

# ILFRACOMBE REGENERATION BOARD

## Notes of the Meeting

**Wednesday 13 March 2024, 14.00 – 15.30, Ilfracombe Centre / MS Teams**

**Present:** Councillor Paul Crabb (Chair), Councillor Daniel Turton, Councillor, Councillor Malcolm Prowse, Councillor June Williams, Geoffrey Fowler, Rod Donovan, Councillor Sara Wilson, Mike Edmunds

**In Attendance:** Laura Donovan, Georgina Carlo-Paat, Helen Bond, SarahJane Mackenzie-Shapland, Dominie Dunbrook, Alison Mills, Matthew Brown, Richard Slaney  
Clare China (notes)

**Apologies:** Councillor Jonathan Quinn, Councillor Val Gates, Councillor Malcolm Wilkinson, Keir Duffin, Katalin Fulop, Matthew Collins,

## Agenda

### 1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr. Crabb opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

### 2. Agree notes and actions from last meeting (13.03.2024)

#### Matters Arising

- **Informal young people's recreation space location**

The consultation process is underway and ITC will provide the findings at the next meeting.

- **Southern Extension Underspend**

Clarification that the Homes England loan was not drawn down, therefore there is no underspend. To access this fund a change of application would need to be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and communities (DLUHC)

- **Publishing IRB notes – transparency of the Board**

The approved the new format of the meeting notes for publishing

- **Transport Needs for Ilfracombe**

The Devon County Council travel plan requires feedback from board on prioritising action

- **Recognition of the Town Strategic Plan by the Local Plan**

NDC Policy team advised it would be difficult to bring the Ilfracombe Strategic Plan into the existing Local Plan, but confirmed themes will be included in the development of the new one. ITC are to engage with the process of developing the Local Plan.

- **Premier Inn Development**

Representatives from Premier Inn acquisition team have been invited to provide an update at the next meeting. They have requested to work with NDC to help bring the development forward.

### **3. Ilfracombe Town Council updates**

#### **Feedback from One Ilfracombe**

Wellbeing teams are working together to bring in core funding to support a range of projects. Regeneration and health projects are going well. A children & young people group has been set up and sustainability is a key agenda point. The task force is looking at how ONE Ilfracombe can operate as a limited company.

- The board agreed all the groups should work together to collaborate and work effectively

#### **Update on Town Strategic Plan**

The completed document is being edited before going to officers for review – hoping to adopt at May full council

#### **Benches/street furniture in high street**

Carry over to next meeting

### **4. Devon County Council updates**

#### **Transport Needs for Ilfracombe**

The Board will review the travel infrastructure plan and provide their priorities. They were encouraged to also suggest any proposals they feel should be viable sustainable transport options.

***Action: Re-send the plan, board to identify shortlist of initiatives via email prior to the next meeting***

### **5. North Devon Council updates**

#### **Spaces for young people – outside space/MUGA**

Clarification of a MUGA was provided: Any area with hard standing, formally 22m 12m; can be any shape or size; often nearer other public facilities; usually fenced but not high; flood lights not compulsory; an unmanaged facility that can be used by anyone for any activity; section 106 can fund these.

The Board discussed the main locations that could be suitable, key points were discussed were

- Benefits of being away from housing due to noise.
- Within walking distance to the town centre would be better
- The consultation was open ended, no locations were listed so may open up new suggestions.
- A visible space to avoid it becoming a disruptive congregation area.

***Action: Provide a SWOT analysis for each of the five sites once the consultation is complete***

## **Flourishing Culture update**

The Ilfracombe Culture Plan produced by consultants, Things Made Public (TMP), was shared at the previous meeting. The Board discussed a presentation that highlighted key components of the plan.

- Consultation identified five core needs: Protect Wellbeing; Be Custodians of Heritage; Amplify Our Youth; Celebrate Our Environment and Supercharge Our Economy.
- Geographic Cultural Character areas are identified to understand how the town operates, they are; Historic Spine; Promenade; Maritime Gem, Wild Surrounds and On Our Doorstep. (It was noted that this visual map needed an amendment.)
- Cultural industries and activities are well established in the town but low paid
- An action plan provides a clear set of actions with suggested projects that address the findings of the research. The ten main actions points are:

1. Form an Ilfracombe Town Team for Culture and identify a Culture Lead to drive and support a cohesive and collaborative cultural offer for Ilfracombe
2. Celebrate the rich cultural offer of Ilfracombe via strategic comms planning, creative marketing and collaborative cross promotion
3. Enhance the built environment and public realm, utilising cultural interventions, community collaboration and policy
4. Animate the High Street and Promenade using vacant spaces to commission creative displays, pop-up cultural events and community meanwhile use
5. Enhance Ilfracombe's cultural identity through the delivery of new cultural events and public art whilst actively supporting the town's current creative offer
6. Support the diversification of the evening and night-time economy by commissioning cultural programming that aims to extend the season, improve perception and increase safety
7. Support the sustainable re-location of Ilfracombe Museum
8. Support young people in Ilfracombe to access cultural activity and education, developing opportunities to progress in the creative industries
9. Embed shared decision making into cultural programming in Ilfracombe
10. Attract external funding, centralise resources and collect and apply learning to maximise the impact of culture in Ilfracombe

The Board discussed governance of the plan to help drive and deliver it, ensuring broad community representation that pulls the existing groups and organisations together. It was felt that. During their research, TMP worked with 35 local organisations and the Board wanted to remain engaged with these.

- Appointment of a local person Culture Lead who can work with local organisation and groups to encourage and support bids for funding.
- Align the action plan with ITC's Strategic Plan
- Museum relocation is included in the plan but must go out to consultation - a business plan will be developed over the coming stages

The recent round four Cultural Development Fund (CDF) bid was not successful but feedback encouraged smaller Arts Council England and lottery local funding bids. Creative people and Places Programme next round opens in 2027. The Board can start to prepare large ambitious bids for a 3 year programmes.

The discussion was summarised by establishing the purpose of the Ilfracombe Culture Plan is use it as a tool to draw in investment, people and business. Data can be used to support strategies and bids. It will also help widen the view of what culture means to different people and will encourage wider engagement to develop the local creative economy.

The Board formally adopted the Ilfracombe Culture Plan and thanked the team who put it together, endorsing its actions.

**Action: Email slides to the board**

**Action: Move yellow zone to cover the High Street accurately**

**Action: Publish the Culture Plan online**

### **Sea School/Harbour updates**

- Ilfracombe Sea School will deliver two new courses in 2025 in partnership with Petroc. Higher Education is required for the key job roles and these could be delivered at Petroc as a satellite location.
- Progress has been made on finding a location for the Live Fire Training site. Examples of specially designed containers were shared with the Board. These are non-permanent structures [https://www.draeger.com/en-us\\_ca/Products/Containerized-Live-Fire-Training-System-CLFTS-40](https://www.draeger.com/en-us_ca/Products/Containerized-Live-Fire-Training-System-CLFTS-40)  
<https://portshippingcontainers.com.au/blog/live-fire-training-unit>
- Awaiting quotes for Sea Survivor Kits to start looking for funding. This can take place at the sea pool or swimming pool
- A new instructor is starting, 'quick wins' from DCC could be explored to help provide new staff
- A request for support to promote taking on new staff 16+yrs no qualifications required, only the principal has to be qualified to oversee delivery

### **Seafront Projects**

- Structural Engineers plans ready to go out to tender
- Landmark Theatre, cones to be cleaned. Currently sourcing money to carry out this year as it is more expensive.

### **Stalled Sites**

- Harleigh House, compliance notice issued
- Devon Bay, liquidators working with NDC get leases rescinded
- 60 Fore Street, section 215 issued

### **Combined County Authority**

- Going to county full council on Mon 29<sup>th</sup> April for approval
- The government has given the area £16m in order to push forward projects focussing on the delivery of green jobs, green skills and green housing. Each council area has been invited to submit full business cases for suitable projects and these are currently being assessed.
- Main recommendations are to look strategically at transport, skills and housing
- Representation will rotate between each Local District Authority

### **6. AOB – any other updates for the Board (All)**

- Starting from May, the Tourist Information Centre will be temporarily run by volunteers within the Landmark Theatre box office in May. This will also provide manned phone line for the theatre.

- Former Bicclescombe Nurseries, Furze Hill Road - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 16 social rented units with associated landscaping and parking going forward next week

## **7. DoNM – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024**