One Ilfracombe Town Team

Wednesday 19th March

Meeting Notes

Attendees

Neil Ingram (Chair) – One Ilfracombe Projects	Rob Townsend – ITC - Maintenance
Eric Hayes - Resident	Ade Drury – Ilfracombe Police
Gavin Pennington-Ellis – ITC Facilities Manager	Bert Gear – ITC Cllr
Gloria Satchwell BEM – Tyrell League of Friends	Sara Wilson - NDC Cllr
Laura Donovan – ITC Proper Officer	Mark Langworthy - IBTA
Georgina Carlo-Paat - Harbourmaster	Naomi Laurenson – NDC Economic Development Project Officer
Nathan Ray – NDC Works Supervisor	

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Nathan Ray introduced himself to the team.

2. Apologies received from Alex Bird (DCC Highways), Lena Lliffe (NDC Car Parks), ITC Cllrs J Williams & Elliott.

3. Last Meeting Action Updates:

- Co-op crossing repainting – Done. No further action.
- Drains – Immediate remedial action taken using a private contractor funded by a DCC Locality Grant courtesy of Cllr Crabb. Longer term meetings are taking place with DCC who are re-evaluating their Resilience Plan and the Environment Agency who are undertaking the same with a focus on addressing extremes of weather impact. Drainage will be a feature in both of these.
- Cow Lane – No current plan identified. **Action: ITC will look at scheduling in a weed spray. Chair to investigate possibility of Community Payback Team undertaking some form of path cleaning.**
- NDH Slade Road overgrown pavement weeds – **Action: Chair to contact NDH and DCC for them to work together to identify a solution.**
- Ilfracombe in Bloom 40th promotion – Ongoing. No further action
- Trail & Information signs – Audit then clean **Action: Chair ongoing**
- Parish Council Notice Boards **–** Audit, clean then process for using. **Action: Chair ongoing**
- Speed limit signs Old Barnstaple Road **-** Done No further action
- Victoria Place Tree cutting – **Action: Chair to "nudge" DCC**
- ITC request for additional equipment and training to carry out tasks on behalf of DCC **– Action: Chair awaiting list of equipment with costings for forwarding to DCC.**
- Hele Car Park **–** The drains on the downslope side of the car park have now been cleared. Line marking is not a H&S priority so there is no date on when this will be completed. – Done, no further action.

4. Issues raised:

- Fly Tipping Wilder Road – (reported by Cllr Elliott) – Unsighted as to whether this has become a regular "hot spot" or isolated incident. **Action: ITC Team will keep an eye on area reporting to NDC any instances of fly tipping.**

- High Street pavements – (reported by Gloria Satchwell) – Gloria expressed her concern over the many dips, hollows and trip hazards that were apparent along the High Street. She was especially concerned for those of limited mobility and/or vision. **Action: The Chair will carry out a walk around survey of the High Street to establish any obvious issues. Any findings will be reported to those at DCC far more qualified to follow up on his findings.**
- Have we got a strategy for dealing with weeds as they appear? (reported by Cllr Elliott) –

  Weeding is ultimately the responsibility of NDC and DCC. ITC staff do carry out weeding on behalf of both of these organisations but there is no established ITC strategy as this could be viewed as an acceptance of ITC fully assuming other organisations responsibilities.

  It was discussed as to whether NDC and DCC have a strategy.

  Nathan Ray stated that NDC have attempted this in the past but it has not been consistent but was happy to try and establish some common ground moving forward to undertake tasks both independently and alongside ITC.

  In relation to DCC this is unknown, subsequently the Proper Officer will arrange a meeting with DCC management in this area to discuss.

  Public participation through a sense of ownership is also another potential route although this has been tried before with limited success founded on a general apathy with accompanying statements such as “it’s not my job” “my Council Tax pays for this”.

  ITC will also be applying to DCC for equipment and training costs to cover DCC tasks when they are able.

  Action: Proper Officer to arrange meeting with DCC. The Chair will apply to DCC for funding (see DCC Highways report at para 6)

- 20mph road markings East end of High Street (reported by Cllr J Williams) – Team unsighted on whether this has been completed. **Action: If uncompleted the Chair will raise with DCC Highways.**
- Watermouth Road resurfacing (reported by Cllr J Williams) – DCC have reported that resurfacing work will be undertaken during the period April 25 – Apr 26.
- Temporary fencing Hillsborough Park Road (reported by Cllr Basil) – this fencing has been in place for a considerable time without any evidence of work or any requirement. **Action: Chair has spoken to DCC and it is not theirs, awaiting response from NDC Parks.**

5. ITC Volunteers for litter picking – ITC Volunteer Officer asked for organisations to promote a requirement for more volunteers across the town.

- A discussion followed around the possibility of identifying sections of the town with groups or organisations adopting an area for looking after and low level maintenance. The Lions, Rotary or Roundtable were mentioned amongst others. **Action: The Chair will discuss this idea with the ITC and OI team as a potential project.**

- School litter picks and working with Plastic Free North Devon were also suggested. The Chair mentioned that these had taken place previously but were mainly beach focused and tied in with school projects or PFND specific events.

6. DCC Highways Update Report (Alex Bird DCC Highways – written)

- Request for PA1 & PA6A spraying courses, try the HMCE Fund (Chair has the link and e-mail)
- Drainage issues and road surface at "Tesco Roundabout" have been sorted.

7. NDC Car Parks Update Report (Lena Lliffe NDC Car Parks – written)

- Works scheduled for Brookdale car park in the latter half of 2025. It will include some resurfacing and there will likely be a layout redesign. It will remain parking for coaches and oversized vehicles. Cllr Gear mentioned that the use of the sace solely for oversized vehicles was a wasted one as there are only ever 4-5 coaches max in the car park at any one time. **Action: The Chair will feed this back to Lena at NDC.**
- Rear of Jubilee Gardens to remain closed until further notice as the risk from more cliff falls remains high. Surveys have been carried out although the findings are not yet known.
- Boats to go back in water 3rd & 4th April, whilst the Pier is closed NDC will be carrying out patch works to make it safe for Summer use. A full resurface and reline is planned in for March/April 2026.

8. NDC Building Control (Paul Wareing – written)

The Chair had reported to NDC that the hoarding around the old Montebello site at the top of Fore Street had deteriorated to the point when a board had completely given way and the rest of the fence is likely to follow in the not too distant future. The response was as follows:

"The hoarding has been damaged. It did not currently show a sign of danger that a magistrate can make an order to obviate under section 77 of the Building Act. I will see if the land is registered and write to the registered owner to remind them it is their responsibility to monitor the hoarding to ensure it cannot be a danger in the future"

The Chair expressed his concerns that this could be the next "Gold Coast" site with an area of derelict land being open to the public and a potential haven for fly tippers.

Post meeting note: Missing panel has now been replaced. Area could still do with some TLC.

Action: Chair will raise with NDC Cllrs and NDC/ITC staff to see what can be done to "fix" the problem.

9. Ilfracombe Police Update – PCSO Ade Drury

- The removal of the bench on the High Street has already had a visible impact on the street drinking in this area. It is recognised that this does not fix the problem but more work is ongoing behind the scenes with health care services and the housing providers of this street drinking cohort.
- Community behaviour orders and notices continue to be issued to local street drinkers
- Youth ASB – there are two cohorts causing problems across the town. The younger group are local and having had Anti Social Behaviour Orders issued their activity has gone quiet

following this intervention. The Police are also aware of an older group are not local to Ilfracombe and are also known to be frequenting both Braunton and Barnstaple.

10. AOB

Cllr Gear

- The road sign on Rodney Lane is missing. This lane is an important area in the history of Ilfracombe. **Action: Chair to raise with DCC**
- The bins in Brookdale Car Park remain insufficient to contain the amount of waste generated when the coach drivers empty their coaches. **Action: Chair to raise with NDC**

Naomi Laurensen

- Old bin over road from Lidl soon to be replaced.

Mark Langworthy

- Can we get clarification over the services being provided by the Tyrrell MIU this tourist season? **Action: Chair will investigate who to ask to find this out**

Georgina Carlo-Paat

- The question was raised as to the status of the wall benches along Quay Road. The harbourmaster pointed out that these were solely the responsibility of the Environment Agency. *Post meeting note: The Proper Officer and Chair have a meeting with the EA in early April and will raise this.*

Laura Donovan

- Work ongoing for a commercial company to take over the bus shelters. This would include all maintenance and upkeep traded against the use of the shelters as advertising space.
- DCC are also looking to replace and repair the bus stops on the 21 route from Mullacott to the Sea Front.
- The St James' bus stop and toilets have had a slight delay, but should still be completed by the end of April.

The Chair

- Expressed how adaptable and helpful the NDC scarab team are around the Town and the efficiency of those crews who respond to reports of fly tipping.
- Chair asked Naomi if the large bin on the High Street could be replaced as it has rusted out at the bottom. Nathan answered this stating that as this was an oversized bin there are none held in stock but that a replacement has been ordered.
- The Heras fencing that is supposed to prevent access to the road running alongside the gold old coast site is regularly being moved so the path can be used. Action: Chair to flag this up with DCC to find a more suitable solution.
- Neil mentioned that the position of Chair of this group was discussed at Full Council but no solution had been identified. He remains hopeful that a new Chair can be identified from the local community which will free him up to complete all the actins arising.

Gloria Satchwell

- Meeting with the MP for North Devon on 28th April to show him the petition to keep the Tyrell open which has been signed by 3000 people.

11. Date of next meetings: (all 1030 at The Ilfracombe Centre & Online)

23rd April, 14th May, 18th June, 23rd July, 3rd Sept, 8th Oct, 12th Nov, 17th Dec