



Introduction: -

The first Instow Parish Appraisal was held in 1989 when over 700 questionnaires were sent out and 50% were completed and returned for analysis. The next Appraisal was in 1998 when the questionnaire was delivered to 461 households with a return rate of 31%. Following this an Instow Community Appraisal document was printed and duly adopted by Instow Parish Council.

In 2009 questionnaires were sent out in the parish magazine with the expressed intention of updating the Community Appraisal document (1998) and the return rate was 5%. Set out below are the issues highlighted by that appraisal update.

No.	TOPIC	ACTION(S) ALREADY TAKEN	ACTION CONTEMPLATED
1	Need for Affordable Housing	IPC has recently fully cooperated with the Rural Housing Project (RHP) (Exmoor, North Devon and West Somerset)/North Devon Council and a survey has been carried out in the parish. Results are currently being analysed and actioned.	IPC to continue to monitor the work of the RHP and assist as necessary.
2	Allotments	IPC has been pursuing the option of land acquisition as part of its "Ransom Strip" initiative and continues to do so.	IPC will continue to fully explore all possible options.
3	Children's Play Area	Ditto.	Ditto.
4	New Community School	IPC has been working closely with DCC and the School to hasten this much needed facility.	IPC will continue to proactively support all possible options.
5	Tennis Courts	See item 2 and 3 above.	Ditto.
6	Bathing Water Quality	IPC continues to liaise with the Environment Agency (EA)/Defra and continues to keep the beach and dunes clean but water quality is very much weather dependant and out of the control of IPC.	IPC, as a designated "Bathing Water Controller", is considering its legal response to the forthcoming European Directive on Water Quality (2012) and liaising with Defra/ NDCCS as regards signage.
7	Community Facilities for All Saints Chapel	IPC has confirmed its support for this project and has provided a modest grant.	IPC will continue to add support to this worthwhile project.
8	Flood Risk Assessment	IPC continues to liaise with the EA and has published a Self Help Emergency Plan (SHEP) that covers flooding.	IPC will continue to liaise with the EA and revisit/review its SHEP annually.

9	Speeding	IPC meets with the Police regularly and actively supports the use of speed detection apparatus (mobile and fixed). DCC (Cllr Cann) has initiated (with the support of IPC) the fitting of a reactive speed sign/Pedestrian Islands on Anstey Way & extended the speed limit at the Bideford end of Anstey Way	IPC will continue to recommend and support cost effective initiatives in consultation with DCC (Cllr Cann).
10	Policing of Restricted Parking	IPC reports issues of relevance to this to NDC (Civil Enforcement Officers) and Police as appropriate.	IPC will continue to do so.
11	Mend Jetty Wall	The pier and jetty (listed building) are privately owned – NDC has been advised.	IPC to monitor progress.
12	Tidy Up Jetty	Ditto.	Ditto.
13	Dog Fouling	IPC continues to liaise with NDC Environmental Health and Dog Wardens and has initiated a Community Volunteer Beach Dog/Litter Patrol together with a suitable publicity flier sponsored by DCC (Cllr Cann).	This is an on-going initiative that will be reviewed and amended as necessary.
14	Decrease in Holiday Homes	IPC is currently working with an Exeter University Student who is doing a PhD on Second Homes and its affect on Communities.	IPC will continue to offer its support to the Student and looks forward to her findings/recommendations.
15	Street Lighting – Atturm to Rectory Lane	This is a DCC responsibility and has been previously rejected by it.	DCC will be advised.
16	Residents Parking	This has previously been rejected by IPC following guidance from DCC.	Ditto.
17	One Way for Buses along Marine Parade	IPC is currently exploring traffic management initiatives with DCC to overcome congestion, especially in the summer months.	This is an on-going initiative that is the ultimate responsibility of DCC.
18	Flashing 20 mph Sign at the entrance to Marine Parade.	This is a DCC responsibility that has previously been rejected by it.	DCC will be advised.
19	One Way Route for School	This is a DCC responsibility that has previously been considered by it – a walking “bus” initiative has been successfully operated in its stead.	Ditto.
20	Pavement Repair	Damage to pavements is reported to DCC and action, on health and safety grounds only, is taken by them.	This process will continue to be adopted by IPC.
21	Road Surface Improvements	DCC are advised of all defects and act as per its policy (i.e. repairs are only facilitated on health & safety grounds).	Ditto.
22	Traffic Calming Measures	DCC has considered these in the past but has not adopted them in light of government/DCC policy.	DCC will be advised.
23	Waste and Dog Poo Bins at North End of Village	Doggy Bins are already strategically positioned throughout the village.	NDC will be advised.
24	Cut Trees and Tidy Verges More Often	DCC now provides IPC with an annual grant to deal with verge maintenance/grass cutting and this activity is dealt with by the parish handyperson.	This is an on-going initiative.
25	Policing of Dog Restrictions	See 13 above.	See 13 above.

26	Litter Bins at Bus Shelter	IPC recognises that most bus shelters have litter bins adjacent or nearby.	NDC will be advised.
27	Stop Dogs Using South End Of Beach	Instow Beach is “controlled” by various owners and legislation to bring about this suggestion would not be easily obtained/policed.	IPC considers this to be a non viable option.
28	Make the Beach Dog Free	IPC has considered this initiative and taken advice from NDC and come to the conclusion that legislative, “ownership” issues and policing problems would not make this suggestion viable.	Ditto
29	Volley Ball on the Beach	This is a matter for the various beach “owners” to consider, including IPC.	IPC will consider this as part of its ransom strip initiatives i.e. play areas; see item 3 above.
30	Commodore to Allow Parking in Lower Car Park	This is private property and for the owner to consider.	IPC proposes to take no action on this.
31	Sand Residential Home – An Eyesore	IPC has made it known to NDC Planning/Agent of Owner that this state of affairs is not acceptable and “planning” action is being taken to alleviate the current position.	IPC will continue to proactively monitor progress as necessary.
32	Seats on Seaward Side of Seawall	IPC considers this to be impractical because of the large tidal range.	NFA proposed by IPC.
33	Eco Develop Instow Parish Hall (IPH)	IPC has informed IPH’s Management Committee.	Noted.
34	Environment Improvements	In the light that this point was “non specific” IPC to consider in general terms	IPC is always mindful of environmental issues in the parish and particularly liaises & supports Instow in Bloom projects and philosophy.
35	Plant Trees adjacent to B3233	This can only be done under licence from DCC who own the verges; IPC considers that Instow in Bloom “manages” the majority of Instow’s verges well and planting more trees could lead to subsequent unforeseen costs and road safety implications.	NFA contemplated by IPC.

Conclusion: -

It should be noted that many of the issues raised above have only been highlighted by one parishioner and whilst this is valued by IPC, these issues and the action(s) taken/contemplated need to be seen in that particular context. With such a low “return rate” of questionnaires it is, however, most important that those issues raised, by the few, are not discarded or ignored but given full and comprehensive consideration.

Having said that, IPC is always very keen to review and consider all matters raised by its parishioners and it is hoped that this document illustrates and underlines that principle only too well. In fact, IPC encourages more participation of parishioners at monthly meetings – please come along and support your parish council!

Finally, IPC would welcome any form of feedback on this valuable document and is especially grateful to Councillor Charles Harper who has been the lead Councillor for this initiative in any number of ways.

IPC would also like to sincerely thank all parishioners who took the time and trouble to complete a questionnaire; they are proactively helping to formulate the future of their parish that is second to none particularly in North Devon!

RW Jacob MCMI
Clerk to Instow Parish Council

