



I have been representing Ilfracombe since I was five years old as part of the band, then with my family in various voluntary groups, proudly representing our town with most sports clubs and on to the Council. It really was a huge honour to be elected as Mayor of Ilfracombe and Chair of the Town Council taking the ultimate volunteer role within our Town.

The past ten years of being involved with the council and all of the teams have taught me that you never know what is around the corner and you must be able to react to any challenges and opportunities that may come our way. The past twelve months has been no different. We started the year looking forward to the Queens Jubilee celebrations, many great events took place in celebration all over our community as we looked to get things back up and running following lockdown. Not long after we led various memorial events and services following the Queens death. We then ended with the Kings coronation and more celebration, and this set the theme.

We have had good progress with the new wok hub “Luna” at the Ilfracombe Centre, Progress on the Water sport centre and Premier Inn, new toilets planned for the seafront, movement at the Southern Extension and Lee Bay but then find out all our toilets may be closing and that we lost out on our levelling up bid. We finished off our response to Covid and all the good work done there by our teams to keep people safe and informed and then had to look at helping with the Cost of Living and Warm Hubs. We had one of our hotels shut overnight and then see the good in our community making our guests welcome. We managed to help support the great work at Belles place and new community developers then have to fight for the Link centre. We get the Dotto running, Arches decorated, and EV Chargers installed yet have trouble with weeds, graffiti, and potholes. We took on the Combe Christmas event and Remembrance Day with great success but now the future of the Carnival and other events are under threat.

As you can see, we never know what is around the corner so we have to make sure we have the pieces in place to react in the best possible way whilst planning ahead wherever we can. We are fortunate that we have an amazing core of staff working behind the scenes for our Town. We may not be great about sharing all the great work they do, usually as they are too busy doing that great work to shout but it is an honour leading the team.

I have tried my best as Mayor to represent our town and get stuck into all the various events and meet with groups and committees. We have managed to visit most other towns in North Devon and

meet Mayors finding out how they do things and that we share many of the same issues and ideas to solve them.

Highlights for me were the Carnival, the visit from our Twin Town, IFS, leading the jumping at Birdman and raising awareness of mental health issues. However, with some of our events under threat, I have set up an Events group at ITC to see if we can pool knowledge and resources to keep these things going. As the King stated in his Coronation it is vital that we encourage people to come out and help our communities and I hope ITC can take the lead with coordinating all our existing and new volunteers so we can all push our great town forward together.

I would like to thank all the councillors and staff, both ITC and One Ilfracombe but especially outgoing Councillors Donovan, Fowler, Leck, Pearson, Aston and Wilson who have all done their bit for our town, so much more than many will see, I have learnt a lot from all of you. Can I also thank my wife and lady Mayoress Kerry and our Kids, without their support I could not do any of this.

I am excited with those remaining and welcome councillors Huggins, Ebert, Newland, Perrin & Townsend along with our new Town Clerk Laura. I am confident we have a great team in place who are all passionate with the knowledge and experience to take the town forward and fight and plan for our fair share of things, whatever may crop up.

Take Care and please look out for each other.

Cllr Dan Turton
Mayor of Ilfracombe
31st May 2023