She has asked for the brief for the original big fish that are sold commercially.

ACTION: Charmain to send Mel the spec for the original recycling fish sculpture.

Digitising the Museums Archive – Nick Mollart fed back that the museum invited Cllr Trevor Huggins down to the museum to have a chat and look at the collection.

There are 98 bound copies of old Ilfracombe newspapers dating back to the mid-1800s.

The museum had previously been quoted around £100,000 to digitise the collection, but there is an alternative involving a large specialised scanner which is a cheaper alternative at around £35-40,000.

The scanner could be used going forward to digitise more recent history and future works. Nick would really love to create a research area within the new museum, wherever that may be.

The Beach of Dreams - Beach of Dreams

Just a reminder to all members that if they have something that they can do to be a part of this national initiative that is happening in May then please let us know.

We had an email from Laura Carolan at Natural Landscapes (formerly known as the AONB), she emailed the following:

“I’ve been having a read through the minutes from the Cultural meetings you have sent through and I’m wondering if there’s a way, we (the National Landscape/AONB) can support the strategy this year. On a national front we are currently involved in an Arts focussed project called Nature Calling. We are a “Spoke” location which essentially involves us commissioning an Arts project between April – Oct this year to engage a new audience. I’ve been looking at the “Key Project” ideas from the Cultural Plan and thought I would see what you think about trying to get the “Four Peak Art Trail” up and running OR look at another art project within the town which would engage a new audience. Our Team is also hoping to do some sort of Festival of Nature again this year so I’m wondering if the two could be linked.”

I have replied to Laura and have put in her contact with Steph from the Art Trail as this could be an ideal opportunity to do something for The Beach of Dreams.

Mel suggested that the Earth Repair Shop and Plastic Free North Devon would be keen to do something for this.

ACTION: Mel to contact the Earth Repair Shop and PFND to float the idea.

Telephone Box – The town council have acquired a telephone box! At the last meeting we discussed the potential for it to be a mini space for promoting local events and cultural activities, but after bringing this back to the town council there were concerns that it could be used as a public urinal so their vision was to have it permanently closed, but still used as a focal point where every 3/6 months a local artist can redesign it.

Art Fair to tie in with the Art Trail – this was an idea from Hayley at Silk Crystal. She is currently looking into potential spaces to host the event.

ACTION: Charmain to look at the Lantern availability

4. Funding Updates/Ops

I updated that the CPP (Creative People & Places funding through the Arts Council) application had been submitted but it would be several months until we receive any response to that.

I also floated the idea of potentially applying for some National Lottery money just so we have a pot of money for some of the smaller, more obtainable projects that come through this group.

5. Landmark Theatres – Carol Turner.

The Landmark are gearing up for another Welcome Weekender. This was really well received last year due to the great range of activities and also because it was free/affordable. It will be similar this year with workshops, kid’s theatre and performances that have been commissioned/developed through their seed funding.

There will be outdoor specific dance performances (including a lovely piece about the burden of age featuring a 78yr old performer) and hopefully the vertical dance company (who you may have seen scaling the towers on ropes last year) will return.

In other news, local artist (and member of this group) Jennie Cousins is running a free 10wk workshop for local young people. Off the back of this there have been questions as to whether something similar can be run for adults.

6. Ideas from the Table

Mel raised the potential to run a town wide exhibition based on a certain theme. This came from seeing that locally there was a multi-organisation, town-wide art exhibition on the theme of international woman's day. This is a project that could encompass existing exhibiting spaces and potentially the "meanwhile spaces" aka abandoned shops.

ACTION: Mel to speak to Art Trail as it may be something they would like to do at other times of the year

ACTION: Neil Ingram to try and establish who owns the empty shops

Nick Mollart from the museum said that they used to run a successful Silver Saturday/Sunday event which opened up the museum to older people and thought it was an idea that could be looked at on a wider scale across town.

ACTION: Charmain to liaise with Age Concern as they do OAP specific days in Barnstaple so there may be scope to do something in Ilfracombe

Our new member Graeme shared with us his experience of working on charity videos and helping to capture the voices/mini-stories of residents of all ages which involved the residents themselves writing and developing scripts. He shared a great example filmed in Enfield called Who Killed Brown Owl that had gone on to win multiple awards. [Who Killed Brown Owl | Irish Artist's Film Index](#)

Community Noticeboards – We know that there is a need for some old-school information points in town. We see it in every forum that we are a part of, that it is hard to get to people who don't use the internet, so it is important to have physical spaces where people know that they can find information.

There are existing community notice boards on Fore Street and the bottom of Springfield steps but they have seen better days, so we may need to find some funding to replace them.

ACTION: Neil to raise at the One Ilfracombe Town Team

The End!

If you made it this far I suggest applying for a Blue Peter badge or putting in an application for an MBE.

I'll be in contact in due course with a date for the next meeting ☺

Thanks all,

Charmain