

Q: Are we working alongside The Ilfracombe Academy to promote skills or trades type education?

A: Councillors agreed that there is a shortage of trades people in the area. Historically national government pushed to get children into University as a further education option, therefore there is a mindset in schools and amongst parents that this is the best option for their children. Mayor Dan Turton is attending an event with the school called You're Hired where he will be liaising with the school and Petroc about the lack of apprenticeship schemes. There is hope that with the school being incorporated into the Athena Trust there will be some significant changes in the next 12 months.

Q: What incentive do the town have for dealing with neglected buildings eg Devon Bay Hotel?

A: Councillor Elliott has taken a lead on pursuing neglected buildings in Ilfracombe due to fire risks. Though she is working alongside a number of agencies eg Police, Fire Service etc, there is little power that any one agency has. Unfortunately they can only respond to areas pertaining to the building that they are responsible for. Therefore the most they can do is deter vandals or secure the building to ensure that it is safe from the risk of fire. With regards the Devon Bay Hotel specifically there is work in place to track down the multiple owners who are not UK residents and find a way forward.

Q: How can neglected buildings be made to be more aesthetically pleasing?

A: Ilfracombe Town Council unfortunately have no power to make this happen. We can inform North Devon Council who then issue the owner of the building with a Section 215. This onus is on the owner directly to ensure that the building/site is made safe however there is no stipulation that they have to ensure the property is aesthetically pleasing in any way. Ilfracombe Regeneration Board/Stalled Sites is creating a portfolio of neglected properties which should be available soon.

Q: Is there any plans to make empty shops in the high street more attractive by possibly wrapping them or creating window advertisements?

A: This task does fall to all owners of the high street shops. This was a project however it has currently been shelved due to alternative priorities.

Q: Is there or will there be funding available for the High Street or Harbour?

- A: Historically we applied for a levelling up fund however our 2 bids were rejected. There is some grant funding coming available however this will be available for the seafront only.
- Q: Can the Lanes be included within the potential funding for the seafront?
- A: Unfortunately it cannot. When funding is made available it would be for a specific area and if we were to diversify outside of that area it would be likely bids would be rejected. This can however be raised as a new scheme.
- Q: Is there CCTV in the High Street now?
- A: The Police Crime and Commissioner has had a high tech CCTV box installed within the Ilfracombe Town Council offices. This currently has two cameras linked to it, both on the ITC building showing opposite directions of the high street. The infrastructure is now in place and new cameras just need to be linked to it.
- Q: Is there any further update regarding banking facilities for Ilfracombe?
- A: There has been no further update outside of the fact that it is still being considered. Due to the fact that Ilfracombe still has options available with the Post Office and Nationwide we are a lower priority.
- Q: What is happening with regards the Public Conveniences?
- A: North Devon Council have decided that they will be handing over all public conveniences to their relevant parish/town councils. The Ilfracombe Town Council have agreed to take them on and are committed to keep them open as conveniences. The final negotiations are still a work in progress with NDC.
- Q: When is the Watersports Centre being opened?
- A: The official opening of the centre is mid-July and the road up the Cove is being resurfaced prior to its opening.