



Ilfracombe Town Council

Full Council Meeting – Monday 13th July 2026 at 7.00pm

INDEX

Pages

AGENDA	2-4
7. Minutes of Annual Meeting 11 th May 2026	5-8
Minutes of Full Council Meeting 8 th June 2026	9-12
8. Minutes of Planning committee meeting 15 th June 2026	13-16
9. Minutes of F&GP committee meeting 22 nd June 2026	17-18
10. ITC 26055 – Proper Officer Report	19-22
11. ITC 26056 – RFO Report (to follow)	
12. ITC 26057 – Programme Manager Report (to follow)	
13.1. ITC 26058 – LGR Report – Cllr P Crabb	23-24
15.1. ITC 26059 – Environmental Champion Report – Cllr N Basil	25-27
15.2. ITC 26060 – Public Health Champion Report – Cllr T Elliott	28-29
15.3. ITC 26061 – Youth Champion Report – Cllr D Williams	30-37
16. ITC 26062 – Biodiversity/Environmental Working Group Report – I Howard	38-39
17.1. Resident email and letter of concern	40-45
17.2. Email and letter regarding Wildersmouth Beach Bathing	46-50
17.3. From Post to Past Museum Vision and draft letter of support for Ilfracombe Museum	51-55
17.4. Request for land to support Ilfracombe Town Football Club	56-57



44 High Street
Ilfracombe
EX34 9QB
Tel: 01271 855300

To Councillors, M Fay (Chair/Mayor), J Williams (Deputy Mayor), B Gear, G Coulter, T Elliott, G Schofield, P Crabb, D Turton, D Williams, M Newland, T Huggins, T Ebert, N Basil, J Quinn, J Irwin, N Jenner, M Turnbull, S Jennison.

You are hereby summoned to attend the **Ilfracombe Town Council Meeting** to be held on **13th July 2026 at 19:00** at **Council Chambers, The Ilfracombe Centre, 44 High Street, Ilfracombe** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

In accordance with The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 members of the public are welcome to attend. Recording, photographs and filming – In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 the press or public may audio-record, photograph or film meetings. As such, members of the public may be recorded or photographed during the meeting. Anyone wishing to record or photograph the meeting must notify the Town Clerk before the commencement of the meeting.

This meeting will be streamed and recorded live via Zoom. All guidance relating to this can be found in our Live Streaming and Recording of Public Council Meetings Policy available on our website. The meeting will be opened with prayers. Anyone not wishing to join during this period can request to be shown to the 'waiting room' and join the meeting directly afterwards.

Laura Donovan
Proper Officer
clerk@ilfracombetowncouncil.gov.uk

8th July 2026

AGENDA

1. **Welcome by Chair**
2. **To receive and consider for approval, apologies and reasons for absence.**
3. **To receive and record Declarations of Interest** as per Localism Act 2011 Section 31.
4. **Chair's discretion** – for any matters or announcements for Information only.
5. **Public participation** – As per Standing Order 3 (e-i), members of the public are permitted to make representations, ask questions and give evidence in relation to any business relating to the Town Council. The period not exceeding 15 minutes to be allocated allowing members of the public to speak for up to 3 minutes.

6. **To determine which items, if any, of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded** – Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1, Paragraph 2.
7. **To adopt minutes of Annual Meeting of the Council held 11th May 2026 and Full Council Meeting held 8th June 2026** and to note matters, updates and actions arising.
8. **Minutes of Planning Committee meeting (to note and approve recommendations)**
– 15th June 2026 - Cllr J Williams
9. **Minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting (to note and approve recommendations)** – 22nd June 2026 - Cllr T Huggins
10. **ITC 26055 – Proper Officer Report**
 - 10.1. To agree Councillor Champion for Culture role for 2026/27
 - 10.2. To agree the solar panel repair quote.
11. **ITC 26056 – Responsible Finance Officer Report**
 - 11.1. To review and agree current accounting status
 - 11.2. To review and agree invoices for payment
12. **ITC 26057 – Programme Manager Report** – including One Ilfracombe update
13. **To receive reports/proposals from Ilfracombe Town Councillors**
 - 13.1. **ITC 26058** – LGR Report – Cllr P Crabb
14. **To receive reports from County and District Councillors**
15. **To receive reports from Working Groups and Councillor Champions**
 - 15.1. **ITC 26059** – Environmental Report – Cllr N Basil – To agree that Ilfracombe Town Council writes to North Devon Council to ensure their operatives:
 - 15.1.1. After their collection, leave the area at least as tidy as it was before the collection:
 - bags are left so that they cannot blow away
 - no residual litter is left
 - in general it looks tidy
 - 15.1.2. Nothing except the recycling is left without there also being an explanatory note also left to explain why these items were not collected.
 - 15.1.3. Where it is obvious that the resident is missing a recycling container one is left for them or a delivery of it is arranged.
 - 15.1.4. Do their utmost to ensure that all recyclable items are collected.
 - 15.2. **ITC 26060** – Public Health Champion Report – Cllr T Elliott
 - 15.3. **ITC 26061** – Youth Champion Report – Cllr D Williams
16. **To agree to set up a Biodiversity/Environmental Working Group – ITC 26062**
17. **To receive correspondence/licenses/notices**
 - 17.1. Resident Mr Legge letter of concern
 - 17.2. Resident Ms Payne letter regarding Wildersmouth Beach Bathing
 - 17.3. From Post to Past Securing the Future of Ilfracombe Museum – to agree draft letter of support for Ilfracombe Museum
 - 17.4. Request for Land to Support Ilfracombe Town Youth Football Club

17.5. Applications received under the Licensing Act 2003

An application for the grant of a premises licence has been made by

(a) Watermouth Lodges, Watermouth, Ilfracombe EX34 9SJ

1. To enable the supply of alcohol on and off the premises Monday to Sunday from 11:00 to 23:00.
2. The provision of regulated entertainment Monday to Sunday 11:00 to 23:30.
3. To extend hours on Mother's Day, Father's Day and New Years Eve for the above activities.

This application is in the Ilfracombe East and Marwood Wards.

The closing date for any representations is 20th July 2026

(b) St James Tearoom, 10 St James Place, Ilfracombe EX34 9BH

1. To enable the supply of alcohol on and off the premises Monday to Sunday from 11:00 to 21:00.
 2. The provision of regulated entertainment Monday to Sunday 10:30 to 21:00
- This application is in the Ilfracombe East Ward
The closing date for any representations is 24th July 2026

18. **Chairs Discretion** – for information only



44 High Street
Ilfracombe
EX34 9QB
Tel: 01271 855300

**ILFRACOMBE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES – 26 – 05
THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE ILFRACOMBE CENTRE, DEVON, EX34 9QB**

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held at 6:00pm on Monday 11th May 2026

Members Present:

Cllrs: M Fay (Mayor), J Williams (Deputy Mayor), B Gear, G Coulter, T Elliott, P Crabb (arrived late), D Williams, T Huggins, N Basil, J Irwin

Officers Present:

L Donovan (Proper Officer), I Howard (Minute Taker), C Coombs (Responsible Finance Officer)

Others present: Pastor Geoff Hills and 2 members of the public.

A2605 - 1.Election of the Mayor for the Year 2026-27 - The outgoing Mayor Cllr Fay welcomed the assembled. The Proper Officer then declared that Cllr Fay had been nominated for the role of Mayor for this year, proposed by Cllr Gear and seconded by Cllr Irwin with a total of 7 in favour and 1 member against. Due to this, Cllr Fay was duly appointed to service for the term 2026-27.

A2605 - 2.Election of the Deputy Mayor for the Year 2026-27 – The Proper Officer declared that Cllr J Williams was the only nomination for Deputy Mayor proposed by Cllr Gear and seconded by Cllr Coulter with a total of 5 in favour, 2 abstentions and 1 member against. Due to this, Cllr J Williams was duly appointed to service for the term 2025-26. The Deputy Mayor signed her declaration of acceptance.

A2605 - 3.To receive Mayor's & Deputy Mayors declaration of acceptance of office – The Mayor and Deputy Mayor read out and signed their declarations of acceptance.

A2605 - 4.To receive apologies and reasons for absence – Apologies were received from Cllrs Newland and Schofield (work commitments).

A2605 - 5.To receive any dispensations and declarations of interest – None received.



Cllr Crabb arrived 6:07pm.

A2605 - 6. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 12th May 2025 –
Motion to approve and adopt the above minutes was proposed by Cllr Fay, seconded by Cllr J Williams with all in favour.

A2605 - 7. Responsible Finance Officer Reports

A2605 – 7.1. ITC 26036 – Year-end annual Financial Accounts and Statements 2025-26 – Motion to accept the year-end documents was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Fay with all in favour.

A2605 – 7.2. ITC 26037 – Draft Audit of Financial Accounts for AGAR 2025-26 – to review draft AGAR – to be agreed June 2026 Full Council – The draft was noted by members.

A2605 - 8. To receive annual reports from Mayor/Chairs of Committees/Working Group

A2605 – 8.1. Annual Report from Mayor – Noted.

A2605 – 8.2. Annual Report from Chair of F&GP – Noted.

A2605 – 8.3. Annual Report from Chair of Staffing – Noted.

A2605 – 8.4. Annual Report from Chair of Planning – Noted.

A2605 – 8.5. Annual Report from Chair of Devolution and LGR – Noted.

A2605 – 8.6. Annual Report from Police – Noted.

A2605 - 9. Adoption of Standing Orders and Council Financial regulations for the year 2026-27 – Motion to adopt the above was proposed by Cllr Fay, seconded by Cllr J Williams with all in favour.



A2605 - 10. Adoption of General and Financial Risk Assessment 2025-26 – Motion to adopt the above documents was proposed by Cllr Fay, seconded by Cllr Huggins with all in favour.

A2605 - 11. Adoption of Members' Code of Conduct 2026-27 – Motion to adopt the above documents was proposed by Cllr Fay, seconded by Cllr Coulter with all in favour.

A2605 - 12. Confirm eligibility and adoption of terms relating to General Power of Competence - Localism Act 2011 s1-8 – Motion to confirm the eligibility and adopt the above terms was proposed by Cllr Crabb, seconded by Cllr Fay all in favour.

A2605 - 13. To review and adopt Terms of Reference for committees:

A2605 – 13.1. Planning & Environmental – Motion to adopt the terms of reference was proposed by Cllr Fay, seconded by Cllr J Williams with all in favour.

A2605 – 13.2. Finance & General Purposes– Motion to adopt the terms of reference was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour.

A2605 – 13.3. Staffing– Motion to adopt the terms of reference was proposed by Cllr Fay, seconded by Cllr Irwin with all in favour.

A2605 – 13.4. Devolution & LGR– Motion to adopt the terms of reference was proposed by Cllr Fay, seconded by Cllr Crabb with all in favour.

A2605 - 14. Appointment of members for the following committees:

A2605 – 14.1. Planning & Environmental (7) – Motion to appoint the same members of the committee as they stand with the view to review at a later date, if necessary, was proposed for approval by Cllr Crabb, seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour.

A2605 – 14.2. Finance & General Purposes (9) – Motion to appoint the same members of the committee as they stand with the view to review at a later date, if necessary, was proposed for approval by Cllr Crabb, seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour.



44 High Street
Ilfracombe
EX34 9QB
Tel: 01271 855300

A2605 – 14.3. Staffing (5) – Motion to appoint the same members of the committee as they stand with the view to review at a later date, if necessary, was proposed for approval by Cllr Crabb, seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour.

A2605 – 14.4. Devolution & LGR (5-7) – Motion to appoint the same members of the committee as they stand with the view to review at a later date, if necessary, was proposed for approval by Cllr Crabb, seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour.

A2605 - 15. To agree Town Council Directors on One Ilfracombe Board – Cllrs Crabb and Turton both were happy to continue in their roles as directors on the board. With no other names put forward, all members were in favour for Cllrs Turton and Crabb to be directors on the board apart from 1 member against.

A2605 - 16. To agree Town Council Trustees of Vision Centre – Cllrs Elliott and D Williams both were happy to continue in their roles as trustees on the board. With no other names put forward Cllr Fay proposed that Cllrs Elliott and D Williams be the trustees, this was seconded by Cllr J Williams with all in favour.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:31pm, the next meeting will be held in May 2026 at a date to be determined.

Cllr Mark Fay (Mayor)
Ilfracombe Town Council
Chair

11/05/2026



44 High Street
Ilfracombe
EX34 9QB
Tel: 01271 855300

**ILFRACOMBE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES – 26 – 06
THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE ILFRACOMBE CENTRE, DEVON, EX34 9QB**

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7:00pm on Monday 8th June 2026

Members Present:

Cllrs: M Fay (Chair/Mayor), J Williams (Deputy Mayor), B Gear, G Coulter, T Elliott, P Crabb, D Turton, D Williams, T Huggins, T Ebert, N Basil, J Quinn, M Turnball, N Jenner, S Jennison

Officers Present:

L Donovan (Proper Officer), I Howard (Minute Taker), C Coombs (Responsible Finance Officer), S Seatherton (Programme Manager), C Lovett (Project Officer)

Others present: Pastor Geoff Hills, Cllr S Wilson and 6 members of the public.

2606 - 1. Welcome by Chair

Cllr Fay welcomed the assembled including the three new members who had signed their declarations of acceptance prior to the meeting.

2606 - 2. To receive and consider for approval, apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Schofield and Cllr Newland (personal).

2606 - 3. To receive and record Declarations of Interest as per Localism Act 2011 Section 31.

Cllr D Williams declared an interest in item 14.1. on the agenda.

2606 - 4. Chair's discretion – for any matters or announcements for Information only.

The PO and Cllr Wilson had items to raise.

2606 - 5. Public participation

A member of the public raised ongoing concerns about the Osborne Hotel site. The PO will raise these concerns at the upcoming IRB meeting.

A member of the public asked about ownership of the currently closed footpath at the junction of Wilder Road and Runnacleave Road, often referred to as the 'Old Golden Coast Site', and requested an update. It was explained that the footpath was closed because the culvert running through the site had eroded the pathway, creating a health and safety risk. DCC is in discussion with the site owner, as the culvert may need to be moved. Cllr Wilson will seek an update, and ITC will continue to press DCC and the site owner to have the footpath reopened.

Another member of the public raised concerns about overhanging hedgerows on St Brannocks Road. Cllr Wilson explained that cutting them back is the responsibility of the property owners, although DCC may take action in some cases where there is a health and safety risk. The PO will report this through the DCC portal and also raise it at a Town Team meeting.

Members of the public requested improvements to several beaches around the town following the closure of the Tunnels, including better water quality to encourage greater use. The PO will

raise this with NDC. Concerns were raised about ongoing anti-social behaviour in the town. The PO provided an update, including the news that some of the recurring youths involved have reached the first stage of the justice process, which was welcomed as positive progress.

2606 - 6. To determine which items, if any, of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded – Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1, Paragraph 2.

No items to be taken with the public excluded.

2606 - 7. To adopt minutes of Full Council Meeting held 11th May 2026 and to note matters, updates and actions arising.

These minutes were proposed for approval and adoption by Cllr Fay, seconded by Cllr Quinn with all in favour apart from 3 abstentions.

2606 - 8. Minutes of Staffing Committee meeting (to note and approve recommendations) – 18th May 2026 - Cllr M Fay – These minutes were noted by members.

2606 - 9. Minutes of Planning Committee meeting (to note and approve recommendations) – 18th May 2026 - Cllr J Williams – These minutes were noted by members.

2606 - 10. Minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting (to note and approve recommendations) – 25th May 2026 - Cllr T Huggins – These minutes were noted by members.

2606 – 10.1. F2605 – 9.3. To review and agree for recommendation to Full Council the updated Year-end Financial Statement – Report ITC 26036(updated) – Motion agree the above recommendation was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Coulter with all in favour. – Motion to agree the above recommendation was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour except for three abstentions.

2606– 10.2. F2605 – 9.4. To review and agree for recommendation to Full Council the Updated Draft Submission for AGAR – Report ITC 26037(updated) – Motion agree the above recommendation was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour. – Motion to agree the above recommendation was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr D Williams with all in favour except for three abstentions.

2606 – 10.3. F2605 – 9.5. To review and agree for recommendation to Full Council the 26/27 Reserves Portfolio and recommendations – Report ITC 26044 – Motion to agree the above recommendations was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Quinn with all in favour. – Motion to agree the above recommendation was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Coulter with all in favour except for three abstentions.

2606 – 10.4. F2605 – 9.6. To review and agree for recommendation to Full Council the continuation of the Merseyside Fire Services loan for 2026/27 – Motion to agree the above recommendations was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Quinn with all in favour. – Motion to agree the above recommendation was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Turton with all in favour except for four abstentions.

2606– 10.5. F2605 – 10.4. To review and approve recommendations in relation to Public Toilet Door as per Report ITC 26047 – Motion to approve the above recommendations related to the report was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Quinn with all in

favour. – Motion to agree the above recommendation was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour except for three abstentions.

2606 - 11. ITC 26049 – Proper Officer Report

2606-11.1. To agree Councillor Champion roles for 2026/27 – Motion to agree the below champion roles for 2026/27 was proposed by Cllr Fay, seconded by Cllr D Williams with all in favour.

- **Place – Cllr B Gear**
- **Volunteer – Cllr T Huggins**
- **Housing – Cllr P Crabb**
- **Youth – Cllr D Williams**
- **Business/Tourism – Cllr J Williams and Cllr M Newland**
- **Public Health – Cllr T Elliott**
- **Environment – Cllr N Basil**
- **ASB – Cllr M Newland**

2606 – 11.2. To consider reinstatement of flag poles & flags on The Ilfracombe Centre – After discussion, Cllr Crabb proposed an amendment to the motion which is that the flagpole be reinstated and the default flag be the Union Jack but this can be changed in line with any special events that are happening at the time. This was seconded by Cllr D Williams with 10 voting members voting for and 5 against

2606 – 11.3. To agree a Solar Panel working group – Cllrs Crabb, Gear, Jenner and Jennison volunteered to be on the working group.

2606 – 11.4. To agree to Option 1 or 2 for replacement of laptops – Motion to agree to Option 2 in the report and replace all 7 laptops was proposed by Cllr Fay, seconded by Cllr Huggins with all in favour.

Cllr D Williams left the meeting at 8:08pm.

2606 - 12. ITC 26050 – Responsible Finance Officer Report

2606 – 12.1. To review and agree current accounting status – The accounting status was provided and agreed by members.

2606 – 12.2. To review and agree invoices for payment – Cllr Huggins proposed to agree the submitted invoices, including those on the addendum, for payment, this was seconded by Cllr Quinn with all in favour.

Cllr D Williams rejoined the meeting at 8:16pm.

2606 – 12.3. To review and agree bank signatories for 26-27 – Motion to agree the signatories as stated in the report was proposed by Cllr Fay, seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour

2606 – 12.4. To review and agree Direct Debits and Standing Orders for 26-27 – Motion to agree the above direct debits and standing orders was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Quinn with all in favour.

2606 - 13. ITC 26051 – Programme Manager Report – including One Ilfracombe update – The PM gave a brief overview of his report, and Project Officer Charmain highlighted updates on current and upcoming projects. A question was raised about the Volunteers Week event,

and the PM explained that it was intended only for volunteers working under the ITC umbrella. He added that inviting all volunteers in the town would require a much larger event and budget. It was also noted that the wording of the social media post may have been misleading.

2606 – 14. To receive reports/proposals from Ilfracombe Town Councillors

2606 – 14.1. ITC 26052 – Cllr T Elliott report - Parking issues for residents of Ilfracombe

– Following discussion, members agreed that this issue should be explored further. Cllr Wilson will begin discussions on initial steps for a parking review including residents' parking and in-town bus services. The PO will also make initial enquiries with other towns that have similar services to assess how they operate and whether they are viable. Cllr Elliott also gave a verbal update on the feedback that was circulated earlier on the training she attended recently that explained the new Planning Reform Laws.

2606 – 15. To receive reports from County and District Councillors – Updates were received verbally from Cllr Crabb, Quinn and Wilson.

2606 – 16. To receive reports from Working Groups and Councillor Champions

2607 – 16.1. ITC 26053 – Youth Champion Report – Cllr D Williams – This report was noted by members.

2606 - 17. IRB update – There is a meeting planned for Wednesday, updates will be fed back in due course.

2606 – 18. To receive correspondence/licenses/notices

2606 – 18.1. PCC response – To review and agree a response – After discussion, Cllr Crabb proposed that the PO send a response letter to PCC Hernandez asking what policing resources Ilfracombe currently has and what evidence is needed from the Town Council to support the case for additional resources. This was seconded by Cllr D Williams and agreed unanimously. Cllr Huggins also requested that PCC Hernandez be invited to Ilfracombe or to a meeting to gain a better understanding of the town and the issues it faces.

2606 – 18.2. Youth Worker request for support – To review and agree a response – Motion to agree the response was proposed by Cllr D Williams, seconded by Cllr Quinn with all in favour.

2606 – 19. Chairs Discretion – for information only – The PO highlighted the email regarding national landscapes that was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Wilson informed members that the Peoples Emergency Briefing film will be shown at the landmark on the 21st of June at 1pm. The viewing is free but requires booking.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:18hrs, the next Full Council Meeting will take place on Monday 13th July 2026 at 19:00hrs in the Council Chambers.

Cllr Mark Fay (Mayor)
Ilfracombe Town Council
Chair

08/06/2026



44 High Street
Ilfracombe
EX34 9QB
Tel: 01271 855300

**ILFRACOMBE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES – 26 – 06
THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE ILFRACOMBE CENTRE, DEVON, EX34 9QB**

Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held at 7:00pm on
Monday 15th June 2026

Members Present:

Cllrs: D Williams (Deputy Chair), N Basil, G Coulter, G Schofield

Officers Present:

I Howard (Minute Taker), L Donovan (Proper Officer)

P2506 - 1. Welcome by Chair

In Cllr J Williams absence (Chair), Cllr D Williams welcomed the assembled as Deputy Chair.

P2506 - 2. To receive and consider for approval, apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr J Williams (personal).

P2506 - 3. To receive and record Declarations of Interest as per Localism Act 2011 Section 31.

None received.

P2506 - 4. Chair's discretion – for any matters or announcements for Information only.

The MT had an item to raise.

P2506 - 5. Public participation

None received.

P2506 - 6. To adopt minutes of Planning meeting held 18th May 2026 and to note matters arising.

Motion to adopt the minutes was proposed by Cllr Coulter and seconded by Cllr Schofield, with all members in favour.

P2506 - 7. To determine which items, if any, of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded – Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1, Paragraph 2.

No items to be taken with the public excluded.

P2506 - 8. To consider planning policies, applications and appeals received and resolve to submit comments where appropriate. Please note that any applications received following the issue of this agenda will be considered (Appendix I – to be circulated)

Application Number	Applicant	Detail	End of consultation	Comments
81086	William Davis	Siting of rural worker's caravan and regularisation of, and extension to barn. Extension of polytunnels. Creation of a farm shop. Enlargement of existing hard standings and associated landscaping (amended description) - Amary Farm Dibbons Lane Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8LL	01/07/2026	
Discussion: After discussion, members agreed to the support, subject to the regulations set in the application being adhered to. Recommendation: Support. Motion to support this application was proposed by Cllr Basil, seconded by Cllr Coulter with all in favour.				
81819	Mr and Mrs Lewis	Single storey front extension - Hilldale 1 Park Way Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8ER	02/07/2026	
Discussion: No major concerns were raised with this application. Recommendation: Support. Motion to support this application was proposed by Cllr Basil, seconded by Cllr Coulter with all in favour.				
81785	Poltair Homes	Approval of details in respect of part discharge of condition 12 (highways) and 19 (drainage) attached to planning permission 75724 erection of residential development of 46 dwellings together with associated infrastructure - Land to the east of Worth Road Ilfracombe	16/06/2026	To note only
Discussion: This application was noted by members.				

81789	National Trust	Approval of details in respect of discharge of condition 21 (construction programme for Beach Car Park) attached to planning permission 72859 (Part demolition & conversion, extension & alteration of existing hotel to form 17 No. dwellings; erection of 4 No. homes, erection of cafe facilities and associated works, landscaping, drainage & highway works (amended/further plans/documents)) - Lee Bay Hotel Lee Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8LR	N/A	To note only
-------	----------------	---	-----	--------------

Discussion: This application was noted by members.

81853	Nationwide Building Society	Installation of stand-alone frame with defibrillator and bleed kit cabinets for community use - Pavement opposite Richardsons Newsagents 24 High Street Ilfracombe Devon EX34 9DA	09/07/2026	Appendix 1
-------	-----------------------------	---	------------	------------

Discussion: After discussion, members agreed to welcome and support this application but noted that the proposed location may not be the most suitable, as it is directly opposite an existing defibrillator. Members felt that, in consultation with ITC, a more appropriate location for the cabinets could be identified. The PO will contact the applicant and the assigned planning officer to discuss these options.

Recommendation: Comments.

Motion to make the above comments on this application was proposed by Cllr Schofield, seconded by Cllr D Williams with all in favour.

81780	Martin Mulligan	Change of use and subdivision of a personal training fitness suite to 3 Class E units - Ground Floor 38A St Brannocks Road Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8EH	03/07/2026	Appendix 1
Discussion: No concerns were raised with this application. Recommendation: Support. Motion to support this application was proposed by Cllr Basil, seconded by Cllr Schofield with all in favour.				
81844	Martin Mulligan	Conversion of a personal training fitness suite to create 3 residential units - Ground Floor 38A St Brannocks Road Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8EH	03/07/2026	Appendix 1
Discussion: No concerns were raised with this application. Recommendation: Support. Motion to support this application was proposed by Cllr Basil, seconded by Cllr Schofield with all in favour.				

P2506 - 9. NDC Decisions – See Planning Notes – Read Out.

P2506 - 10. Correspondence – None received.

P2506 - 11. Chairs Discretion – for information only – The MT highlighted an email from NDC Planning informing ITC that a new TPO has been created for the Red House, St Brannock's Road, Ilfracombe. All relevant documentation will be circulated following the meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 19:30hrs, the next Planning Committee Meeting will take place Monday 20th July 2026 at 19:00hrs in the Council Chambers.

Cllr D Williams
Vice Chair
Ilfracombe Town Council

15/06/2026



44 High Street
Ilfracombe
EX34 9QB
Tel: 01271 855300

Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Monday 22nd June 2026 at 7:00 pm
Venue – Council Chamber – The Ilfracombe Centre, High Street, Ilfracombe

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Meeting held at 7:00pm on Monday
22nd June 2026

Members Present:

Cllrs: T Huggins (Chair), J Quinn (Deputy Chair), G Coulter, B Gear, J Irwin, N Basil, P
Crabb, S Jennison

Officers Present:

L Donovan (Proper Officer) and I Howard (Minute Taker)

F2606 - 1. Welcome by Chair – Cllr Huggins welcomed the assembled. Cllr Jennison was present at the meeting, Cllr Turton proposed that he be coopted onto this committee, this was seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour.

F2606 - 2. To receive and consider for approval, apologies and reasons for absence. – None received.

F2606 - 3. To receive and record Declarations of Interest – None received.

F2606 - 4. Chair's discretion – The PO/ had an item to raise.

F2606 - 5. Public participation – None received.

F2606 - 6. To adopt minutes of F&GP meeting held 26th May 2026 and to note matters arising. – Motion to adopt these minutes were approved by Cllr Crabb, seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour. The PO provided members with updates on agreed actions from the previous committee meeting.

F2606 - 7. To determine which items, if any, of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded – Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1, Paragraph 2. – No items to be taken with the public excluded.

F2606 - 8. Finance and Audit – RFO Report ITC 26054

F2606 – 8.1. To approve and authorise Accounts and authorise by signature monthly bank reconciliations. – Due to the RFOs absence, the monthly reconciliations will be deferred until July's meeting, however, Cllr Huggins proposed to approve and authorise the accounts as they stand. This was seconded by Cllr Irwin with all in favour.

F2606 – 8.2. To receive and approve items of expenditure including addendum submitted on the day. – Cllr Huggins proposed that all expenditure items be approved for payment, subject to clarification of the King Shaxon/Merseyside Fire amount, as members believed the correct figure was approximately £43,500. This was seconded by Cllr Crabb and unanimously agreed.

F2606 - 9. General Purposes

F2606 – 9.1. Town Team Update – [via link](#) – The most recent meeting took place last week and the minutes are due to be circulated shortly. The PO gave a brief overview of key points during the meeting.

F2606 – 9.2. IRB update – The PO informed members that the Community Land Trust attended this meeting to give an update on the work happening recently. Other notable points were raised and minutes should be available soon.

F2606 – 9.3. To consider maintenance equipment funding – The PO advised that DCC may make £1,000 in HMCEF funding available to go towards the purchase of a Leaf & Litter Vacuum for the facilities team, leaving a balance of £699 (including VAT) to be paid. Cllr Huggins proposed that the remaining amount be paid if the funding is awarded. This was seconded by Cllr Gear, with all in favour.

F2606 – 9.4. To agree repair of server room air conditioning unit – Motion to agree the repair costs was proposed by Cllr Huggins, seconded by Cllr Quinn with all in favour.

F2606 – 9.5. To review and agree restoration of Town Crest mosaic – Members requested the PO look for further quotes before making a decision.

F2606 – 9.6. ITC 26029A To accept grant applications and approve for payment – Cllr Huggins proposed to increase the amount of the One Ilfracombe Youth Club grant payment to £668.01 and accept the other grant applications stated in the report. This was seconded by Cllr Irwin with all in favour.

F2606 – 9.7. Update on building occupancy and agree any potential adjustments – The PO and MT updated members on the possibility of a current Ilfracombe Centre occupant reducing their occupied space and renegotiating their lease terms. Following discussion, it was agreed that the occupant should be advised of the current price per square metre so they can calculate the cost if they reduce the number of rooms occupied. Further updates will be provided in due course.

F2606 - 10. Correspondence – None received.

F2606 - 11. Chairs Discretion – for information only – The MT informed members a quote had been received for the valuation and cleaning of the Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Consorto Regalia. This will be investigated further and brought back at a later date for a decision, if necessary.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:05hrs, the next Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting will take place on Monday 27th July 2026 at 19:00hrs in the Council Chambers.

Cllr Trevor Huggins
Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee
Ilfracombe Town Council

22/06/2026



REPORT TO: Full Council
DATE: 8th July 2026
SUBJECT: Proper Officer Report
PREPARED BY: Laura Donovan

REPORT NO: ITC 26055

INTRODUCTION

This report is an update on Ilfracombe Town Council activity and work taken place as of 3rd June 2026 to 8th July 2026.

REPORT

Councillor Champions

Following on from June's Full Council meeting the only available role left was that of Culture. Following consideration Cllr Turnbull has requested that she be put forward for the role.

Recommendation 10.1. To agree Councillor Champion for Culture role for 2026/27

Solar Panels

The solar panel working group met up on the 22nd June to discuss the situation with the current solar panels. It was agreed to bring a quote for repair of the current solar panels to Council as an interim measure. Further investigation and work will be undertaken in relation energy efficiency at the Lantern/Ilfracombe Centre/car parks and Vision centre.

Recommendation 10.2. To agree the solar panel repair quote.

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

We received notification today that CAB will be returning to the Ilfracombe Centre on Thursdays weekly from next week. It will be a by appointment only service and will need to be prebooked. They currently have three pre-bookable appointments available each week, and we expect this service to continue on a weekly basis for the foreseeable future. Clients can book an appointment using the self-booking form here: [Ilfracombe outreach appointments](#)

Please note that appointments must be booked in advance. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer a drop-in service at Ilfracombe, and only clients with a confirmed appointment can be seen.

Vehicle Insurance Claim

Following the accident that took place on Monday late afternoon involving our Vauxhall van, I have logged this with our insurance company. The accident is under investigation and we are trying to find out about the possibility of whether contractor costs or vehicle hire costs can be covered.

PCC ASB Business Meeting

This was due to take place on the 1st July but was cancelled by the PCC. The new date is the 30th July 2026 at 5:30pm in the Lantern Club Room. Can I encourage member to attend please.

Parish Forum Meeting

NDC Parish Forum meeting is to take place on Thursday 30th July, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Brynsworthy Environment Centre.

They will be covering:

- Local Government Reorganisation, and
- The Local Plan

This is a hybrid meeting therefore if you wish to attend virtually this too can be arranged. If any members wish to attend please confirm as I need to respond by Friday 17th July.

Devolution and LGR

Cllr Crabb, Chair of the Devolution and LGR Committee, and I attended a consultation meeting held by DALC and DCC at County Hall on 22nd June. The event provided an opportunity for councils to share experiences, identify common concerns, and consider how local councils can work collaboratively to respond to the changes ahead.

The main take away from the meeting is that all councils in the Devon area are experiencing the same issues and concerns. Cllr Crabb has issued a report with further information.

Government decision on LGR for Devon should be out later this month.

Local Plan Consultation

The People and Places Team at North Devon and Torridge District Councils, are working together to prepare a new local plan for northern Devon. ITC will be taking this to the Planning Committee to draft a response on behalf of the Council. This draft response will be brought to Full Council for approval at Augusts meeting.

If any councillor would like to respond as a resident please do so by visiting the [North Devon and Torridge Consultation Portal](#) and completing the questionnaire.

IT Updates

Most officer laptops have now been replaced with only a couple needing to be completed.

Vacant Spaces in the Lantern and Ilfracombe Centre

The Lantern Nursery space has now been published on our social media channels and we are hoping for some interest. Can all councillors please push this message out.

In relation to the tenants who had issued notice at the Ilfracombe Centre, this has been suspended and will continue until the end of September. At this point they will be reducing their space requirements. We are in discussions with other services to see if we can find a collaborative way of utilising the space.

DALC Connect Events

DALC has held a number of Connect Events recently that may be of interest. These are:

- [Connect Event | Age-Friendly Town and Parish Guide](#)
- [Libraries Unlimited](#)
- [Spatial Development Strategies](#)

Lee & Lincombe Update from Pat Coates

1. Lee Bay development

- Work continues at the former hotel site but at a greatly reduced pace now.
- The site workforce and management team has reduced in past month.
- There is still some work to be completed on the outside of the apartment building including reinstating the former chimney on the South facing aspect.
- The latest estimate for completion is the end of July for the inside of the apartments and late Autumn to complete outside work. The 4 houses are completed.
- Once the inside of the building is finished there will be a push on the outside grounds including the Public Seating Area near The Old Mill.
- On Rightmove sales still appear to be slow reflecting the current property market.

2. The National Trust Car Park

- Work started on the car park in June. Lots more earth has been removed from the site.
- The National Trust are hoping to be able to open the car park late September 2026.
- The NT have put the operation of the cafe out to tender. Tenders to be in by mid July.
- The Project Manager and the Lead Ranger will attend the rescheduled LLRA meeting/ AGM on 23rd July and give a

presentation on car park plans and answer questions from residents.

3. The public toilets are up and running and looking good following painting by ops team and planting of tubs outside by the cleaner.



4. Road Closure

- The road into Lee was closed from late evening on the 16th June until 10.00 am on the 17th June owing to a large tree at Ivybank becoming uprooted and ending up completely blocking the road.
- Highways and their tree surgeons came out on the 16th to clear what they could in the dark and finished on the morning of the 17th.

5. Dates

- Rescheduled LLRA (Lee & Lincombe Residents Association) AGM 23rd July at 7.00 pm. The meeting is for residents/ members and apart from the National Trust presentation, County Councillor Sara Wilson will attend to meet residents and give a short update/ take questions.
- Lee Art and Crafts Fair at Lee Memorial Hall 1-9th August from 11.00 am-4.00 pm. Refreshments available.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
1-9 August	Lee Arts & Crafts Fair
22 August	Soapbox Derby
28 August	Welcome Weekender - Landmark

Date	Event
30 August	Carnival
5 Sept	Bike Show
5-6 Sept	Sea Ilfracombe



REPORT TO: Full Council
DATE: 6th July 2026
SUBJECT: Local Government Reorganisation Meeting at County Hall hosted by Devon County Council
PREPARED BY: Councillor Paul Crabb, Chair of LGR Review Committee

Many Town and larger Parish councils had been invited. I estimate there were 100 people in the room, perhaps representing 50 councils. DCC were hosting the meeting, which is likely to have been called as a result of the recent 'Peer Review' criticising Devon for lack of cohesion with smaller councils.

Julian Brazil, DCC leader opened by saying that he knew no more than anyone else, and until mid July, we are all in the dark to an extent. He confirmed that where Devon were to off load any responsibility to Town Councils during the LGR process, that relevant funding would accompany the transfer. (This contrasts sharply with NDC, but let's see what happens, talk is cheap). He then outlined the likely process, assuming nothing changes with the new PM. May 27 will be a shadow election for the new authority. Depending on the size of the unitary, the number of councillors will vary. A small unitary could offer more seats, but a large pan Devon would be ungovernable with any more than 2 councillors per division. It is possible that existing (NDC) authorities will not need to re elect, as it would only be for 12 months, and the new shadow authority would be gaining traction during this period anyway. May 28 would be when the new councillors 'take charge', although as members will be aware, 'taking charge' very much depends on who the new chief exec is!

Donna Manson, DCC CEO then spoke and reiterated her view that many services would best be served by a large efficient organisation. (Presumably similar to DCC?) I happen to agree on that point, but only in a personal capacity. She went on to explain that all Section 151 officers were meeting and talking regularly, and the plan was for all lower councils to get treated broadly the same. This was at odds with Towns in Mid Devon who have been unable to acquire ANY assets from Mid Devon, whereas they will only offer a 99 year lease. (This maybe because Mid Devon is in large debt following a social housing scheme that went wrong, so maybe they need the freehold to guarantee the debt?). The main thing 151

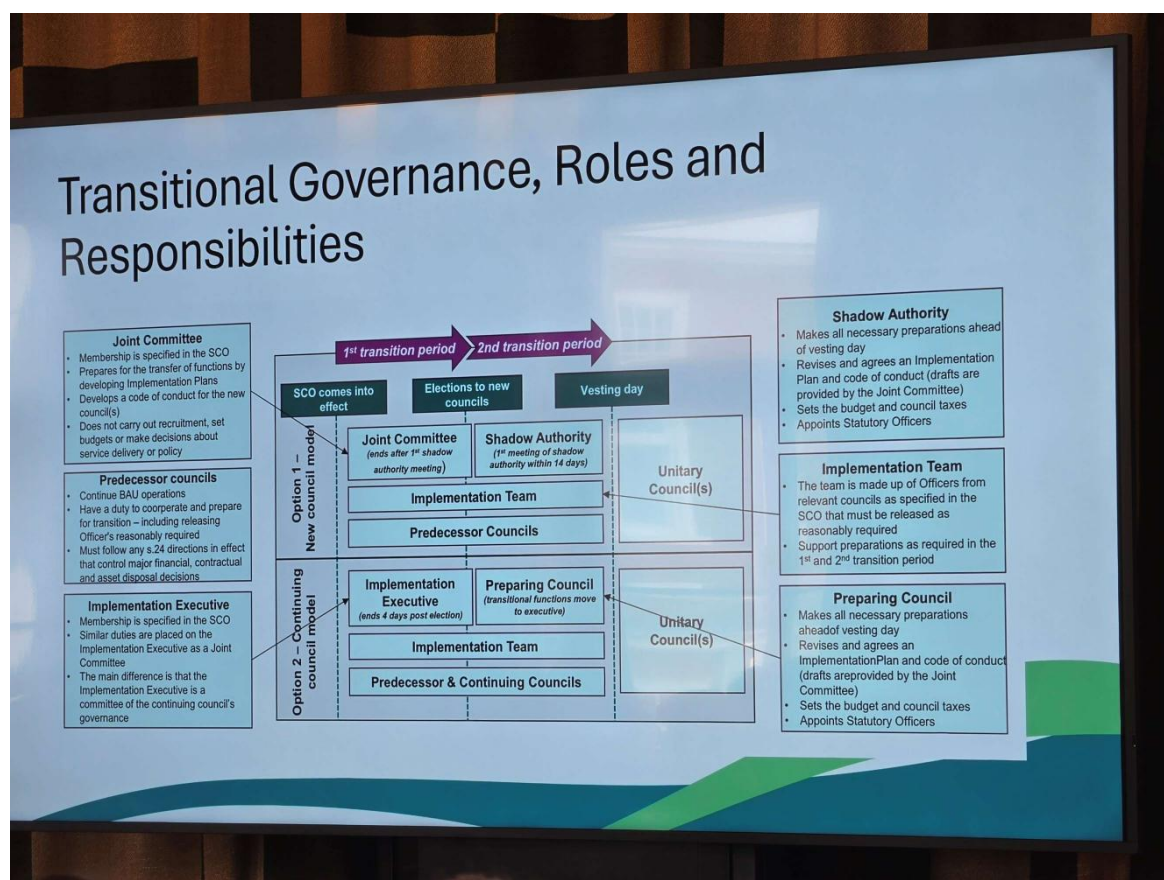
officers are working towards is an authority that does not need special measures.

As we have discovered, there will be a problem where Towns have to provide local services, and might expect nearby villages to pay some compensation. All agreed this was unlikely to be forthcoming, hence a risk to our council tax.

We were split into tables of approximately 10 people, and asked for our views on how we had been treated by County and Districts. Asset transfer dominated ALL the tables, and considerable frustration was expressed by almost all councils in the room. We were reassured that no one can force a smaller council to accept a service or accept an asset, it was entirely down to the councils themselves whether to get involved.

It is still possible that we will get a Mayor of Devon and Cornwall, possibly Somerset and Dorset, especially now the new PM has made it his ambition. Nothing has been done yet though.

Date of next meeting I believe to be 30th Sept, where a Northern Devon meeting will be held.

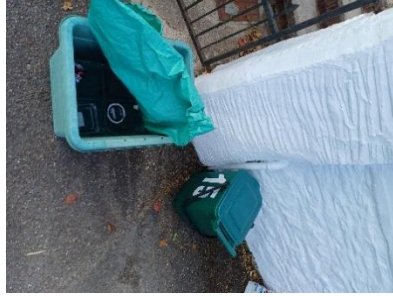




REPORT TO:	Full Council	REPORT NO: ITC 26059
DATE:	8 th July 2026	
SUBJECT:	Kerbside Recycling Collection – Environment Champion Report	
PREPARED BY:	Cllr Neil Basil	

For a while I have been noticing items being left by recycling crews with no explanation, green and brown bags being left to blow around and, basically, the area being left less tidy after the recycling crew than it was before they visited. I have had complaints from residents about this and have talk to a few others about their frustration with this. I have taken a few pictures of the scene after the recycling round has passed through.





The most commonly left item is cardboard. On the website they ask that cardboard is left in a brown bag, householders are allowed 2 brown bags. However most householders do not have two brown bags and some have none, having lost them when they were blown away after previous collections. It seems sensible for the collectors to collect the cardboard left loose, and perhaps to also leave the householder a brown bag to use next time.

Next we have recyclables left in containers other than recycling boxes (as in the 4th and 7th pictures above): again these should be collected – again leaving recycling boxes for the residents to use in future.

Then we have containers of recyclables not collected because some items in them are either not recyclable or (more often) are recyclable but are in the wrong container. This can be glass in the green box (instead of the blue box), cartons in the green or blue box (instead of the brown bag) cardboard in the green bag, and so on. A new feature has become – owing to the soft plastics trial – bags of plastic left because they were not in the green bag.

Finally much of the time the empty boxes seem to be thrown down rather than placed where they were, bags are often left so they can blow away and debris is left on the ground.

To most householders the rationale behind all the different boxes and bags makes little sense, and while they want to do things right they are unlikely to go to North Devon Council's website to check what they are supposed to be doing. The kerbside collection gangs should be keen to recycle all they can and to be ambassadors for the scheme, educating the general public so they can do it right. Leaving things behind that are not correctly presented does not do this, it rather leaves the impression that the operatives do not care about the job and so discourages recycling.

PROPOSAL

That Ilfracombe Town Council writes to North Devon Council to ask them to ensure that their operatives;

1. After their collection, leave the area at least as tidy as it was before the collection:
 - bags are left so that they cannot blow away
 - no residual litter is left
 - in general it looks tidy
2. Nothing except the recycling is left without there also being an explanatory note also left to explain why these items were not collected.
3. Where it is obvious that the resident is missing a recycling container one is left for them or a delivery of it is arranged.
4. Do their utmost to ensure that all recyclable items are collected



REPORT TO: Full Council
DATE: 8th July 2026
SUBJECT: Public Health Champion Report for Full Council
PREPARED BY: Cllr Terry Elliott

Male Mental Health

This month I want to draw attention to the worrying number of incidents of men taking their own lives in Ilfracombe. I attended a Living Well meeting recently to discuss this extremely worrying development to discuss what actions can be taken by us as a Town, and as a Council, alongside statutory and third sector agencies to prevent more incidents of male suicide. In the discussion I was shocked to learn that 3 deaths by suicide in a week did not activate an automatic concern on the radar of Public Health England or any other health agency. The discussion therefore moved on to what actions we can take locally. The full details will be in an Officer Report but there are potentially 3 actions:

1. Educate the public around suicide prevention and what signs to look for that someone may not be coping and how to have sensitive and supportive conversations.
2. Enable training opportunities for public facing bodies to enable them to be better skilled at suicide prevention with clients or service users who may be experiencing a mental health crisis.
3. Make the public aware of services that exist to support people who are having suicidal thoughts and to ensure that these services are receiving the funding they need. There should be particular focus on mental health groups specifically for men such as 'Man Down' but also highlighting support phone lines such as the 'Samaritans' as well as well-being opportunities for men such as the 'Men's Shed' and a new men's group that is starting. We know that not every man feels able to access help due to stigma and shame BUT as a Town Council we should be advocating that we have the mental health services in our Town to meet the needs of our population.

Support for people with dementia and their carers - Musical Memories

My intention is to visit as many health and well-being opportunities in Ilfracombe as possible in order to highlight what is available, but also the gaps in provision given that we have significant health inequality and a higher than average elderly population. Unfortunately, with the closure of Burrow House some years ago, Ilfracombe lost an incredibly valuable service offering practical and emotional support to people with dementia and their carers. Services for people with memory loss are now patchy and comprehensive practical support

is hard to find. We have a specialist consultant led 'Health Care for Older People' clinic every other week at the Tyrrell which is diagnostic and follow up. People with care needs can be assessed through Devon County Council Adult Social Care. Carers for people with dementia can contact the County wide organisation Devon Carers for advice and information but actual opportunities for practical and emotional assistance are extremely thin on the ground and run by volunteers or churches.

I visited Musical Memories on the 7th of July to join them for the afternoon and find out more about what they offer. They run a relaxed social afternoon for people with memory loss and their carers every other Tuesday at Slade Vision Centre. The session is mainly focused on music and singing but it begins with social time chatting over a cuppa before moving on to a mixture of songs, poems and low-key memory games alongside gentle chair-based exercise. There is a raffle and more refreshments at the end. It's a chance for friendship, social interaction and to have some fun. When I visited there were around 20 attendees including carers. There are also a wonderful group of volunteers who run the session making sure that everyone is welcome and involved. Musical percussion instruments are provided and lots of lovely touches such as fresh flowers on the tables which the carers get to take home. Everyone is made to feel valued, and I spoke to many of the carers and the people attending and they could not praise this opportunity enough.

As a Town Council it is important to recognise the work of groups like Musical Memories as they play a huge part in breaking down the loneliness and isolation that people with dementia and their carers face. Attending these sessions means that people are connected and if people are struggling then it's an opportunity for someone to recognise this and ensure that they can get help. This group, like many others, has to fund itself to provide this opportunity and I wonder if there is more we can do to support the wonderful work they do as volunteers improving the well-being of older residents with dementia related illnesses and their carers?'



REPORT TO: Full Council
DATE: 8th July 2026
SUBJECT: Ilfracombe Town Council Youth Champion Report July 2026
PREPARED BY: Cllr David Williams

Visit to Ilfracombe Academy

On 10 June 2026, I was invited to visit Ilfracombe Academy in my capacity as an Ilfracombe Town Councillor and Youth Champion for the Council. Prior to the visit, I met with Town Council officers to discuss potential topics that would be beneficial to explore with the Academy and identify areas where the Town Council may be able to support future work. I invited Cllr June Williams to join as she was also interested in seeing the school as she's not had the opportunity to visit before.

The visit began at 8:30am with attendance at the staff morning briefing, providing a valuable insight into how the Academy prepares for each school day. We then observed the Year 11 morning welcome before many students departed to sit their GCSE Mathematics examination.

One of the Academy's strongest themes is ensuring every student begins the day positively. During tutor time (referred to as Period 0), staff check that pupils are prepared for learning, correctly equipped, and, most importantly, take the opportunity to ensure students are feeling well and ready for the day ahead.

Each lesson begins with a simple countdown of "1, 2, 3", signalling to pupils that it is time to prepare themselves for learning. This creates a calm and consistent transition into every lesson.

Every student is provided with a pencil case containing essential equipment, including a pen, pencil and a personalised lesson planner. Spare equipment is readily available should students forget theirs. We were advised that the Academy invests approximately £3,000 annually in ensuring pupils have the resources they need to learn effectively.

A significant focus of the Academy is improving literacy. Every year group begins the day with a structured reading programme. Teachers read aloud from carefully selected texts, such as Sherlock Holmes, whilst pupils follow the text independently. Students then complete comprehension questions and are encouraged to discuss their answers with classmates before participating in wider class discussions.

Staff explained that improving reading ability has a direct impact on confidence, behaviour and overall academic achievement. Currently, 256 pupils are reading below their chronological reading age. Rather than employing large numbers of teaching assistants, the Academy has chosen to invest in high-quality classroom teaching, believing this provides the greatest long-term benefit for pupils. During our visit we observed the programme in action and were shown examples of how student progress is carefully tracked over time.

Throughout the morning we visited a number of classrooms across different year groups. We also discussed the Academy's support for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), where staff emphasised early intervention, tailored support and maintaining high expectations. One particularly welcome sight during the visit was meeting Milo, the Academy's therapy dog, who regularly works with students to provide emotional support and wellbeing.

After leaving one Year 7 classroom we were informed it was one of the Academy's lower ability teaching groups, something that was impossible to identify simply by observing behaviour and engagement within the lesson.

We visited a classroom being led by a student teacher. Staff explained that Ilfracombe Academy has developed an excellent reputation for supporting trainee teachers to become fully qualified professionals through tailored mentoring and development opportunities. The main thing from this we didn't realise this was a student teacher till told after, showing us how this training program didn't effect the students educations as the teaching was the same. During many conversations with teachers and staff they expressed how they feel supported by the Academy to offer high-quality teaching.

A recurring message throughout the visit was the Academy's clear ethos of "Dream Big."

This philosophy is supported by three key principles:

Teaching – delivering consistently high-quality teaching through clear modelling, regular recap, checking understanding and deliberate practice.

Relationships – ensuring staff know every pupil well whilst building positive relationships with parents and families.

Support – providing structured support through the Academy's "4 Cs":

- Clarify
- Chunk
- Club
- Challenge

Alongside these principles, staff also promote the acronym FREE:

- Focus
- Remind
- Encourage
- Every Second Counts

The Academy clearly believes that high expectations combined with strong support enable every young person to fulfil their potential.

The Academy operates a Student Forum, which has recently discussed issues such as the use of mobile phones in school. Alongside this, the Academy regularly conducts Student Voice surveys, typically receiving response rates of around 40%, considerably higher than many public consultations.

There was enthusiasm from Academy staff to work with Ilfracombe Town Council. They suggested that, as an initial step, the Council could distribute a digital survey through the Student Voice process to gather young people's views on local issues before potentially attending the school to speak directly with students in the future.

I believe this presents an excellent opportunity to strengthen engagement between the Town Council and young people within our community.

The Academy shared several encouraging performance indicators:

- The majority of pupils have improved their predicted grades by at least half a grade.
- GCSE English and Mathematics pass rates increased from 59% in 2023 to 74% in 2025.
- Outcomes for pupils with SEND improved significantly from 16.7% in 2023 to 58.6% in 2025.

Year 11 students now have an extended school day until 4:15pm, providing additional supported study time in preparation for GCSE examinations.

Attendance has improved significantly:

- 2022/23: 89.6%
- 2025/26: 92.7%

The Academy is now ranked within the top nine of 43 schools for attendance.

Exclusions have reduced dramatically, with only three permanent exclusions recorded during 2025/26.

The Academy also highlighted that approximately 38.9% of pupils come from families living below the poverty line, reinforcing the significant challenges many students face outside school.

Encouragingly, the number of pupils being home educated has reduced substantially:

- 2023/24: 40 pupils
- 2024/25: 21 pupils
- 2025/26: 10 pupils

Staff believe this reflects improved engagement with parents and successful work encouraging families to return children to mainstream education. The

Academy has also welcomed several pupils transferring from other schools, including Braunton, during the academic year. Recently they have ended the School year with more students than they started with.

We visited the Academy's Reflection provision, where pupils who require time away from mainstream lessons continue to follow their normal curriculum rather than simply being removed from learning. The emphasis remains on helping pupils understand their behaviour, continue their education, receive one-to-one support where necessary and successfully reintegrate into normal lessons with their peers. The overriding aim is to help every young person become a better version of themselves.

Athena Learning Trust

Although Ilfracombe Academy operates as part of the Athena Learning Trust, the Headteacher explained that the Academy remains mindful of the unique challenges faced within Ilfracombe. Rather than applying trust-wide initiatives without adaptation, the Academy seeks to adopt best practice whilst tailoring its approach to meet the needs of the local community.

During the visit there was brief discussion regarding reports of an upcoming BBC Panorama programme concerning Athena trust. The Headteacher explained that, to his understanding, the programme related to matters involving another academy trust in South Cornwall and was not connected to Ilfracombe Academy. He was very confident the Academy would be okay and not affected by any external events.

My Personal Reflections

As someone who attended Ilfracombe Academy myself, it was both interesting and encouraging to return in a very different capacity.

I appreciate that not everyone agrees with every aspect of the academy system or individual school policies. However, I can only report on what I personally observed during the visit. I found the school to have a calm, purposeful atmosphere with respectful relationships between staff and students. Every member of staff I met demonstrated genuine passion for supporting young people and helping them succeed.

The Academy has clearly invested considerable effort into improving attendance, behaviour, literacy and academic outcomes whilst maintaining a strong focus on student wellbeing.

I believe there are opportunities for Ilfracombe Town Council to strengthen its relationship with the Academy, particularly through the Student Voice programme and future engagement with young people. I discussed this in some detail with the headteacher and already we have seen improvements in communication between Academy and Council since our visit. I look forward to exploring more of these opportunities over the coming months. The Head teacher expressed interest in visiting the town Council again after summer to talk to the council about how the Academy is progressing. I am sure the council will welcome this opportunity to speak to him again.

Academy visit in the 6th July.

On 6th July, I was invited to visit the Academy to speak about the Youth Club during a Year 7 and Year 8 assembly.

The assembly began with an important safeguarding presentation covering county lines, online safety, staying safe in town, and water safety. These are all vital topics to raise awareness of, particularly when you consider that 19 people tragically lost their lives in the water during the last half term. It was encouraging to see the Academy taking the time to educate students on these important issues.

Following the safeguarding presentation, I spoke about the Youth Club, the history to why and the opportunities it provides for young people. The presentation also gave me the chance to talk about some of the wider work taking place in Ilfracombe, including efforts to make our streets safer and the Town Council's ambition to establish a Youth Council, giving young people a stronger voice in shaping their community.

I was delighted to receive a round of applause at the end of my presentation, and several members of staff congratulated me afterwards. As I was leaving, one teacher commented, "It's great to see people working together to improve life in this town." I felt that summed up the purpose of the visit perfectly.

On a personal level, the experience felt like a real full-circle moment. Having once sat in those same assemblies as a student, it was a privilege to return years later as a Town Councillor, speaking to the next generation about opportunities to get involved and help shape the future of our town. There was a question in the presentation asking do you care about the Future of Ilfracombe, out of 60 students asked 61% said they do.

Youth Club Update

Volunteers are some of the most valuable people in our communities. They give their time freely to help others, often without recognition. However, we must also remember that volunteers are people. They have pressures, stresses and challenges of their own.

Sadly, on Friday 12 June, our community lost one of those volunteers. Ali Hogg a volunteer at the youth club tragically died by suicide. This came as a shock as Ali was with me at Youth club that Wednesday.

Ali moved to Ilfracombe a few years ago and very quickly became involved in helping establish a Youth Club within the town. Drawing on his previous experience, he brought enthusiasm, commitment and a genuine passion for supporting young people. He was one of the founding volunteers who helped create the Youth Club before it even opened its doors. Ali had a remarkable ability to connect with young people, particularly many of the boys who attended the club. Whether organising activities or refereeing football matches, he was someone they looked up to and enjoyed spending time with. He made a lasting

contribution to both the Youth Club and our wider community and is already greatly missed.

Following Ali's passing, the Youth Club closed for one Wednesday to allow volunteers time to process what had happened. The club reopened the following week, with additional support available for both volunteers and the young people who attend. We recognised that everyone processes grief differently, and it was important that support was available where needed. As both a Town Councillor and a Youth Club volunteer, I have remained in regular contact with the volunteer team to ensure they are coping and know they have support available.

The Youth Club is now operating as normal with additional external support. Cerys, Charmaine and every volunteer involved have shown incredible resilience throughout this difficult period. Their commitment and dedication to the young people of Ilfracombe has been nothing short of inspiring.

The Youth club is still going strong and we are looking forward to having a DJ and spray painting workshop in the coming weeks.

Alongside Cerys and another volunteer, I have also begun taking part in weekly outreach sessions on Thursday evenings. We walk around the town engaging with young people, promoting the Youth Club, building relationships and talking with them about any issues they may be facing. Although still in its early stages, this outreach work has enormous potential, and I look forward to seeing how it develops. We are also taking the time to engage with local businesses who have regular interactions with youth to make them aware of the club and things that are happening in the area.

The Youth Club remains in need of additional volunteers if it is to remain sustainable in the long term. Following the loss of Ali, the demands on the remaining volunteers have inevitably increased. If anyone knows someone who may be interested in volunteering, I would strongly encourage them to get in touch. Every volunteer can make a real difference to the lives of young people in our town.

Mental Health

Although mental health does not strictly fall within my responsibilities as Youth Champion, it is an issue I care deeply about. Following the loss of Ali, it has reinforced just how important this conversation is.

During June alone, four men in Ilfracombe lost their lives to suicide, at least four that I am personally aware of. Behind every one of those deaths is a family, friends and a community left grieving.

I have never hidden the fact that I have experienced my own struggles with mental health. There have been times in my life when things have felt overwhelming, and even today there are occasions when I find things difficult. I know I am not alone in that.

I want to use this report to send a simple message, there is help available.

The first step is often recognising that you are struggling. The second, and sometimes hardest step, is asking for help. Whether that is speaking to family, friends, your GP, or a support organisation, reaching out can make all the difference. We are now in 2026. Mental health should never be something people feel they have to hide or be ashamed of. Seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

If this report reaches just one person who is struggling, I encourage them to ask for support, then sharing these words will have been worthwhile. I am happy to work with the Town Council Health Champion to build awareness around this area.

Ilfracombe Futures meeting

I attended the latest Ilfracombe Futures meeting on 16 June, where a number of important updates and discussions took place regarding the future of young people in our town.

The meeting began with an update on the Youth Club, followed by a discussion around mental health in light of the recent tragic news. Sadly, three men are believed to have died by suicide in Ilfracombe over the weekend. This was a sobering reminder of the importance of ensuring that appropriate mental health support is available within our community.

We also received an update on the outreach work currently taking place across Ilfracombe, along with a brief update from the police on their ongoing engagement with young people and the wider community.

Representatives from Ilfracombe Academy shared a positive success story about one of their work placement opportunities, highlighting the value of partnership working between education and local employers.

Another exciting development is that a Youth Hub is expected to come to Ilfracombe later this year. A Youth Hub is a community-based space that brings together a range of services for young people aged 16–24, including employment support, housing advice and mental health services. The key theme is collaboration, ensuring young people can access multiple forms of support in one place.

We also heard that the Best Start in Life programme is looking to become involved in Ilfracombe, further strengthening the support available for children, young people and families.

A significant part of the meeting focused on who else should be around the table to strengthen Ilfracombe Futures. It was agreed that we should continue to bring together organisations and individuals who work directly with young people, including schools and colleges, youth groups, community organisations, sports clubs, employers and other key partners. The more we collaborate, the greater the positive impact we can have.

I also spoke briefly about how I see Ilfracombe Futures developing. I shared my view that this is exactly the type of organisation our town needs, one that brings people together, encourages partnership working and focuses on creating better opportunities for local people. I was pleased to receive some positive

feedback afterwards, with Jody, Headteacher of Ilfracombe Junior School, commenting that I spoke well.

If you would like to learn more about the work of Ilfracombe Futures, you can visit their website: <https://www.ilfracombefutures.org/>



REPORT TO: Full Council
DATE: 7th July 2026
SUBJECT: Biodiversity and Environmental Working Group
PREPARED BY: Isobel Howard

1. Introduction

This report is to recommend that ITC set up a working group to facilitate the creation of a Biodiversity/ Environmental Policy and Action Plan to ensure the Council fulfils its statutory responsibilities, demonstrates environmental leadership, and contributes to local and national biodiversity recovery.

2. Report

The Environment Act 2021 strengthened the requirement for public authorities to consider biodiversity within their functions. Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, as amended by the Environment Act 2021, all public authorities must concentrate on conserving and enhancing biodiversity when carrying out their functions.

Government guidance makes clear that public authorities should not simply avoid harm to biodiversity but should actively seek opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity wherever possible.

Although town and parish councils are not subject to every biodiversity duty that applies to principal authorities, The Enhanced Biodiversity Duty, introduced by the Environment Act 2021, requires all public authorities in England to actively conserve and enhance biodiversity in all their functions. It is town/parish councils' duty to consider conserving biodiversity when they:

- Develop policies and strategies
- Manage the planning system
- Manage:
 - Their land and buildings
 - Woodlands and nature reserves
 - Gardens, parks and public open spaces
 - Community amenities e.g. sports grounds and cemeteries

- Waste and pollution
- Energy and water
- Wood and plant products
- Develop infrastructures
- Make decisions about procurement
- Implement economic, environmental and social programmes

ITC has been a signatory to the Devon Climate Emergency Declaration since 2019. By signing the declaration, the Council committed to supporting county-wide action to address climate change and work collaboratively towards achieving Devon's net-zero ambitions while improving the natural environment.

Climate change and biodiversity are intrinsically linked. As yet there are no statutory powers or duties for any England public authority in respect of climate change, with the exception of the duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity.

Healthy habitats such as woodlands, species-rich grasslands, wetlands and coastal environments store carbon, reduce flood risk, improve resilience to extreme weather and support wildlife recovery. Equally, restoring biodiversity strengthens ecosystems so they are better able to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Adopting and implementing a Biodiversity/ Environmental Policy and Action Plan will support the Council in delivering its commitments under the Devon Climate Emergency Declaration by ensuring that biodiversity enhancement is embedded within everyday decision-making and land management. It will provide a clear framework for demonstrating compliance with these statutory duties and evidencing the Council's commitment to continuous improvement.

By law, principal authorities have to publish a biodiversity report. As a town council this excludes this Council however, this biodiversity duty must still be fulfilled. The Council may be required to publish a report in future. Defra will consult before changing this requirement. NDC have published theirs on their website in February 2026. [Enhanced Biodiversity Duty 2026](#)

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that Council set up a working group to create a Biodiversity/Environmental policy and Action Plan for Full Council approval.

4. Financial Implications

None at this stage.

From: Richard Legg [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 June 2026 15:25
To: Ilfracombe Town Council
Subject: FAO Proper Officer Laura Donovan
Attachments: Richard Legg to Ilfracombe Town Council 6th June 2026.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Bel

CAUTION: This email originated from outside North Devon Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Laura,

I hope you are well.

Please find attached a letter setting out a number of concerns regarding the condition of Ilfracombe and the quality of life experienced by many residents.

Many of the issues raised are also reflected within North Devon Council's own published reports and strategic documents, which is why I believe they warrant serious consideration.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the letter to all councillors ahead of Monday's meeting, so they have an opportunity to read and consider its contents.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Kind regards,

Richard Legg

Richard Legg



Saturday 6th June 2026

Dear Councillors,

Firstly, may I thank you for the considerable time, effort and dedication that you devote to Ilfracombe. Public service is often challenging and thankless, and I recognise the commitment that many councillors, council staff, volunteers and community groups show towards our town.

This letter is sent openly to all elected representatives of Ilfracombe because the issues it raises affect the whole community and transcend individual political responsibilities.

I am writing as a long-term resident, business owner, parent and volunteer who is deeply concerned about the condition of Ilfracombe and the quality of life experienced by many people who live here.

I moved to Ilfracombe with my family 16 years ago. Four years ago, I moved from Montpelier Road to the High Street area. During those four years, I have witnessed a significant deterioration in both the physical condition of the town centre and the social environment surrounding it.

I want to make it clear that the contents of this letter are entirely factual and based upon my own direct observations, experiences and dealings with public authorities. They are not based on hearsay, rumour or second-hand accounts.

I have read the Ilfracombe Strategic Plan 2024–2034 and the various regeneration and improvement initiatives outlined by North Devon Council, including the Ilfracombe Work Programme presented in July 2025. I welcome the ambitions contained within those documents. The Strategic Plan speaks of creating a welcoming, forward-looking and characterful seaside town where businesses can thrive and residents feel supported.

However, as a resident, parent, business owner and volunteer, I am struggling to reconcile that vision with the reality that many residents experience every day.

Like many towns across the country, Ilfracombe faces the challenges of changing shopping habits, online retail and economic pressures. I appreciate that these issues are not unique to us. However, what concerns me is that parts of our town now appear neglected to a degree that goes far beyond normal economic decline.

There are many excellent independent businesses that take pride in their premises, care deeply about their customers and work hard to maintain standards. There are also dedicated individuals who make efforts to keep public areas tidy and free from weeds and overgrowth.

Unfortunately, there are also numerous properties that present a very different picture. Vacant shopfronts have become overgrown with vegetation. Some have been boarded up for years with temporary-looking materials that create an impression of abandonment. One property has remained in such a neglected condition that, to the best of my knowledge, its windows have not been cleaned during the entire 16 years I have lived in the town.

The issue extends beyond the High Street. Across the town there are prominent sites that have remained derelict, boarded up or neglected for many years. The former Golden Coast arcade site and the former Montebello Hotel have stood as visible reminders of decline for well over twenty years. The now disused shipping container in Hillsborough Car Park, associated in the minds of many residents with a tragic event, remains a stark and depressing feature in one of the town's prominent locations.

Individually, these may appear to be isolated issues. Collectively, they create an impression of a town that has become accustomed to decline rather than determined to reverse it. They affect residents' pride in their community, visitors' first impressions, and investors' confidence in the future of the town.

I understand that property owners have rights and that councils cannot simply dictate how every building should look. However, there must be a point at which prolonged neglect becomes detrimental to the wider community and to the reputation of the town itself.

My concern is heightened by my own recent experience with planning restrictions.

I submitted a pre-planning enquiry regarding the removal of a defective chimney stack on my property. The chimney is allowing rainwater and damp penetration into my bedroom. Rebuilding it entirely is financially beyond my means, yet I was informed that, in order to preserve the character of the area, a planning application to remove it would be rejected. I was also advised that rebuilding it like-for-like would require planning permission and that failure to comply with the relevant regulations could lead to enforcement action.

For context, my property is a 1930s mock-Tudor building and is not a Victorian landmark or a historically significant structure. Furthermore, a chimney stack on the same property has previously been removed, meaning that the building has already lost part of its original roofscape.

Against that background, it is difficult to understand how the removal of a second defective chimney stack would materially alter the character of either the building or the wider conservation area, particularly when weighed against the ongoing damage being caused to the property and the potential impact on the health and wellbeing of those living within it.

I do not seek special treatment, nor do I seek the erosion of legitimate planning controls. I simply ask whether those controls are being applied in a manner that reflects the real-world challenges facing residents of a town that North Devon Council itself identifies as the most deprived place in Devon.

What troubles me is the apparent imbalance of priorities. A homeowner attempting to address a genuine issue affecting the condition of their home and potentially their family's health faces significant restrictions, while visibly neglected commercial properties are allowed to remain in a state of deterioration year after year.

When residents see strict enforcement applied to homeowners seeking to remedy damp and disrepair, while long-neglected commercial properties remain untouched for years, confidence in the fairness and consistency of the system is inevitably undermined.

This concern becomes even more difficult to understand when considered alongside North Devon Council's own published findings.

The July 2025 Ilfracombe Work Programme states that Ilfracombe is the most deprived place in Devon. It reports that 22.5% of households experience deprivation and that healthy life expectancy is just 59 years, the lowest in Devon and reportedly the lowest of any rural town in England. The report also identifies poor housing conditions as being at the heart of many of the town's wider challenges.

These are not my statistics; they are the Council's own findings.

If poor housing is recognised as a root cause of poor health, then surely the health and wellbeing of residents must carry at least the same weight as preserving the appearance of buildings. Why are we prepared to tolerate water ingress, damp and deteriorating living conditions in people's homes while simultaneously insisting that faulty architectural features remain in place to preserve character?

The social issues visible within the High Street area are equally difficult to ignore.

In the four years that I have lived here, I have personally witnessed two stabbings, frequent incidents of road rage, regular fighting, and antisocial behaviour that occurs almost daily. My neighbour frequently finds vomit in their porch on Sunday mornings.

I have witnessed a serious altercation involving threats to kill over a debt of only five pounds. I have seen teenagers fighting while parents encouraged the confrontation. I have observed public intoxication to the extent that individuals were unable to sit or communicate coherently. I have seen evidence of illegal drug use, including people openly consuming substances in public places and alleyways. Groups gather to consume alcohol from early in the morning. I have witnessed people urinating in the street, dog fouling being left on pavements, and individuals slumped against buildings and street furniture during the day.

There are also occasions when individuals suffering from severe mental health difficulties create serious disturbances at various times of the day and night. These situations are distressing not only for residents but, more importantly, for the vulnerable individuals involved.

I have offered video evidence of incidents to the police. With one exception, there has been no interest in reviewing the footage.

I currently have scaffolding erected for redecoration works. Despite removing access ladders, I have repeatedly had people climb onto it at night. On one occasion, roof tiles have been removed and thrown towards vehicles. This behaviour presents a serious risk of injury or worse.

I recognise that the police, councils and health services all operate under significant resource pressures. However, the current situation is failing both residents and those individuals trapped in cycles of addiction, homelessness, poor mental health and antisocial behaviour. Simply processing people through the criminal justice system and returning them to the same circumstances the next day does not appear to be delivering meaningful change.

I serve as the volunteer Lifeboat Operations Manager at Ilfracombe RNLI. Through that role I see another side of the challenges facing our community. While I fully respect confidentiality and would never discuss sensitive individual incidents, our lifeboat crew are regularly paged into emergency service to rescue people experiencing mental health crises, threatening self-harm, or attempting to end their lives. The frequency of these call-outs provides a sobering insight into the scale of the social and mental health challenges affecting parts of our town and serves as a stark reminder that behind the statistics there are real people in desperate need of support.

There are also environmental issues that remain unresolved. A collection of wheelie bins left permanently on the public highway at the bottom of Springfield Road has become a magnet for fly-tipping, misuse, nuisance pests and vermin. Residents and visitors from other areas of the town routinely deposit waste there. I have previously reported this issue to North Devon Council, yet no action appears to have been taken.

As a parent, I have reached the point where I genuinely worry about what my children may witness when walking through the town centre. I worry about them walking home alone from school. Increasingly, I find myself wanting to spend weekends away from my own town rather than within it.

As a business owner, this concerns me greatly. I operate a successful medium-to-large business in the area and actively contribute to the local economy and community. I want Ilfracombe to succeed. I want to continue investing my time, money and future here.

What concerns me most is that Ilfracombe risks losing the very people it needs most to retain. Families, skilled workers, volunteers, employers and community-minded residents are increasingly questioning whether the town is moving in the right direction.

I never imagined that I would consider leaving Ilfracombe. My family has built its life here. I own and operate a successful business here. I volunteer in the community here. Yet I now find myself seriously considering whether my family's future lies elsewhere.

If people such as myself are reaching that conclusion, then I fear many others may be doing the same.

I recognise and welcome the considerable amount of work being undertaken through the Strategic Plan, the Regeneration Board, One Ilfracombe and the various initiatives outlined in the July 2025 Work Programme. However, the lived experience of many residents suggests that

the scale of intervention is still not sufficient to address the severity of the challenges facing the town.

The question is not whether plans, strategies and working groups exist. They clearly do. The question is whether the people of Ilfracombe are experiencing the improvements that those plans are intended to deliver.

I would therefore welcome a clear explanation of what measurable improvements residents should expect to see over the coming years, and how the success of these initiatives will be assessed.

By 2030, what specific outcomes should residents reasonably expect in relation to health, housing, deprivation, antisocial behaviour, town-centre appearance and economic prosperity? How will the Council determine whether the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan and associated work programmes have been achieved?

Given the scale of the challenges identified within the Council's own reports, I believe residents would welcome greater transparency regarding the targets being pursued, the progress being made and the timescales within which meaningful change can realistically be expected.

The reality is that many residents do not judge the town by strategic plans, work programmes or committee reports. They judge it by what they see when they walk down the High Street, by the condition of their homes, by how safe they feel, and by the opportunities available to their families. By those measures, many would conclude that far more remains to be done.

I therefore ask the Council to consider stronger action against persistently neglected and derelict commercial properties, greater support for homeowners dealing with genuine maintenance and health-related building issues, improved enforcement against environmental blight and persistent antisocial behaviour, and increased partnership working between the Council, Police, NHS, housing providers and support services to address addiction, homelessness and mental health issues.

Ilfracombe's healthy life expectancy of just 59 years, reportedly the lowest of any rural town in England, should be treated as a local emergency.

Conservation is important. Heritage is important. But the wellbeing, safety and future prospects of residents must be equally important.

We cannot preserve the character of a town if we fail to preserve the community that gives that town its character. We cannot claim success if our buildings are protected while the people who live among them continue to experience deprivation, poor health, antisocial behaviour and a declining quality of life.

Something must be done to improve the quality of life of the people of Ilfracombe.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Legg

From: Rosa Payne [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 June 2026 15:17
To: Ilfracombe Town Council
Subject: Wildersmouth beach - bathing water re-designation request for Town Council support
Attachments: 29-06-26 Wildersmouth beach - bathing re-designation.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: Laura

CAUTION: This email originated from outside North Devon Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Town Clerk,

I hope you are well.

Please find attached correspondence regarding a proposal for Wildersmouth Beach to be supported for bathing water re-designation, alongside a related opportunity to bring a long-derelict brownfield site back into use as a community asset linked to water quality improvements.

Given the urgency created by the loss of Tunnels Beaches, I would be grateful if this correspondence could be:

- Circulated to all Members, and
- Considered at the next available Council meeting

I would also welcome the opportunity to attend and speak briefly during any public participation session if the matter is discussed.

Please can you confirm receipt and do let me know if any further information would be helpful.

Kind regards,

Rosa Payne

Ilfracombe Town Council
The Ilfracombe Centre
44 High Street
Ilfracombe
EX34 9QB

Dear Members of Ilfracombe Town Council,

**Subject: Wildersmouth Beach — bathing water re-designation and linked brownfield site:
request for Town Council support**

I am writing as a resident to ask the Town Council to consider formally supporting an application to re-designate Wildersmouth Beach as a bathing water under the Bathing Water Regulations, and to draw your attention to a related opportunity that I believe could make that outcome significantly more achievable while delivering wider community benefit.

The closure of Tunnels Beaches following last year's landslide has left Ilfracombe without a safe, publicly accessible swimming beach in the heart of the town for the first time in the attraction's 200-year history. While there are other coastal access points, they do not offer a comparable alternative. Larkstone Beach, adjacent to the water sports centre, is usable for those on that side of town but is removed from the town centre and main visitor areas; meanwhile, Raparee Cove, though attractive, is effectively inaccessible to many due to the steep and numerous steps required to reach it. Neither location functions as an inclusive, central bathing beach.

In practical terms, Wildersmouth is now the only viable, accessible town-centre option for sea swimming for the majority of residents and visitors. The loss of a usable central beach therefore carries significant economic, social and public health implications for the town.

Wildersmouth was de-designated as a bathing water due to water quality issues associated with the Wilder Brook, primarily faecal contamination from combined sewer overflows and agricultural runoff in the catchment. The changed circumstances created by the Tunnels closure make a renewed push for re-designation both urgent and justifiable, and I believe there is now a compelling public interest case to bring to North Devon Council, our MP, the Environment Agency, and South West Water.

First, the water quality problem has a credible technical solution. UV disinfection of the Wilder Brook at or near its culvert outfall, before it reaches the beach, is an established approach used elsewhere in the UK to protect bathing waters from precisely this type of contamination. Re-designation would trigger South West Water's obligations under the Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan, obligations that currently do not apply at Wildersmouth because of its undesignated status. Designation is not simply a reflection of existing use, it is the mechanism that unlocks the investment needed to make safe and sustained use possible.

Second, there is a long-hoarded brownfield site in private ownership located between Runnacleave Road and Jubilee Gardens, close to the beach. The site has stood derelict and visually blighted for many years, detracting from the amenity and perception of a key gateway area between the town centre and the seafront.

Importantly, recent photographic evidence (attached at Appendix A) shows that the Wilder Brook culvert is open and clearly exposed within this site, with water flowing through an unmanaged and degraded channel. The site clearly provides access to the water course and could provide the perfect location for resolution of the watercourse that is driving water quality issues at Wildersmouth.

Any meaningful intervention to improve water quality could be delivered on this site which is currently in private ownership. This represents a rare and compelling opportunity.

With appropriate vision, the site could be transformed into a dual-purpose community asset - enabling or hosting essential water treatment infrastructure while also delivering tangible public benefits. This could include reconnecting the site into Jubilee Gardens and providing improved public realm and stronger pedestrian connection to the Landmark and the sea front. In doing so, a long-standing and highly visible blight could be replaced with a positive, functional space that reinforces both environmental improvement and civic pride.

Third, taken together, these issues present a strong case for compulsory purchase that I would urge the Council to explore. Grounds may exist on both blight and wider public interest: the site has remained derelict for years with no apparent prospect of meaningful development, and its condition is now directly relevant to addressing a key barrier to restoring safe bathing water at Wildersmouth. Acquisition would not simply resolve a long-standing liability, it would create the opportunity to secure a lasting community asset in a key town-centre location.

Importantly, these local factors also justify a renewed and more proactive dialogue with the Environment Agency. The combination of (i) the loss of Ilfracombe's primary bathing beach, (ii) the identification of a credible and deliverable technical solution, and (iii) the clear physical linkage between the culvert and a developable brownfield site together represent a materially changed set of circumstances. I would therefore urge the Council to advocate for a fresh feasibility assessment of water quality improvement options at Wildersmouth, reflecting both engineering practicality and the wider public interest.

This is particularly relevant in light of recent policy developments. Reforms to the bathing water designation framework introduced in 2025 explicitly provide for consideration of the feasibility of improving a site's water quality to at least "sufficient" status as part of the designation process. In this context, Wildersmouth presents a strong candidate: the pollution source is identifiable, a treatment approach is available, and there is a realistic pathway to implementation if regulatory triggers are engaged. Taken together, this supports the case that designation should be considered not only on the basis of current conditions, but on the achievability of improvement within a reasonable timeframe.

Finally, I would like to address the practical question of bathing water re-designation, and the apparent circularity that can arise. Current guidance typically requires evidence that a site is used by a significant number of bathers (often around 100 people per day during the season). However, advice against bathing at Wildersmouth understandably suppresses usage, making it harder to demonstrate demand.

This "catch-22" can be overcome in practice through a combination of:

- Demonstrating latent demand, particularly following the loss of Tunnels Beaches and reflecting on their previous visitor numbers
- Undertaking structured observational counts and photographic evidence collection

- Recording wider recreational use, including paddling and shoreline activity
- Securing formal support from local authorities and stakeholders
- Making a forward-looking case that designation will enable the investment required to make safe use possible.

There is therefore a clear and credible pathway to designation, particularly given the exceptional circumstances now affecting the town.

The Defra application deadline for bathing water designation, for potential designation in the 2027 or 2028 season, is 15 October 2026. A formal application requires a letter of support from the local authority, which makes the Town Council's involvement essential.

I would therefore ask the Council to:

1. Formally resolve to support a bathing water designation application for Wildersmouth Beach
2. Write to North Devon Council, the Environment Agency, and Ian Roome MP requesting their backing for re-designation, a refreshed feasibility assessment, and engagement with South West Water on treatment infrastructure
3. Ask North Devon Council to investigate the ownership and condition of the derelict site between Runnacleave Road and Jubilee Gardens, and to consider whether compulsory purchase powers should be pursued in connection with blight remediation, infrastructure access, and the creation of a long-term community asset

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of this further and would be happy to assist in preparing supporting evidence if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Rosa Payne

[Redacted signature block]

Appendix A:

Photo taken on 29 June 2026 showing the Wilder Brook flowing beneath the blighted site creating a major opportunity to treat the water before it arrives at Wildersmouth.



From Post to Past: Securing the Future of Ilfracombe Museum

Introduction

Ilfracombe Museum is at a critical point in its history. We must relocate to safeguard our collection, secure our long-term viability, and unlock our full potential as a cultural, educational, and community asset.

We are proposing to move the museum into the former Old Post Office on Ilfracombe High Street, creating a visible, accessible, and sustainable museum at the heart of the town. This project is not simply a relocation. It is a transformation from a constrained, at-risk building into a dynamic civic space that supports heritage, wellbeing, education, and economic activity.

Why This Move Is Essential

Our current premises are no longer viable.

- The building suffers from significant structural issues, including a leaking roof and persistent damp
- Parts of our collection are at risk of **irreparable damage**
- Storage is inadequate, inaccessible, and unsuitable for long-term preservation
- There is minimal workspace for staff and volunteers
- The site has been classified as **high flood risk**, and our lease cannot be renewed

Without relocation, the museum faces:

- Loss of collection integrity
- Reduced public access
- Long-term organisational instability

Relocation is therefore not optional; it is essential to protect both the collection and the museum's future.

Why the Old Post Office

North Devon Council has acquired the former Old Post Office and offered the museum use of the ground and basement levels.

This presents a rare and strategic opportunity to:

- Relocate to a **central High Street location**, increasing visibility and footfall
- Provide **fit-for-purpose storage and display conditions**
- Expand public access to collections, including archive materials
- Create flexible spaces for education, community use, and income generation

A High Street presence will reposition the museum as a **core part of Ilfracombe's civic and cultural life**, rather than a peripheral attraction.

What This Project Will Deliver

This project will:

- Safeguard a unique and irreplaceable local collection
- Create a year-round cultural destination in the town centre
- Increase visitor numbers and High Street footfall
- Expand access for schools, families, and community groups
- Provide structured activities that support well-being and reduce social isolation
- Enable a financially sustainable operating model through diversified income streams

A More Sustainable Museum

The redevelopment will prioritise environmental responsibility by:

- Reusing an existing building within a conservation area
- Installing energy-efficient systems
- Using locally sourced, sustainable materials where possible

This approach reduces carbon impact while contributing to the revitalisation of a vacant High Street property.

A More Accessible Museum

The new museum will be fully accessible and inclusive, featuring:

- Step-free access for wheelchair and buggy users
- Baby changing and family-friendly facilities
- Flexible learning and community spaces
- A dedicated area for school visits and group activities
- Integration with the Tourist Information Centre to enhance the visitor experience

We will also expand outreach work with:

- care homes
- friendship groups
- community organisations

A More Community-Focused Museum

This project responds directly to local needs.

Ilfracombe faces economic challenges, as highlighted in the Cultural Plan, yet has a strong and growing creative community.

The new museum will:

- Provide space for local groups, societies, and creative activity
- Support repeat visits from local residents, not just tourists
- Offer programming that addresses social isolation and well-being

- Act as a platform for collaboration with artists, historians, and community organisations

By embedding the museum in daily town life, we strengthen both cultural participation and community cohesion.

Economic and Civic Impact

Relocating to the High Street will contribute to:

- Increased town centre footfall
- Greater dwell time for visitors
- Support for local businesses
- Strengthening Ilfracombe's position as a cultural destination

This project aligns with wider ambitions for **town centre regeneration and economic resilience**.

Looking Ahead: 2032 and Beyond

In 2032, Ilfracombe Museum will celebrate its centenary.

This project ensures that the milestone is marked not by survival, but by renewal.

Opening a new museum in a prominent, purpose-designed space will:

- Signal long-term confidence in the town's cultural future
- Protect and showcase the collection for generations to come
- Establish a sustainable, visible, and impactful organisation for the next 100 years

Conclusion

Relocating Ilfracombe Museum to the Old Post Office is a necessary and transformative step.

It protects heritage, strengthens the community, and contributes to the economic and cultural life of Ilfracombe.

With the right support, we can secure the museum's future and create a space that the town can be proud of—for the next century and beyond.



Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Ilfracombe Museum Relocation Project – Letter of Support

Ilfracombe Town Council is pleased to offer its strong support for Ilfracombe Museum's proposal to relocate to the former Old Post Office on the High Street.

The Council recognises that the Museum is at a critical juncture. Its current premises are no longer suitable, with structural issues and a confirmed high flood risk placing both the building and its irreplaceable collection at significant risk.

Relocation is therefore not simply desirable but essential to safeguard this important community asset.

The proposed move represents a significant opportunity for Ilfracombe. A central High Street location will improve accessibility, increase visibility, and enhance engagement with both residents and visitors.

It will also contribute positively to town centre regeneration by increasing footfall and supporting local businesses, aligning with wider ambitions for economic resilience and cultural growth.

The Council particularly welcomes the project's strong community focus. The creation of flexible spaces for learning, community use, and outreach will enable broader participation across all age groups, supporting education, wellbeing, and social inclusion.

The enhanced provision for schools, community groups, and volunteers will strengthen social connections and create new opportunities for local engagement.

Ilfracombe Town Council values the Museum's role in preserving and promoting the town's heritage. This project will ensure that the collection is protected and more widely accessible, securing its long-term future while embedding the Museum more firmly within the life of the town.

The timing of this project is particularly important. With ongoing challenges facing High Streets and the town more broadly, this initiative offers a positive, forward-looking investment in Ilfracombe's cultural and economic vitality.

The Council looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with Ilfracombe Museum and supporting its development as a key cultural and community asset for the town.

Yours faithfully,

Laura Donovan
Town Clerk
For and on behalf of Ilfracombe Town Council

From: Welfare Officer ITYFC <welfare.ilfyouthfc@gmail.com>
Sent: 06 July 2026 14:19
To: Ilfracombe Town Council; Customer Services
Subject: Request for Land to Support Ilfracombe Town Youth Football Club

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Laura, Bel

CAUTION: This email originated from outside North Devon Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Ilfracombe Town Youth Football Club to ask whether North Devon Council or Ilfracombe Town Council has any land that could potentially be made available to the club for the benefit of young people in our community.

Our club currently provides football opportunities for more than 180 children and young people from Ilfracombe and the surrounding area. Despite our continued growth and the positive impact we have on local families, we have no facilities or permanent base of our own.

As a result, we are entirely reliant on hiring the all-weather pitch at Ilfracombe Academy for both training sessions and home fixtures. While we are grateful that these facilities are available, the ongoing hire costs place a significant financial burden on the club and limit our ability to invest further in opportunities for our players.

For some time, we had understood that facilities secured through the Section 106 agreement associated with the Mariners Haven development would eventually provide a long-term solution. Earlier this year, however, we were informed that, due to the housing market and the pace of development, these facilities were unlikely to be delivered for approximately ten years.

More recently, Devonshire Homes has entered administration, creating further uncertainty as to whether those facilities will ever be completed. This leaves our club, and the hundreds of local children who rely on it, without any realistic prospect of a permanent home.

We would therefore like to ask whether either North Devon Council or Ilfracombe Town Council owns any land that could be considered for transfer, lease, or another suitable arrangement to enable the club to establish its own youth football facility.

We are not asking the councils to fund the development. Instead, we are seeking the opportunity to secure a suitable piece of land so that the club can actively pursue fundraising, grant funding, and community support to transform it into a safe and sustainable sports facility for local young people. Our ambition is to create a permanent home that will benefit generations of children and provide a lasting community asset.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with representatives from both councils to discuss whether there are any suitable sites that could be explored and to explain our vision in more detail.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can work together to secure a long-term future for youth football in Ilfracombe.

Yours faithfully,

Laura Elgar

