Hi all,

Thanks for everyone who came along today. I think the sunny weather may have meant our numbers were a bit lower than usual, but I have taken notes as usual on our presentations so that you don't miss out on hearing about some of the interesting things we heard about ☺

**One Ilfracombe Updates:**

Cultural Town Team – We had another successful Cultural Team at The Landmark and once again had new members get involved. There are lots of great ideas that are now starting to make good progress. These include:

1. Blue Plaques
2. Trails (for families, for health, for locals and for tourists)
3. Recycling Sculpture
4. Digitising the Museums Newspaper Archive
5. The Beach of Dreams (how we can create a programme for this national event in May).
6. Telephone Box Info Point
7. Art Fair to tie in with the Art Trail
8. Multi-Media space for local businesses
9. Town-wide art displays based on themes/significant dates
10. Potential to relaunch the Silver Saturday/Sunday project beyond just the museum
11. Community noticeboards

Into The Blue – We have now met with the activity providers and have a robust plan and timetable for the project which will start in April after the Easter holidays. We do have a few more items that wouldn't be covered by the existing funding, so we have spoken with Active Devon about filling that gap.

Ilfracombe Future Forum – We had another very productive full forum meeting on Thursday 27th Feb. We had a lot of productive discussions around supporting local kids who are home-schooled or have been excluded and how we can support them further. We already have a good step forward in bringing Shoreline into Ilfracombe (Shoreline is where excluded pupils should attend, but it is based in Barnstaple which is a barrier for some, plus feedback is that there are often clashes with pupils from other areas, so it isn't worth the aggravation). They are running from the Ilfracombe Centre every week doing 1:1s with Ilfracombe based pupils. We are also doing some asset mapping of local youth provision. Jody LeBredonchel has started to build a website which is here - https://www.ilfracombefutures.org/

Youth Club – This is a project that is being developed through the Ilfracombe Futures Forum. I had a really positive meeting with our volunteer Ali Hogg and Martin Mather from Pip & Jims. We went to have a look at the renewed facilities in their community hall and were really impressed with the work they had done. We were also delighted to see that they had an area that was already being developed as a Youth space, so we are now contacting the vicar to see what their plans and ambitions were and see

if there is any scope for us working with them. We currently have 3 very good volunteers lined up for this project with Space providing the training for them for free.

Community Developers Network – We had our second face-to-face Community Developers Network meeting, this time at North Devon Hospice. It is a really good networking opportunity and to learn what other community development projects are happening across North Devon and Torridge. This quarters meeting was focussed on Youth and Environment and I made some new good contacts who are going to present at Living Well in future months.

AHF Funding – The AHF liked our Expression of Interest (for £15,000 of funding to conduct a viability study on the Emmanuel Church) and have now invited us to apply for Stage 2. We will be working with NDC on this application.

Poverty Truth Commission – I am still working on creating a display for the Ilfracombe Centre window consisting of helpful information for residents around housing, health and financial support. This will tie in nicely with the Cultural Team's Community Noticeboard project as the more information that can be shared then better.

Mycelium Network – Again, another productive meeting with really good discussions. One project that aligned with work that Miriam Mansfield from the Salvation Army is working on is that we have been working with Hilldales on (inclusion into the community) but with the Wynstay. We are going to see if there is any scope for collaboration, but either way this is a really positive move forwards for two residential homes which don't have the best reputation and have clearly made active choices to benefit and integrate their residents in a meaningful way.

Funding Database – With us receiving so many different funding opportunities and also lots of people asking us what funding is available, I am creating a funding spreadsheet which lists funding opportunities and breaks it down into funding categories such as who can apply, types of projects, capital/revenue etc.

**Presentation 1 – Sallie McKay Roper – Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service**

The Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) referrals had to stop (except for high risk clients) at the beginning of last year to address the backlog, but they reopened referrals to partners in September and then to the public around Christmas time.
The preferred method for a partner to refer to them is online - Home safety visits | Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (although they can still take phone referrals and email, but online is easiest for them and the team).
If you aren't a partner but are interested in becoming one then please contact Sallie on smckayroper@dsfire.gov.uk

Sallie shared with us some of the items that people can get for free following a HFSV including:

Smoke alarms
Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Extension leads with breakers
Power source timers
Cooking timers
Fire retardant bedding (covers, sheets, pillow cases etc.)
Arson-proof letter boxes
Ashtrays

Sallie also raised that they are seeing a rise in incidences of fires caused by E-bikes and E-scooters, usually due to damaged batteries or incorrect chargers.
She wanted to remind us not to charge bikes in communal hallways/areas or on escape routes and sent this link for you to read -
https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/safety/home/battery-fires

The final update was around the community conversations that they are running and are looking to get lots of folk involved. It's a Teams meeting and they have several different topics up for discussion ranging from risk management to winter safety. The link can be found here - Community Conversations | Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

**Presentation 2 – Jill Ackland – Volunteer Manager for Age Concern Barnstaple & North Devon**
Jill@ageconcernnorthdevon.org.uk

Age Concern started initially just covering Barnstaple, but since February 2023 they extended out in to North Devon and now offer a range of services and activities in other towns including South Molton and Ilfracombe. They are however looking for opportunities for more to happen but would like feedback as to what activities would be useful, so please let Jill know if you have an idea!
They currently support over 350 a week and have 120 fully trained volunteers.

Their services do incur a small fee but this is mainly mileage and volunteer costs. Some of the services that they offer include:

Befriending (£6ph or £3ph if you claim pension credit)
Phone Befriending (Free)
Carer Support (2-3hrs no personal care - £6ph or £3 if you claim pension credit or some people can get it fully funded on the NHS)
Carer Cover Breaks (no personal care - for support taking someone to an activity ranges from £2-15)
Community activities such as the Pop-In Mornings at The Lantern on the 4th Thursday of every month from 10am-12pm
Help Desk & Benefits Clinics – (no charge if you visit the clinic, but there is a mileage charge if you require a home visit). In Ilfracombe this is 10am-3pm at Ilfracombe Library every 3rd Tuesday.
Shop Mobility – Only currently available in Barnstaple but handy if someone is going into town for shopping. They can hire an electric sit on scooter for £7 a day, or a foldable wheelchair that is available for £6 a day or £25 a week
Community Transport – For medical appointments and social trips (mileage fee plus £3 booking fee)

Shopping Service – supporting people either by going shopping with them, or doing their shopping for them. (mileage fee plus £3 booking fee)

They are currently looking for additional volunteers for the above projects, especially in the Ilfracombe area, so please get in contact with Jill if you would like to support or know someone else that can, they can take on people aged 16 plus so an ideal opportunity for students looking to bolster their CVs and UCAS applications.

**AOB** – None!

**Date of Next Meeting** Wednesday 2nd April

Many thanks everyone,

Charmain