Thanks for joining us this afternoon. It was nice to see you, plus some new faces!

Here are some of the highlights from todays meeting:

One Ilfracombe Updates (apologies to those in the room, but I didn't have my notes on me so there was only a taster, but here is a more comprehensive run down on whats going on):

UK Town of Culture 2028 – I have been working with a small group of Culture Club team members to put together our Expression of Interest for the UK Town of Culture Competition. I attended the webinar on the 21st Jan (there were 405 online which shows how hotly contested this will be). The application will be made via One Ilfracombe as the applying body has to be a partnership and have support from the local authorities, so we are already in a strong position to do that via One Ilfracombe.

Jobs and Careers Fair – Wednesday 25th Feb 10-2pm and the North Devon Resort. Plans are coming along really well for this. We have had a better than expected take up from Employers who are looking to have a stall at the event, with 35 now confirmed and others awaiting confirmation. The event is open to all, so please do come along. If you would like a free stall as either an employer or an organisation with training opportunities, please let me know.

Rural Mobility Pilot – We have received £15,000 in funding from Peninsular for a rural transport programme that supports people accessing work to opportunities outside of Ilfracombe over the summer holidays.

North Devon Biosphere – We met with Hannah from the Biosphere who are offering free marine wildlife training in Ilfracombe to anyone who works on our shoreline/in the sea in any capacity. Participants would get an accredited qualification at the end.

Youth Club – Several of our volunteers are currently going through the Introduction to Youth Club Training with Space, and we will look to sort their DBS's out in Feb (it's not a legal requirement, but it's good practice). I have been talking to The Landmark and Space about running a youth weekend event in April as a launch event for the youth club that should be opening in April at the Vision Centre. We have received £1000 in funding from DCC's Places To Go, Things To Do funding to get this up and running.

Employment and Skills – Lots of brilliant courses being run across Ilfracombe by Petroc and Learn Devon. Now that the project had landed running we will do a big piece of engagement to understand what the local need is, both from individuals looking to new learning opportunities to employers who have identified a skills gap. You can see what is on offer here - Ilfracombe Works Welcome - One Ilfracombe

Poverty Truth Commission – We had our first combined meeting since the finale event this month. It was a chance to look at all of the projects that came

from the PTC and understand which ones can be pulled into the One Ilfracombe work programme, who would champion them and which of the community commissioners would be included in the work going forwards.

Locality Funding – Big thank you to Cllr Sara Wilson for allocating some of her remaining funding to our projects. We have £750 towards our youth club work, £500 for Into The Blue and £250 for Mary's Cancer Care Hub.

Phil Harris – Devon Mental Health Alliance
Phil jumped on to tell us about the work he is doing supporting the Poverty Truth Commissions "Campus Model" project.
Whilst there are always long term ambitions of specific hubs (mental health, wellbeing, youth etc), it's been recognised that if we work collectively with the assets we already have in Ilfracombe, we can have a campus network of places and people so that if someone needs support and they go to one place, rather than being turned away for being in the wrong place they will find support in accessing the correct place or service.
Phil is keen to hear from anyone if they would like to be involved in this project but is keen to say that there is no time limit on this, so don't worry if you can't contribute right at this moment, but would like to get involved somewhere down the line.
His email is philip.harris@devonmind.com

Adam Williams – Exeter City Community Trust.
ECCT is the charitable arm of Exeter City Football Club and Adam is the Inclusion Lead.
Adam shared with us the great work that his colleague Clem is doing in Ilfracombe support 3 or 4 of the local high profile teenagers by creating supported opportunities within the community.
They're really keen on educational re-engagement, particularly when it comes to Maths and English and one what they are doing this is by providing work experience opportunities with places such as Studio 20 Gym, so they do their maths and English lessons and then the pay off is that they get to go to the gym after and not only have a free membership but also build up that work experience.
Adam's reported that there has been a positive response from the police as they can see a change in these young people, and they've even now had their bans as places like Lidl and the Library reversed, which is fantastic news.
It shows that ECCT are doing a great job of building confidence and aspirations in these young people.
We also discussed the lack of flat spaces in the centre of Ilfracombe for a kick about, which led onto the previous discussions which had been had about the need for a MUGA.

Terry Elliott – Ilfracombe Library Consultation
Prior to the meeting, Terry had been out on the High St supporting/encouraging people to fill in DCCs library consultation.
As with previous DCC consultations there have been lots of accessibility issue which have made it hard for people to complete it – a complicated online form, printed copies not having the part that lays out the options etc.

Librarys play a vital role in communities – they aren't just about books, they provide a warm, safe, staffed space that people know that they can access 5 days a week. They cater for all ages and run groups for babies, toddlers and children, have the warm coat scheme as well as hosting social groups, the U3A, Hygiene Bank, LEAP/361 Energy, they support people to access information and ultimately are really sensitive to the community where they live.
At the moment the proposal for Ilfracombe is that they are reduced from 5 days a week to 3.5. There also seems to be a push for these spaces to be community (aka volunteer) run.
There is a real conflict between the statistics that Ilfracombe has versus the removal of yet another service. This isn't a move than will support improving these stats, if anything that they will likely make the inequalities even wider.

The online link is here - Have Your Say Today - Complete our survey - Shaping Devon's Library Service
I believe that there are paper copies available at the library

Around the Table

Louise Flagg – NDVS.
Louise share that they have their volunteering event in Barnstaple again this year, this time in Green Lanes. They have 35-40 organisations coming along and they will all be sharing the various volunteering ops that they have. It is on 12th Feb, so pop along!
SHEW CIC have their GIVE project engagement event at The Lantern on 7th March. The GIVE project is a 6 month programme designed to support young people aged 16-25 to gain real work experience, grow in confidence and work towards a recognised volunteer award. They are looking for local organisations and businesses who can offer work experience to participants. If you can help then please email them on community@shewcic.org

Natali Purdy-Guevara – Inclusion Officer at NDVS
Natali shared with us the new Disability Friendship Group which is starting at the Salvation Army on the 12th Feb.
She kindly sent through the poster so please feel free to share this with anyone who may be interested.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 4th March 2026 – See you then!