

One Ilfracombe

Town Team

Meeting Notes

Weds 18th March 2026

The Ilfracombe Centre

Attendees: Online attendance*

Neil Ingram – One Ilfracombe (Chair)	Gloria Satchwell – Tyrrell League of Friends
Mel Turnbull – High St Traders	Naomi Laurenson – NDC Projects
Alison Saunders - IBTA	Eric Hayes - Resident
Mark Langworthy – NDC Environment Enforcement	Gavin Pennington-Ellis – ITC Facilities Manager
Kara Stevens – ITC Media & Comms	Damian Wilson – ITC Facilities
Ade Drury – D&CP Ilfracombe PCSO	Lindsay McDonnell – D&CP Ilfracombe PCSO
Nathan Ray – NDC Waste and Environment	*Cllr June Williams – ITC/NDC

1. NI welcomed everyone to the meeting. Meeting introductions made. Apologies: Alex Bird (DCC), Lena Illes (NDC), Cllr Sara Wilson (DCC), Laura Donovan (ITC), Cllr Terry Elliott (ITC), Capt Georgina Carlo-Paat (NDC)

2. Actions from last meeting

2a. **Montebello site** – The Friends of Fore St painted the hoardings and gave the area a clean up as part of the Spring Clean. Moving forward there is potential for Street Art projects in this area to encourage footfall between Fore St / High St and Vice Versa.

Action: Chair and Will Such (Chair of Group) to discuss potential Street Art project in this area with Silk Crystal.

2b. **The Lanes** – Litter, dog fouling, overgrowing vegetation and general neglect remains an issue.

Action: NI to submit project plan for Community Outreach support. Include the Lanes as an area for additional support from NDC.

2c. **Wilder Road (Gold Coast Site)** – This is now a standing agenda item at the Ilfracombe Regeneration Board.

Post meeting note: From NDC – Owner has stated hoardings will be replaced before the end of March.

2d. **Market Arches Mural** – NI is speaking with Silk Crystal to fix this, they are currently engaged on an artwork project on Hillsborough.

Action: NI to speak to Silk Crystal

2e. **Repainting Co-op crossing** – DCC have stated that the remedial work on this is with the contractor and will be undertaken in Spring when the weather dries up to ensure the lining material adheres to the surface.

Action: NI to nudge DCC for an update.

2f. **Scaffolding on the High St** (and other areas around Town) - Concern over an apparent lack of monitoring and enforcement from DCC in relation to scaffolding which in turn makes certain areas of our town troublesome for those with accessibility issues whilst also dragging down the aesthetic appeal of the town. Reported to DCC with a response that they would look into it hence workaround with visually impaired local resident to be arranged to get further evidence to DCC to effect change.

Action: NI, Sara Wilson, Sharon Blackmore and DCC Highways Officer walk around being planned for early April

Post meeting Note – NI informed by NDC that scaffolding outside the old post office is being used for masonry work on the building that has been purchased by NDC. This will be in place until mid-April.

2g. **UKPAC** –NI will work with the KS to push membership online. ITC are now signed up to this and with NI having used it to report a crime the advantages of signing up to this FREE reporting system are clearly evident. Request that all Councillors and ITC Staff push the sign up to this via their networks. LMCD is also working to promote UKPAC in her daily dealings with local businesses. For more info neil.ingram@northdevon.gov.uk with more information available online at uk-pac.com

Action: NI & KS to promote online, at meetings and undertake F2F opportunities including at the Town Meeting in April.

2h. **Dog Fouling** – In future this topic will be moved to a standing item on the agenda. ML gave the team an update on his recent walkarounds and how he is now going to be based in Ilfracombe on and off for a day or two a week. This will allow him to provide high visibility visits to hot spots across the town. MH also reminded the group of the official reporting channel and how their aim is to push for Civil over Criminal cases due to the higher success rate for convictions.

Currently top of ML list is unfortunately Oxford Grove play area.

NDC have also increased their social media output on this subject that is specific to Ilfracombe which is being shared through our own channels by KS.

NI also passed on information that the War Memorial was also suffering from repeat dog fouling. ML said he would increase patrols in this area and place additional signage. A ban on all dogs from the War Memorial was discussed however, ML stated that this is the final action with the next step being that dogs must be on a lead in this area.

NI informed ML to let the Town Team know how they can assist in his work and remarked on how good it was to have a more visible enforcement presence across the town.

Action: Continue joined up working with NDC reporting back hotspots and any locally gathered intelligence to ML.

2j. **Seafront Toilet Bins** – Awaiting NDC to either relocate the bin at the toilets or for the provision of an additional bin in this area.

Action: NI to nudge NDC for an update.

2k. **Oxford Grove Car Park** – Work has now been confirmed by NDC and will take place during April.

3. Items raised since last meeting

3a. **War Memorial / Holy Trinity Graveyard Dog Fouling** - NI passed on information that - the War Memorial was also suffering from repeat dog fouling. ML said he would increase patrols in this area and place additional signage. A ban on all dogs from the War Memorial was discussed however, ML stated that this is the final action with the next step being that dogs must be on a lead in this area.

NI has also spoken to Ilfracombe in Bloom about moving their compost bin to a location that is not so readily usable by dog owners to place their dog poo bags on. He has also spoken to NDC to explore another waste bin being located in this area but having spoken to ITC Facilities team the original bin was removed as it was being constantly vandalised (set fire to) so decision was made that no extra bin was needed with there already being one on at the base of the steps. Increased signage and monitoring will continue with the situation being reviewed at the next Town Team meeting.

ML also stated that paw prints stuck or jet washed on to the ground to the nearest poo bin was something that has previously been trialled and worked with NI also stating that posters depicting human eyes “watching” were also proven to act as a deterrent.

Portable CCTV cameras have also been purchased and once the use of these has been “legally” approved they will be available for use in Ilfracombe to combat fly tipping and dog fouling.

The fixed penalty for dog fouling is also being increased from £100 to £500.

3b. **Oxford Grove Play Park Equipment** – Cllr Terry Elliott reported the poor material state and poor play value of this equipment. NI has raised the issue with NDC Parks

and has also spoken to the ITC and OI Team to research whether this is a project that can be added to the current programme of work.

Action: ITC/OI Programme Manager, Proper Officer and Project Team to discuss next steps

3c. **Pigeon Mess Market Arches** – Report on how this is increasing slippery and a health hazard. NI stated that spikes and a sonic sound system have been trialled but aside from the inhumane use of netting it appears that the pigeons are smarter than we are! GP-E said that the ITC team have since given the Market Arches a deep clean and will continue to do this on a monthly basis despite it being a DCC responsibility.

3d. **Cycle Racks** – DCC Cllr Wilson asked about the cycle storage provision in Ilfracombe. After some research there are some lockers at Wilder Road Car Park and racks dotted around the town. It is unclear whether there is a need for additional provision but it is something that will be added to the ongoing project programme with a low priority.

4. Spring Clean 2026 – 6th-15th March 2026

NI passed on his thanks to the ITC Team, Ilfracombe in Bloom, Ilfracombe Museum, the High St Traders, Ilfracombe Business and Tourism Association, North Devon Council and all the other groups that took part in what was the most successful Spring Clean in the past 4 years.

Work will continue on the High Street as part of the One Ilfracombe Town Centre Regeneration theme.

NI expressed that the Spring Clean although successful should be the launch pad for more similar events and initiatives. This was echoed by those present who felt it would be a shame to just do this once a year and that using the In Bloom #treatyourstreet initiative was a good idea.

The One Ilfracombe project team will continue to work closely with both ITC/NDC and In Bloom to provide resources (funding and volunteers) to assist wherever possible.

5. AOB

5a. Nathan Ray will be leaving his current post at NDC at the end of March. NI thanked him for all of his work with the Town Team and for further opening up the communication channels and partnership working between the Town and District Councils in his particular department.

5b. GS – The Tyrrell Charity Shop will close at the end of September. A thank you event will be held at The Lantern on 16th May – Town Team members are invited to attend.

5c. AS – Spring clean went well and she will continue to work with NI in relation to getting window displays into High St vacant properties as part of the Town Centre Regeneration Project. Permissions received from No42 High St, the Earth Repair and ex factory shop.

NI added that the new owner of the vacant ex-costa has been in touch to say that hoardings will be removed as soon as the scaffolding beign iused for the property next door is removed. The current license for this scaffolding expires 11th May 26.

5d. GP-E – expressed his ongoing concerns over the back of Capstone where barriers have been for 5+ years and the cliff is deteriorating it would be a massive loss to Ilfracombe if the walkway around Capstone were to be lost due to fear of falling rocks. The same was expressed over the rear of The Landmark, this area is becoming very rundown very quickly, is there a plan for this area long term?

Post meeting note: At the IRB meeting, which took place after this Town Team meeting, NI was informed that the NDC lead Engineer will be attending next IRB in April. NI will raise Capstone, rear of Landmark, a section of the Harbour wall and Hele Beach, following recent landslides in this area, with NDC so that the engineer can fully update IRB on the plans for each area.

5e. ASB was discussed. Ilfracombe Police continue to enforce the PSPO that covers Ilfracombe with alcoholic drinks being confiscated on the High St on a regular basis. There remained frustration surrounding the apparent lack of communication from D&CP on what actions were being carried out to address local ASB issues. Once again AD reminded the team that a lot of the work that does go on is not for public consumption as this could dilute the potential for convictions being secured.

NI highlighted the case of the online posting of the recent nationwide drugs convictions that were secured which included a drug network based in Ilfracombe and Liverpool. This sort of information can be published post sentencing with an understanding that similar work continues out of public awareness.

The main thing that remains clear is that crime in Ilfracombe continues to be officially under-reported. This results in fewer resources in relation to both officers' time and failing to meet funding bid thresholds.

NI – We need to continue to encourage the official reporting of crime in Ilfracombe using all means available including UKPAC, Ilfracombe Report It! and the numerous options afforded by D&CP and organisations like Crime Stoppers.

6. Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 22nd April 2026**

