

One Communities Group – Ilfracombe Host Meeting Minutes 31 March 2026

Date: 31 March 2026

Time: 12:30–14:30

Location: Ilfracombe (hybrid – in-person & online)

Chair/Host: Charmain (Ilfracombe)

Minutes: James Lander

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

- Noted apologies in the meeting chat (not all visible in transcript).
- Marie attended briefly to provide strategic updates before needing to leave.

2. Previous Action Log Review

James located the previous action log (initially thought to be empty).

The following actions from the last meeting were reviewed:

1. **Community developers to reduce duplication** by linking to local regional boards/place-based partnerships — *Ongoing reminder.*
2. **Digital engagement methods** (videos, voice notes, etc.) to be trialled and examples brought to meetings — *To continue.*
3. **CW&I group objectives to be shared** — link circulated by James.
4. **Examples for South Molton challenge** to be shared — awaiting update from Verity.
5. **Charmain & Ella to organise hosting plan** — *completed.*
6. **Align meeting dates with the Northern Devon Community Developers Forum** — still under consideration.

3. Supporter Updates

3.1 Community Wellbeing & Inclusion (Marie Gould)

- Objectives include the **PLANT objectives** – [see CW&I webpage](#)
- Group feeds into **One Northern Devon** and **Northern Devon Futures**.

- Recruitment/role reviews underway.
- Lack of secretariat capacity remains an issue for formal minutes (hence not available on webpage)
- Workshop planned for **14 April** with Simone and James presenting on PLANT objectives, case studies and mapping for emerging neighbourhood plans.
- NDVS rolling out **Community Life Survey** locally via digital tools and focus groups. Community Life Survey to go live following member sign-off after 14 April.

3.2 North Devon Council (Bev Triggs)

Local Government Reorganisation

- Four proposals submitted in government consultation, incl. "451 Plan" and "451+ Plan" (modest Plymouth boundary changes).
- Government decision expected **July 2026**.

Crisis & Resilience Fund

- New **3-year national fund** (start: 1 April 2026, end: 31 March 2029).
- Four strands:
 - Crisis payments
 - Housing payments
 - Resilience services
 - Community funding
- Replaces Household Support Fund.
- Oil payments included.
- Resilience services should be in place by **July 2026**; payments from **1 April**.

Funding Updates

- **Keeping North Devon Connected Fund** (final year) – £40k available; up to £5k per project; expected to go quickly.
- **Community Councillor Grants** reopen 1 April (£1k per councillor).
- **North Devon Community Lottery** continues – looking for new good causes.

4. NDVS Update (Louise Flagg)

- Next **Northern Devon Community Developers Forum: Tuesday 2 June** at Bridge Trust.
- Louise will send final confirmed dates to James.

- General agreement that OC meetings should be *tagged onto* the forum to reduce duplication (with a break in between).

5. Ilfracombe Host Update (Charmain)

5.1 One Ilfracombe Overview

- Active since 2013; board includes DCC, NDC, Police, NHS, Town Council, schools, independent members.
- Key themes:
 - Living Well (135 members, chaired by Dr Sarah Williams)
 - Ilfracombe Works (employment/skills)
 - Town Team (public realm, safety, environment)
 - Ilfracombe Futures (young people)
 - Ilfracombe Culture Club (70 orgs, 100+ participants)

5.2 Current Projects

- **UK Town of Culture 2028 EOI submitted** (Ilfracombe + Barnstaple).
- Culture Club projects: photography festival, shouting festival, graffiti programme, “National Feature Dreams”, workshops.
- **Ilfracombe Youth Club** – funded (£20k), youth worker secured, volunteers undergoing training.
- **Youth Day** – 11 April at Landmark Theatre (graffiti, DJing, anime, gaming, silent disco).
- **Into the Blue** – water-based programme for Yr 5–6; extended for 2026 pending final funding.
- **Early Years support & parenting model** being developed with DCC.
- **Transport to Work minibus** starting next week, connecting Ilfracombe → Morteohoe → employers (incl. off-route sites).
- **Poverty Truth Commission** embedding phase underway; long-term sustainability planning; campus model development ongoing.
- **Bellspace future-proofing** — vital community asset supporting homelessness, addiction & crisis support.
- **Buildings & town centre** — work on Link Centre possibilities, empty shops, enforcement notices, and Emmanuel Church feasibility study.

6. Listening & Learning Exercise (PLANT Framework – “L”)

Participants shared strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in local engagement:

Key Themes

- **Strengths**
 - Being visible and approachable in the community (open door, walking through High St, community cafes).
 - Informal spaces such as **Bickford Centre (Torrington)** enable natural conversations.
 - Trust-building over time → people share more deeply.
 - Youth voice plans and potential Youth Council.
- **Weaknesses**
 - **Capacity constraints** for community developers.
 - Limited **suitable venues**; library heavily used.
 - Engagement can spill into personal time (public stops, messages, weekends).
- **Opportunities**
 - Community Engagement Platform (EngagementHQ) via NDC/NDVS.
 - Potential thematic lived-experience groups (e.g., neurodiversity, early years).
 - Live Longer Better → model for structured listening over time; potential Ambassador development.
 - Cross-area inclusion/equalities forum could be developed.
 - Shared responsibility for engagement (not one person absorbing everything).
- **Threats**
 - Maintaining groups long-term (turnover, burnout, loss of momentum).
 - Private boundaries and wellbeing for staff.
 - Hidden groups (closed online groups; difficult to reach).

7. Additional Updates (Hannah – Active Devon)

- **Stormbreak programme** – fully funded mental health & movement programme for primary schools; seeking schools in areas of deprivation.
- **Adult Cycle Confidence Scheme** – courses in Barnstaple, Bideford, Torrington; can add Ilfracombe if demand identified.
- **Live Longer Better Programme** – strong outcomes in Braunton; expanding to Bideford; monthly alumni group; new Ambassador scheme forming.

8. Any Other Business

- Waymakers inclusion event coming up (details to be circulated by Natalie).
- Interest in trauma-informed / neurodiversity training baseline via Inclusion Community Forum.
- Reminder re: upcoming photo event (unclear reference – possibly Waymakers).

9. Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday 2 June 2026

Format: After the Northern Devon Community Developers Forum meeting.

Host: *Amanda (next rotational host)*

Actions: Louise to confirm timings and venue (Bridge Trust).

ACTION LOG – 31 March 2026

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
1	Circulate June meeting details (2nd June, Bridge Trust) & room booking extension to accommodate for OC group to meet after ND CD forum	Louise	April 2026
2	Prepare agenda & host arrangements for next meeting in June	Amanda (with support from James)	May 2026
3	Circulate Community Life Survey link & finalise version after 14 April workshop	Marie / Bev / Jill	Mid-April 2026
4	Collect primary school contacts for Stormbreak roll-out	All CDs → Hannah	Ongoing
5	Identify demand for Adult Cycle Confidence sessions in Ilfracombe & report back	Charmain	May 2026
6	Explore opportunities for inclusion/equalities forum & link to Inclusive Community Framework	Natalie	Next meeting
7	Share NDDC 'Engagement HQ' usage guidance with OCs/OC group	Bev	Next meeting
8	Add OC group Listening & Learning reflections into case study development	James	Next meeting

9	Share updates on Waymakers event + trauma-informed baseline training	Natalie	When available
10	Continue Youth Council development & engagement of seldom-heard youth voices	Charmain	Ongoing