

### **Foreword from the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Robert Thompson.**

I have been immensely proud to lead Ilfracombe Town Council this year and am pleased to see the results of the time and efforts of both councillors and officers having a positive impact on the town.

Underpinning all of the work is our strategic plan; a document which sets out our goals and ambitions for Ilfracombe. Although only in use for a relatively short space of time, these strategic objectives are fast becoming known as good practice throughout Devon. We are taking a 'bottom up' approach to the regeneration and promotion of our town and at its core is the rebuilding of our relationships with both District and County Councils. A measure of our success is the new collaborative working initiatives, ensuring that we are always included in decision-making policies concerning our town.

Our Vision is - *'To be the most prosperous, friendly, forward-looking and characterful seaside town in the South West; right-sized, sustainable and attractive to modern businesses of diverse type and size; to tourists and all residents'*.

The Strategic Objectives are;

1. Assume management of our town
2. In view of public penury be prepared to either fund or source funds ourselves
3. Our main business is tourism. Broaden its scope and take up-market
4. Support our large manufacturing employers
5. Promote the establishment of micro-businesses
6. Welcome and exploit renewable energy opportunities
7. Make Ilfracombe the passenger port and car portal to the West Country for Ireland and South Wales
8. Take our cultural offering up-market
9. Maintain and utilise to best advantage our superb natural and built environment
10. Improve public transport in and to the town
11. Improve the public realm, particularly High Street and Sea Front and promote connectivity
12. Take over and operate public buildings and services where they contribute to wellbeing
13. Raise our socio-economic profile
14. Minimise leakage of young people
15. Better manage support for our socially dependent residents
16. Maintain social cohesion and prevent social isolation
17. Maintain and build on our local culture of good-nature and friendliness

We also recognise the important part that the many and varied Community groups contribute to the vitality of the town. As such, this year we made available over £38,000 of grant funding to town organizations including the Sea Cadets, Community Transport, the Tourist Information Centre, Ilfracombe Access Group, Ilfracombe in Bloom, the Royal British Legion, the Majorettes and a variety of youth sports groups.

Local initiatives in the town that we have led or had input to include; the trial Park & Ride scheme operated during the summer, the refurbishment of Oxford Park in providing play equipment, the provision of the Skateboard Park and a new youth shelter in Slade Valley.

A cause that is close to all our hearts is the impact of any cuts to the 24 Hour Search & Rescue services based at Chivenor. I was honoured to be asked to attend a rally led by Porthcawl councillors in Wales, who are as vehemently opposed to any cuts to this service as we are.

In April, I was delighted to present the Pride in Ilfracombe Citizen of the Year award, which this year was made to Mrs Christine Thompson. Mrs Thompson is head teacher at Ilfracombe Infant and Nursery school and has helped the school achieve excellent academic levels which have been recognized by Ofsted and Educational Boards. It is these achievements together with the work that Mrs Thompson completes in her own time in providing such a positive influence on our young members of the community that makes her stand out for such an accolade.

In putting into practice the first objective in our strategic plan, *'assume management of our town'*, we have entered into discussions with the District Council to take on various assets within the town. We will ensure that any negotiations are full and fair and that any benefits resulting from taking on such ownership will be made available exclusively for Ilfracombe. I hope that the new Council installed after the May elections will continue the momentum to achieve our goals.



QUALITY  
TOWN  
COUNCIL

## The Town Council

In addition to the Finance and Planning committees and of course the Full Council meetings, members and officers of Ilfracombe Town Council are involved in many other meetings that deal with important issues for the town.

These include –

- Ilfracombe Strategy Group: Remit: To monitor and devise action plans to implement the town council's 10 year strategy
- Ilfracombe Development Sites Group - Remit: Initially to work in partnership to get the town's stalled sites moving; recently revised to work in partnership to include new and strategic development sites.
- Ilfracombe Tourism Marketing Group - Remit: To implement the town council's emerging Marketing Strategy (includes marketing Ilfracombe to the micro-business community)
- Ilfracombe Regeneration Board - Remit: Reviews NDC work relating to Ilfracombe and informs such groups as the Regen Task Group.
- Regeneration Task Group - Remit: To oversee implementation of the activity of the Joint Delivery Team
- Ilfracombe Litter Meetings – Remit: To ensure collaborative efforts between all local authorities to keep Ilfracombe clean and tidy.



### Planning

Whilst recessionary pressures have undoubtedly had a negative effect on the construction industry with some new developments for housing within the Town being put on hold, there has been an increase seen in planning applications for upgrading and conversions of existing properties.

This year has also seen some of the town's key sites come before the planning committee. The Lee Bay Hotel received final approval for their conversion proposals and the Collingwood Hotel is in the final stages of planning to secure a Wetherspoon's Pub and Hotel on our seafront.

The planning application that caused most activity amongst local people was the proposal to put in excess of 50 apartments on the Bus Station site. The town council hosted a public meeting where residents made their feelings known to these proposals, and a most professional case to reject this application offering suggested alternatives was put together by the Harbour residents. The planning application was rejected by the District Council Planning Committee.

Development Sites Group – This is a working party attached to our planning committee and was formed as a result of this council's strategic aims. The groups' remit together with North Devon Council Planners and other agencies is to investigate the reasons why sites within the town, that are imposing an obvious blight on their vicinity, are not moving forwards. The group acts to liaise with the site owners initially to discover through informal negotiations, the reasons why the development is not proceeding and whether we can assist and possibly direct the owner in following a course which will satisfy the Planners and also meet the aspirations of the Town in complying with the Town Strategy.

Items currently included under the Development Sites Group coverage are, the Montebello Site, the site adjacent to Runnymede Gardens, the Colossus site (old Alexandra Theatre), the Berkeley Hotel, and several other properties that are currently closed and unused. We are very optimistic that we can move these properties forward to make our town a far more vibrant and interesting place to live and visit.

Our Strategy document has promoted the growth of our Town to realise a population of around 15,000. To make it more sustainable and support our High Street traders and other small businesses. We are currently talking to three developers who are looking at construction sites in the Killacleave area for the urban expansion and we are part of negotiations relating to new schools, medical facilities and sports facilities that will be required for this increase in population.

We are also involved with the District council in the refurbishment of the eastern part of our seafront and with a little good fortune this work may well coincide with the Wetherspoon's development such that by the beginning of 2012 we could see a total transformation of our seafront area

We look forward to the new Localism Bill soon to be published by Government which is likely to give us as a community far greater influence over planning decisions that affect our town and community.



## Community

It is important that members of the community are consulted and kept aware of the work being completed on their behalf. Public participation periods are always a feature of our council meetings and inclusion in such meetings as the Marketing group and Litter group is encouraged. We aim to consult the public wherever we can and as an example the output from the Bus Station public meeting proves that 'people power' really can influence decisions that affect their community.

Regular web updates including a chance for people to leave messages and discuss topics affecting the town on our Forum pages are all available from the Town Council website. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes can also be found here. Our popular Newsletter which is delivered to everyone contains useful information of work and initiatives that are in progress. Our Town Warden interacts with various groups in the town and has been instrumental in the project to install new play equipment at Oxford Park, working closely with the Young Citizens.

We continue to provide a service with the public conveniences located in the village of Lee where we work with members of the local community who provide a cleaning service whilst we provide maintenance and utility payments, thus ensuring that the toilets are open for use by the many walkers and visitors to the area.

The Town Council is the trustee of the Vision Community Centre Charity which has recently had new play equipment installed and is home to a newly formed Youth Club.



## Marketing

With the strategic plan recognising the importance of tourism to our town the Town Council set up the Ilfracombe Tourism Marketing Group to propel such initiatives as New Media Publicity, Events, Public Relations & Communications, Economic Research, Infrastructure and Tourism Literature. This group is made up mostly of volunteers, who are able to bring their professional skills to bring benefit and promote the town.

Some of the project that have been covered in this group; 2011 Ilfracombe Guide (40,000 copies), Destination Guide (60,000 copies), 2011 Ilfracombe Calendar, Harbour Webcam, a Tourism survey and preparations for cruise ship visits this summer



## The Ilfracombe Centre

Another busy year for the Ilfracombe Centre has seen 20,000 visitors through the doors -clearly demonstrating that it is trusted as a first point of contact for members of the public seeking advice, information or training.

Pressure on the public purse has resulted in the loss of some of our partner agencies from the Centre, such as Maximus Training and Westcountry Energy Action; however it is widely recognised that accessing services conveniently and locally is what the public want and our friendly and helpful staff continue to provide this personal service in partnership with the considerable range of agencies who have a presence here.

These include:

Ilfracombe Town Council	CAB	EDP and The Quay Centre
North Devon Council	North Devon Pathfinder	Police
NDC Housing Advice	Addaction	Job Centre Plus (facility)

## Financials

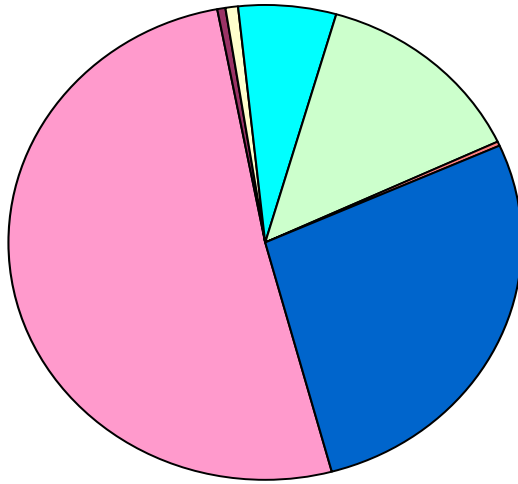
**Income** - The Councils' Precept (budget) for the financial year 2010/11 was £167,353. This is the amount of money that is received from council tax payments as devolved by the County and District Councils. An average band D household council tax charge is £1,600, however the proportion of this as paid to Ilfracombe Town Council is approximately £41; comparative figures for other local areas are, Barnstaple £66, South Molton £53.

The Ilfracombe Centre continues to provide a much needed community facility in the town. The loss of one of its rental occupiers saw a dip in income for this year, however increased occupancy from some smaller users meant that the overall affect was only slightly below its targeted budget.

Other areas of income was support for specific community roles and projects including the Town Warden roles and responsibilities and grant funding to install play equipment at Oxford park.

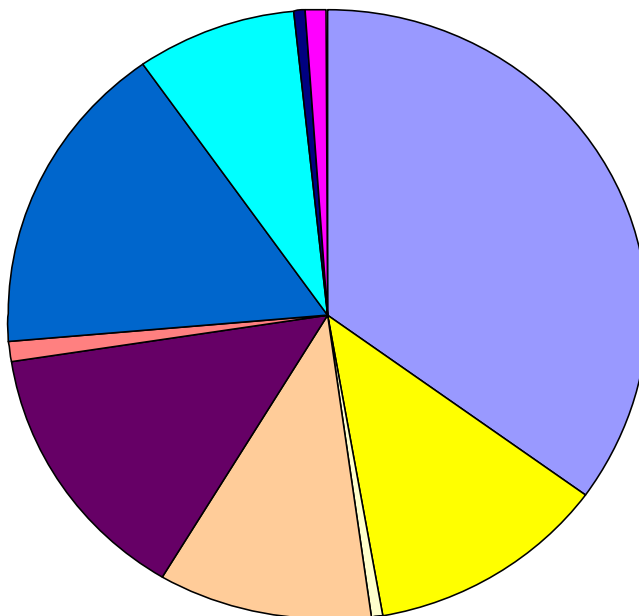
**Expenditure** – In-keeping with its commitment to regeneration of the town and in line with its strategic plan, the Town Council supports the Joint Delivery Team, whose initiatives include improved signage in the town, seafront development proposals, Fore Street and Broad Street public realm improvements and pavement widening in Wilder rd. Other expenditure includes support for the marketing of the town, contributions to the much praised Park and Ride scheme, litter-picking and weed-spraying and support for the Town Crier who not only attends as many town events as he is able, but also promotes Ilfracombe in his country-wide competitions.

## Ilfracombe Town Council - Income for financial year ending 31 March 2011



- Precept & Grants - £168,619
- Building Expd recovery £2,377
- Lighting of the Lights (via HST) £2,485
- Transform £20,304
- Oxford Park funding £45,300
- Misc £593
- Ilfracombe Centre (includes £25k notional income) £91,068

## Ilfracombe Town Council Expenditure for Financial Year ending 31 March 2011



- Ilfracombe Centre (includes staffing, building, utility and service costs) £95,770
- Town Warden and Hygiene Operative projects & costs £33,412
- Audits £2,233
- Subscriptions, Legal, Civic, Training & Administration £29,417
- Grants to Community organisations £38,391
- Insurance (part) £3,107
- Oxford Park project £45,432
- Town Expenditure including - Regeneration, Marketing & town promotion projects £21,941
- Newsletter £1,669
- Civic £2,996

**Communication** - Those wishing to make an appointment to meet their Town Councillors, can do so at the Ilfracombe Centre – 01271 855300 or via [theilfracombecentre@northdevon.co.uk](mailto:theilfracombecentre@northdevon.co.uk)

You can also arrange to make an appointment with your local MP who holds his surgery for this area at the Ilfracombe Centre. The Town Council also provide a web site - [www.theilfracombecentre.co.uk](http://www.theilfracombecentre.co.uk) which gives information on varied topics including how to contact your local council services, providing updates on news items, providing all council meeting dates in advance, listing council minutes and agendas and providing a web forum, inviting people to add their comments about the town.

Contact details for your councillors are listed below. Please note this list contains information of members serving post May 2011. (Four members of the Council who served for the term of this report but are not included below are Cllrs Wendy Butler, Leo Cooper, Mrs Nancy Green, and Robin Horne).

**Your local Ilfracombe Town Council members – (alphabetical and by Ward). (ELECTED MAY 2011)**

<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>CONTACT No:</u>	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>	<u>Ward</u>
Blundell	Margaret	01271 862647	<a href="mailto:margaretblundell@talktalk.net">margaretblundell@talktalk.net</a>	Central
Courtnadge	Lynda	01271 864414	<a href="mailto:westaway@tiscali.co.uk">westaway@tiscali.co.uk</a>	Central
Crabb	Paul	01271 864299	<a href="mailto:paul@crabbcontractors.com">paul@crabbcontractors.com</a>	East
Donovan	Rod	01271 862200	<a href="mailto:rodney.donovan@gmail.com">rodney.donovan@gmail.com</a>	West
Donovan	Janice	01271 862200	<a href="mailto:janice.donovan@leisureshopdirect.com">janice.donovan@leisureshopdirect.com</a>	West
Dymond	Micheal	01271 864346	<a href="mailto:elizabeth@edymond.wanadoo.co.uk">elizabeth@edymond.wanadoo.co.uk</a>	East
Edmunds	Mike	01271 866169	<a href="mailto:mike.edmunds@northdevon.gov.uk">mike.edmunds@northdevon.gov.uk</a>	East
Fowler	Geoff	01271 864211	<a href="mailto:geoff.fowler@devon.gov.uk">geoff.fowler@devon.gov.uk</a>	West
Furber	Albert	01271 863035	<a href="mailto:a.furber31@btinternet.com">a.furber31@btinternet.com</a>	Central
Gear	Bert	01271 866818 (w)	<a href="mailto:bertgear@freenetname.co.uk">bertgear@freenetname.co.uk</a>	Central
Ley	Ron	01271 870629	<a href="mailto:ron@ronley.com">ron@ronley.com</a>	West
Pearson	Frank	01271 865057	<a href="mailto:pearsonfrank@googlemail.com">pearsonfrank@googlemail.com</a>	Central
Squires	George	01271 864072	<a href="mailto:georges1812@fsmail.net">georges1812@fsmail.net</a>	West
Swan	John	01271 864679	<a href="mailto:john-swan@tiscali.co.uk">john-swan@tiscali.co.uk</a>	Central
Thomas	Anne	01271 863211	<a href="mailto:tangerineanne@hotmail.com">tangerineanne@hotmail.com</a>	Central
Thompson	Bob	01271 864535	<a href="mailto:robertthompson09@aol.com">robertthompson09@aol.com</a>	East
Webb	Philip	01271 879233	<a href="mailto:philipwebb01@gmail.com">philipwebb01@gmail.com</a>	West
Wright	Colin	01271 864485	<a href="mailto:colin.j.wright@btinternet.com">colin.j.wright@btinternet.com</a>	West

**North Devon District Councilors for Ilfracombe**

Crabb	Paul	01271 864299	<a href="mailto:paul@crabbcontractors.com">paul@crabbcontractors.com</a>	Central
Edmunds	Mike	01271 866169	<a href="mailto:mike.edmunds@northdevon.gov.uk">mike.edmunds@northdevon.gov.uk</a>	East
Fowler	Geoff	01271 864211	<a href="mailto:geoff.fowler@devon.gov.uk">geoff.fowler@devon.gov.uk</a>	West
Webb	Philip	01271 879233	<a href="mailto:philipwebb01@gmail.com">philipwebb01@gmail.com</a>	West
Yabsley	Paul	01271 867484	<a href="mailto:pyabsley@aol.com">pyabsley@aol.com</a>	Central

**Officers Contact :**

Responsible Finance Officer / Finance & Office Manager - Mrs Pauline Williams 01271 855317  
Proper Officer / The Ilfracombe Centre Manager - Mrs Andrea Beacham - 01271 855318

Email - [itc@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:itc@northdevon.gov.uk)  
[theilfracombecentre@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:theilfracombecentre@northdevon.gov.uk)