

ILFRACOMBE REGENERATION BOARD

Notes of the Meeting

Wednesday 17 July 2024, 14.00 – 15.30, Ilfracombe Centre / MS Teams

Present: Councillor Paul Crabb (part of meeting), Councillor June Williams, Geoffrey Fowler, Councillor Sara Wilson (took the Chair), Councillor Daniel Turton (part of meeting), Councillor Marc Newland, Councillor Malcolm Wilkinson

In Attendance: Laura Donovan, Helen Bond, Alison Mills, Matthew Brown, Jess Reed, Keir Duffin, Steve Seatherton, Charmain Lovett, Neil Ingram, Dominie Dunbrook (notes)

Apologies: Rod Donovan, Mike Edmunds, Clare China, SarahJane Mackenzie-Shapland, Georgina Carlo-Paat, Councillor Malcolm Prowse, Katalin Fullop

1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr. Wilson opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

2. Agree notes and actions from last meeting (05.06.2024) Matters Arising

Notes were agreed and actions picked up in agenda for this meeting.

3. Ilfracombe Town Council updates

Feedback from One Ilfracombe

Focus on negotiating another 2 years of delivery with evaluation work feeding into the business case for this. One Ilfracombe at the heart of governance conversations, with the possibility of it transitioning to become the Strategic Board for Ilfracombe.

Update on Town Strategic Plan

Final formatting is now taking place and the Plan will then be published on the Town Council website by the end of July.

Note: subsequent to the meeting the Plan has now been published and can be viewed here: [Ilfracombe Strategic Plan](#)

Benches/street furniture in high street

ITC and partners continuing to consider best location and style of bench to replace existing street furniture. Discuss with NDC regarding possible funding to achieve this.

Spaces for young people – Projects

Feedback from the initial survey with young people at Ilfracombe Academy gave a mixed picture of what was wanted for both inside and outside spaces.

However, some priorities emerged with football for outdoor space and creative or cultural activities for inside space. It was acknowledged that the survey sample size was relatively small compared to the volume of young people in the town so may not be fully representative. Further consideration needs to be given to this subject – understanding what provision already exists but isn't being taken up (and why) and what new provision is needed.

4. Devon County Council updates

No DCC highways representatives were at the meeting so this item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. North Devon Council updates

Flourishing Culture update

- Use of meanwhile spaces

Through the Cultural Development Fund delivery in Barnstaple, the team have been developing a 'meanwhile spaces' strategy. This includes a resource pack for property owners/landlords to support them in working with local community groups and businesses to enable meanwhile uses within vacant properties – especially those in the High Street/town centre. The first successful event has taken place in a vacant unit within Green Lanes Shopping Centre – although this was easier to manage given NDC own the venue. However, the resource pack being developed is looking at all ownerships of venues, especially private landlords. The next step is to share this with agents who are often the conduit between the landlord and any request for use of the vacant property. This work could migrate well across to Ilfracombe and the team in NDC are keen to work with ITC to develop this.

Action: NDC to work with ITC via a small task and finish group to get this work up and running.

- Town Team For Culture

To oversee the delivery of the Flourishing Culture Action Plan in Ilfracombe it has been agreed that a 'town team for culture' is established.

Action: Discussions to move this forward will take place with ITC and NDC (namely via Alison Mills and Charmain Lovett).

- Cultural Quick Wins Projects

To provide some immediate delivery following the publication of the Cultural Action Plan, NDC has released £10,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Funds towards Ilfracombe events. The IRB members have put forward events they would like considered as part of this funding. The final vote found in favour of granting awards of £2,500 to the following four events:

- Ilfracombe Carnival
- Combe Christmas
- Art Trek
- Sea Ilfracombe

Other events that haven't been awarded this money are still able to apply for the Flourishing Culture Grant of £700 towards an event.

Action: NDC to inform the groups and arrange for payment of grant.

Sea School

Continue to develop the full Business Case to be ready for any future funding to help deliver the Sea School. Currently discussing possible sites for a firefighting training facility – looking at Petroc (Barnstaple campus) and MoD (Marine base at Chivenor).

Seafront Projects

The invitation to tender documents are being pulled together for the seafront toilet and shelter. The timetable for delivery still remains with completion during early 2025. The Lime Kiln project has now been completed and is open for use – primarily this is to provide additional seating covers for the Lime Kiln café, but members of the public can stand and view the harbour/seafront from there at other times. A quote has now been accepted for the cleaning of the Landmark Towers.

Planning

Discussions are still taking place between North Devon Council and Premier Inn regarding bringing forward the site in Ilfracombe. No further updates to bring forward to the Board at this time.

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

Councillor Crabb raised the various ongoing road closures around Ilfracombe which are having knock-on impacts for business and the community. He continues to discuss with contractors and Highways colleagues the impacts and pushing for early opening/partial opening where practical.

7. DoNM – October 9th 2024