

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT
PATHFINDER PROGRAMME FOR
ILFRACOMBE, COMBE MARTIN AND
BRATTON FLEMING**

BASELINE PROJECT WORK:
A POSITION REPORT TO THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT
STEERING GROUP

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May 2004

Foreword

From the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

'The object of Neighbourhood Management is to help deprived communities and local service providers work together at the neighbourhood level to improve and 'join up' local services. And to help make those services more responsive to local needs and ensure they deliver priority outcomes on the ground'.

'An effective strategy requires good baseline information about the neighbourhood, the current level and quality of the services and the local community'.

'The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is focused on delivering improvements in five key areas;

- Tackling worklessness (Jobs and Training)
- Improving health (Health)
- Tackling crime and community safety (Crime)
- Raising educational achievement (Education)
- Improving housing and the physical environment

'Collecting information at neighbourhood (as opposed to ward and district) level may be difficult. Many agencies do not currently collect data at neighbourhood level and will need to start capturing new data sets in order to understand how services impact on deprived neighbourhoods 'This is part of a long term process'.

1. Brief

- 1.1 To review the extent and substance of baseline data to enable the Steering Group to review performance against targets defined by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit.
- 1.2 To identify gaps and identify ways they can be filled.
- 1.3 To review the outcomes of any consultations undertaken in the area of benefit over the past three years by Community Alliances, statutory agencies, Town/Parish Councils and other community organisations. To report on key themes and issues and to assess any gaps in consultation.
- 1.4 To identify other relevant programmes in the area and their key objectives after discussion with programme leaders.
- 1.5 To map relevant Partnerships, their purpose and willingness to engage with the Neighbourhood Management Programme.
- 1.6 To assess barriers and enablers to deliver the Stage 2 Delivery Plan.

2. The Extent and Substance of Baseline Data

(To Enable the Steering Group to review performance against targets defined by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit)

- 2.1 As the 'Information Age' progresses more and more data has become available at national, regional and local level. Present boundaries tend to be based on local Authorities, but it is increasingly possible to extract parish or neighbourhood specific data.
- 2.2 Listed below are the Statistics and other information sources relevant to the Neighbourhood Management area of Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and Bratton Fleming:

1 The Index of Multiple Deprivation

Information on Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and Bratton Fleming

- Index Score and Rank of Index
- Deprivation Indices
- Income
- Employment
- Health
- Education
- Housing
- Child Poverty
- Transport
- Social – Lone parent, persons with long term illness, social class IV, V, age weighted, disability rates
- Elderly
- Young People
- The Breadline Brain Score
- The DOE index of local conditions
- The Jarman Under-privileged Area Score
- Wealth Z Scores

2 Index of Multiple Deprivation (National Dot Graphs)

Information on Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and Bratton Fleming

- Overall Deprivation
- Geographical Access to Services
- Child Poverty
- Education, skills and training deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Health Deprivation

- Housing Deprivation
- Income Deprivation
- File notes on Deprivation
- Comparison of per Capita Income – North Devon and National

3 Deprivation in North Devon (Maps)

- IMD Rank
- Income Rank
- Housing Rank
- Health Rank
- Employment Rank
- Education Rank
- Child Poverty Rank
- Access Rank
- Income Rank

4 National Census: Parish Profiles

- General Information
- Headcounts
- People (male, female, people living in households, people living in communal establishments, age bands, married households, single households, married, divorced, long term illness, numbers providing unpaid care)
- Qualifications and work – employed, unemployed, economically inactive.
- Age groups employed, unemployed, average hours worked type of employment
- Type of Travel to Work
- Households – number, one household pensioner or other, households with children, households no children, lone parents, dependent children, no employment, long term illness, no car, owned tenure, 1 car, 2 cars, ethnic group.
- Accommodation and Tenure – number of Dwellings, occupied houses, vacant houses, second homes, types of dwelling, average size, central heating, bathroom, owners, tenure, housing association

5 North Devon People Profile (DCC Corporate Information Service) 1998 – 2011

- Population by age and gender
- Parishes Combe Martin, Ilfracombe, North Devon migration
- Index of Deprivation
- North Devon Education Profile
- North Devon Early Years Profile
- North Devon Social Services Profile – disability allowance
- Incapacity Benefit, 65+ attendance allowance
- North Devon Crime Profile
- North Devon Lottery Funded Projects

6 Primary Care Trust Health Profiles 2002 (North and East Devon Healthcare Community)

Information by neighbourhood including Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and Bratton Fleming.

- Demographic Information
- Resident Population by sex, age band
- Registered Population by Practice
- 2001 – 2016 Population Projections for Council Areas (including North Devon District Council)
- Multiple Deprivation (by Ward)
- Income Domain
- Rank of UK of Income Domain
- Employment Domain
- Health Domain Score
- Education Domain (+ Rank)
- Housing Domain (+ Rank)
- Access Domain (+ Rank)
- Child Poverty Index Score (+ Rank)
- Unemployment
- Morality (1990 – 1999)
 - All age Persons all causes
 - All age males all causes
 - All age females all causes
 - From Accidents

- From Cancers
- From Cerebrovascular Disease
- From Coronary Heart Disease
- From Suicide and Injury undetermined
- Emergency Hospital Admissions
 - Abdominal pain
 - Myocardial Infarction
 - Angina and other Ischaemic Heart Disease
 - Asthma
 - Chest Infections
 - COAD
 - Cerebrovascular
 - Fractures
 - Heart Failure
 - Poisoning
 - Psychiatric Admissions
- Elective Procedures
 - Cataract Removal
 - Cholecystectomy
 - Cytoscopy
 - Hernia
 - Hip Replacement
 - Hysterectomy
 - Knee Replacement
 - Insertion of Grommets
 - Termination of Pregnancy
 - Endoscopy upper Gastro-Intestinal Tract
 - Varicose Veins
- Births (by regions)
 - Conceptions (1996 – 1998) Age less 16, age less 18
 - Abortions Age 11 – 15, Age 16 – 19, Age 20 – 24
- Prescribing Information (by Medical Centre)
 - Antidepressant Prescribing
 - Antihypertensive Prescribing
 - Antipsychotic Prescribing
 - Donepezil (Dementia) Prescribing
 - Statin

- Screening Information (by Medical Centre)
Breast Screening
Cervical Screening
- Childhood Immunisations (by Medical Centre and Region)
- Annual Report of the Directors of Public Health 2001 – 2002

7 Focus on Devon

An analysis of needs to inform the Devon Community Strategy)
Mainly information on the whole of Devon, but some specific information on North Devon:

- Devon – Its People, Facts and Trends; Quality of life, deprivation, immigration and emigration (especially young people)
- Climate Change
- Natural Resources and Waste
- Biodiversity and Landscape
- Environment as an economic driver
- Enterprise and productivity
- Learning and Skills
- Transport and Traffic
- Housing
- Inclusive Devon (Deprivation, earnings, health, care and wellbeing)
- Older People – age structure, life expectancy, decreased independence
- Children and Young People – poverty, crime
- Community Safety
- Quality of Life – indicators

8 North Devon Homes Status Survey - outline Questionnaire – to be completed by May 2004

9 Sure Start Background Statistics on Ilfracombe and Combe Martin (Questionnaire)

- Age of Questionnaire respondents
- No access to Car
- Volunteering

- Paid Employment
- Care for Own Children
- Help to find Paid Employment
- Satisfaction with Services – equipment to disabled, postage, physiotherapist, audiologist, doctors, health visitor, midwife, dentist, opticare, asthma, speech therapist, special needs, toy library, library, park swimming pool
- How Do You Find Out About Current Services
- Tobacco Smoking Addiction
- Childcare Preferences
- Total Under 4's in each Ward
- Accommodation

10 Sure Start

Number of Children Participating
Sure Start Programme and Activities

11 Education Key Stage – Results 1999 – 2004

Ifracombe Church of England Junior School
Combe Martin Primary School
Bratton Fleming Primary School
Ifracombe College
Pilton Community College
Adult and Community Learning Programmes

12 Working Together Project

A European Union Social Fund application applying to Ifracombe
'To reduce labour market exclusion by assisting young people and other disadvantaged people to participate in the work force'

13 North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership

- Costed application for building safer communities
- Stay Past
- Devon wide Domestic Violence Programme
- Strategy Contingency Fund – Crime Trends
- Criminal Justice Alcohol Worker
- Drugs Disruption (reduce availability)

- Rental Crime Reduction Scheme
- Capital Spend Project
- Devon Community Safety Network
- CCTV ANPR (North Devon link)
- Life Education Centre Schools Programme
- Young and Homeless Worker
- GOYA Project – sports based, youth inclusion programme
- Handy Person Security Scheme – burglary prevention project
- Project Lantern – against vehicle crime
- Vehicle Crime Strategy
- Anti Social Behavior Co-ordinator

14 Understanding the Needs of Rural Communities

A study of rural deprivation indicators, Joyce Halliday, Exeter University

15 Creation and Enhancement: The Development of an Open Space Strategy for North Devon

Bennett Leisure and Planning in association with North Devon District Council – Analysis of sporting provision in Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and Bratton Fleming with recommendations for development (September 2001)

16 Crime Statistics 2002/03 2003/04 for Ilfracombe, Bratton Fleming and Combe Martin

Recorded Crimes, Percentage Difference, Detections, Percentage Detections

- Murder
- Other Violent Assaults
- Sexual Offences
- Robbery
- House Burglary
- Other Burglary
- Theft of Vehicle/Taking without consent
- Theft from Vehicle
- Theft of Pedal Cycle
- Theft from Shops

- Other Theft
- Handling Stolen Goods
- Fraud and Forgery Offences
- Criminal Damage (excl to vehicle)
- Drug Offences
- Other Criminal Offences
- Totals

17 Devon County Council

Costed Annual Youth Work Management Plan: Ilfracombe Area

18 Sorted

A Handbook for young people in North Devon and Torridge.
Organisations, Activities and Rights.

19 Ilfracombe College, Ilfracombe Infant and Nursery School, Ilfracombe Church of England Junior School, Bratton Fleming Community primary School, Combe Martin Primary School, Pilton Community College

Annual Reports to Parents 2003 – School Budgets, Activities and Clubs

20 North Devon Local Plan, Revised Deposit, Chapters on Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and Bratton Fleming

21 Files on Ilfracombe, Combe Martin, Bratton Fleming containing:

- Parish Minutes
- Community Alliance activities
- Information brochures listing organisations, names and activities
- Monthly Community Magazines
- Background information on the communities
- Past Consultations
- Views of Alliances and Parish Councils
- Perceived needs of the community
- Activities and needs particular to each community

22 Transport

- Bus Timetable
- Transport and Travel Guide, North Devon District Council
- Bus Services
- Rail Services
- Hospital Car Service
- Ambulance Services
- Voluntary Car/Community Bus Schemes
- Mobility Equipment
- Minibox Schemes
- Ring and Ride
- School, College Transport
- Concessionary Fare Schemes
- Devon Wide half fare travel passes

23 North Devon Primary Care Trust

Equity Audit – A Tool for Maintaining Communities Regeneration

24 North Devon primary Care Trust

Choosing Health – Questionnaire for Circulation – A Consultation on Health

25 Deprivation Figures

To Follow

The appendix contains the full detail of each information set and it is very substantial!

- 2.3 There is material on each of the five focus areas required by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, health, jobs and employment, crime, education, housing and the physical environment. However a detailed analysis and a cross-match between the data collections is required to ensure that maximum information is placed in each area and to understand statistics that link areas. For example the numbers of chronically sick elderly may impact on specialist housing provision and transport to particular services.

2.4 The Baseline Data clearly shows significant differences between the three communities

Population

Bratton Fleming	942
Combe Martin	2,650
Ilfracombe	10,840

The index of Multiple Deprivation Rank

(The lower the figure, the greater the deprivation)

Ilfracombe Central	710
Combe Martin	1,806
Bratton Fleming	2,602

Index of Geographical Access to Services

Bratton Fleming – very deprived
Combe Martin – medium
Ilfracombe – very well served

Index of Education, Skills and Training Deprivation

Combe Martin – Most deprived of the three areas (2423)
Bratton Fleming – towards deprived (2746)
Ilfracombe – least deprived of the three areas (409)

Health Deprivation

Ilfracombe Central – very poor (436)
Combe Martin – medium (2579)
Bratton Fleming – good (5119)

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister however sees Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and Bratton Fleming as one rural area and expects initiatives to cross the three boundaries.

2.5 Statistics can confound beliefs. All crimes in the three areas reduced by 30% last year. In Bratton Fleming the reduction was 79%. Maybe the fear of crime is more potent than the actual crime. That does not mean that action should not be taken but the focus of the action should take account of statistical fact and belief. The percentage unemployment in Ilfracombe

has fallen from over 20% in October 1992 (National average 10.5%) to 4% in October 2002 (National Average 3.5%). However Central Ilfracombe still has a major problem and ranks 464 in the national index of Employment deprivation. The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit expects Pathfinder areas to use baseline information to inform decision making.

- 2.6 The Unit also recommends comparisons between Neighbourhood statistics with similar figures at regional and national level. The Devon County Council Corporate Intelligence Service produces impressive information on the County, but it is often necessary to contact individual Government Departments for national figures.
- 2.7 The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit mentions statistical comparisons between participating areas in the Pathfinder Programme. Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and Bratton Fleming constitutes the first Rural Pathfinder, all other participating areas are urban. The urban statistics are starker but the differing types of deprivation in some rural communities are no less real. Those crude comparisons could be unproductive.
- 2.8 There is a requirement in the Neighbourhood Management programme that comparisons be made between starter baseline data and similar data collected after any service delivery innovation. It will be important then to update the data base.
- 2.9 During the preparation of this report there was absolute cooperation from all the agencies contacted. Many of those organisations indicated that the totality of the baseline data collected would assist them in planning, bidding and decision making. The Neighbourhood Management Programme Steering Group should make a decision on the availability of their collected data to others.
- 2.10 Although the baseline data collected to date is substantial, I am sure that it will be added to in the future.

3. Present Gaps in the Baseline Data and Ways They Can Be Filled

- 3.1 Relevant baseline information has been secured for each of the five areas specified. Inevitably it will be expanded.
- 3.2 It was not always possible to capture information relevant to 2003/2004. The Police could provide current crime figures, the schools data is for 2003 and Sure Start Programme figures are for 2003/2004. The Primary Care Trust Health Profiles refer to 2002, the Profiles for 2003 will be published in June. The Index of Deprivation was updated in 2000. Parish Profiles were based on the Census of 2001. Obviously it is important to know when updates will be available.
- 3.3 Neighbourhood Information is increasingly being processed but there are still gaps. Local Government tends to work by district rather than by neighbourhood. However in discussion with the Chief Executive of North Devon District Council there was recognition that both they and Devon County Council should capture neighbourhood based information on the services they provide eg waste collection, social services etc. Obviously there will be a cost in staff time.
- 3.4 Perhaps the greatest difficulty encountered was in finding the neighbourhoods costs behind the services. Local Government, the Police and Health may have fact on the amount of service but as yet few can tell you what it costs in a specific locality. Initiatives such as Sure Start can. There are some part answers, for example in Education. The cost of Primary Education can be calculated from the budget share given to each of the infant/primary schools and published in their Annual Report to Parents. However at the secondary and tertiary level, Ilfracombe College, Pilton Community College and North Devon College serve areas other than Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and Bratton Fleming. There is recognition that service costs should be disaggregated and that provision or non-provision in one service may impact on another. Extra youth provision may reduce crime figures. How much does the extra youth provision cost? And how much do the Police save? The home-care of the chronically sick may transfer costs to Social Services, but would save Health on hospitals beds. There is no doubt that Central Government is increasingly looking to 'joined up services' but that will require a major cultural shift to providers who have traditionally had to fight other providers to capture as much

- 3.5 budget share as possible. Will service providers ever be able to pool budgets?
- 3.6 Some initiatives include Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and Bratton Fleming but serve a larger area. The North Devon and Torrridge Community Safety Partnership Funding plan 2004/5 costs 17 projects. All will impact on the three communities but they also cover the whole of Northern Devon. The Working Together Project (North Devon College, European Social Fund) will work with employment black spots including 'rural areas' and Central Ilfracombe. It may be difficult to extract the exact service, cost and improvement to the three Pathfinder communities, but they will obviously benefit from the projects.
- 3.7 As well as filling gaps there will be a need to consider the impact of one service initiative on another and to avoid duplication.
- 3.8 An important task for staff on the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Programme will be to work with data collectors from Local Government, Health, Police and other agencies operating in the three communities to suggest information required and to pool knowledge.

4. A Review Of the Outcomes of Consultations Undertaken In The Area Of Benefit Over The Past Three Years, Key Themes and Issues

- 4.1 Each of the three communities have active Parish/Town Councils and Community Alliances. In addition they are rich in voluntary organisations.
- 4.2 Although the report specifies on consultations over the past three years it is worth remembering that there was earlier work. The Community Council for Devon undertook Community Appraisals in 1997/98 for Combe Martin and Bratton Fleming. The Civic Trust produced a report on Ilfracombe in 1986.
- 4.3 Some consultation is ongoing and the results of the MORI/NOP survey will be available at the end of May 2004.
- 4.4 The Rural Alliance has just secured a grant of £26,000 to undertake a Parish Appraisal under Planning for Real. A Parish questionnaire 'What have we got? What do you want?' was circulated in April 2004. Results are awaited. The Bratton Fleming Sports Club consulted widely before producing a most impressive sports ground and youth centre. Similarly the Millennium Green, excellent play facilities and community woodland/nature trail are a result of consultations by the Parish Council to residents. The Rural Alliance is keen to draw rural settlements adjacent to Bratton Fleming into their consultation process. The Community Composting Scheme (with profits going to the community) is a result of cooperation between the Parish Council and North Devon District Council. A subsidised travel scheme with 'Bray Travel' was produced after discussion with Devon County Council. Present negotiation between North Devon Homes and the Parish Councils should see the building of 15 affordable homes (5 for rent, 10 with shared equity).

Key Themes at the moment are;

- The need for affordable homes
- Traffic calming through the village
- To fill all the units in the Grange Hill Rural workshops (owned by English partnerships). At the moment only 3 of the 7 are filled. The village sees itself as a gateway to Exmoor and would like to see rural industries located in the units.

- A more regular police presence (the fear of crime)
- To secure a "community warden" operating in all settlements covered by the Rural Alliance. The Warden would assist community development and draw dispersed rural communities together

4.5 The Combe Martin Parish Council owns more assets than most such institutions eg car parks, property and recreation areas. It is very active and there is always keen competition at elections. The Combe Martin Community Alliance was established in 2002. The meetings are open but there is specific representation from Parish Council, District Council, Police, Health, Youth, Churches, Sporting Groups, the Business Community, Voluntary Groups and organisations for retired people. A community consultation was conducted by the Alliance in May/June 2002 followed by a Sport and Recreation questionnaire in February 2003 and Beach Survey in August 2003.

The May/June Community Consultation showed the following concerns/needs:

- Improved leisure facilities and play facilities
- Traffic calming and the need to address the balance between pedestrians and vehicles
- Off street parking and on street parking
- Preventing over building, but providing additional sheltered accommodation and affordable homes
- A dedicated youth centre
- Upgrading of the beach and toilet facilities
- Local employment opportunities for 18-35 year olds
- Community safety especially vandalism and threatening behavior by groups of young people

The Sport and Recreation Survey showed the need for:

- A multi-use games area
- A skateboard area
- A cricket pitch and additional football pitches
- Enhanced use of the beach area
- Enhanced play areas
- Heritage and recreational walks

As a result of the questionnaire a Sport and Recreation Sub-Committee was formed which has produced a Ten Year Sport and Recreation Development Plan for the village. A Traffic Group was formed as a sub-committee of the Alliance, which meets regularly with the Devon County Council Environment Directorate.

A Parish Councillor and the Police established the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). Open meetings are held monthly.

The Parish Clerk feels that the main themes of council meetings are:

- Planning matters
- Parking (off street and on road)
- Vandalism and the fear of crime

A recent initiative from the Community Alliance is 'Paint It' by which villagers are painting railings, seats, bollards and stanchions to a colour theme of blue and silver with paint and materials provided by Devon County Council.

Other matters discussed by the Alliance include the needs of the elderly (housing and services), more focused youth work and community composting.

- The Neighbourhood Watch Action Group welcomed
- The opening of a Police Office in the Village Hall
- Two detached youth workers spending 3.5 hours per week in the village
- Volunteers to liaise on reporting acts of vandalism in the village

- 4.6 The Ilfracombe Town Council has a history of independence and of a robust relationship with North Devon District Council. The Ilfracombe Community Alliance was established in November 2000 and in 2002 was renamed the Ilfracombe and District Community Alliance. There is a twenty year history of regeneration work in association with Europe and the Regional Development Agency due to high levels of unemployment, deteriorating fabric and social problems. The recently defunct Ilfracombe and District Industrial Development Committee was instrumental in

attracting firms to the town in building the Mullacott Industrial Estate. There are a large number of Voluntary Organisations some coordinated by North Devon Volunteering Agency, the High Street Traders Association and the Tourist Association represent the Business Community, Transend (an environmental energy association) and Sure Start are active. Ilfracombe College is a community college with a brief to develop life long learning and community activity within the area (including Combe Martin).

The needs of Ilfracombe have been proclaimed for some time by the Town Council, North Devon District Council, the County Council and numerous Community Groups. Improvements to the harbour, the building of the Landmark Theatre, The Lantern Community Centre, CCTV and Umbrellas (a home for the young homeless) resulted.

The Ilfracombe and District Community Alliance along with local government have used past consultations and reports to launch new initiatives. The Alliance is an open organisation but with specific representation from Town Council, District Council, County Council, Health, The Police, Caring Organisations, Business, Tourism and Youth.

In 2002/03 a successful bid was made to the South West Regional Development Agency through the Market and Coastal Town Initiative. An open consultation week was attended by 1000 plus citizens.

The many issues/aspirations raised during the consultation were:

- Harbour/pier improvements and the re-development of the adjacent bus station site.
- Renewable energy projects and sustainable living
- Affordable housing for locals
- A coherent youth employment and leisure strategy (eg skateboard park and multi use games area)
- Issues concerned with the appearance of the central resort town; change for the better, the scruffy feel of the core area and seafront; derelict buildings; need to clean buildings, streets, beaches, shop fronts, need for improvements to waste and litter collection; problems created by irresponsible dog ownership; and seasonal seagull nesting. Re-open Capstone hill walk.

- Need to extend tourist season to all year activity creating increased income
- Need for a thriving diverse economy
- Gain a supermarket with car parking
- Indoor leisure/activity centre
- Improvements to public toilet provision
- Improvements to and access for localised car parking for residents and visitors
- Improve both physical and virtual connectivity within area, to the region, UK and Europe

As a result six Focus Groups were established to six themes:

1. A Prosperous Ilfracombe; Business, Employment, Training and Housing
2. Ilfracombe as a First Class Destination; Tourism
3. Things to Do; Culture and Leisure for All
4. An Attractive Ilfracombe; Clean, Tidy and Safe
5. Infrastructure, Physical and Virtual including Transport and Roads
6. Using Talents, Skills and Abilities, encouraging more focused community participation

Two cross cutting strategies will underpin all activities under these themes;

- Environmental Sustainability – taking care to ensure that action today does not have a negative impact on future generations and encouraging action that has a positive impact
- Social Inclusion – working to ensure that everyone is able to access the services and resources they need to achieve a good quality of life

Obviously the Market and Coastal Town Initiative is encompassing the community efforts of most groups in Ilfracombe. The Neighbourhood Management programme will want to be part of the corporate effort.

- 4.7 Although the three communities have different characteristics and needs the following themes and issues were common:-
- Affordable homes for local people

- Community safety and the fear of crime
- Traffic calming and parking
- Organising youth activities
- Enhanced sporting and recreation facilities open to all
- Local employment opportunities
- Care in the community for those of all ages at risk but particularly the elderly

4.8 Many of the community initiatives to date have specified on Capital Build. The Neighbourhood Management Programme concentrates on Service Delivery. There is ample scope then for one to feed the other. There have been instances in the past when excellent capital build initiatives have later floundered on revenue costs and lack of management expertise.

4.9 All three communities are conscious of the need to consult. Bratton Fleming is presently engaged on a community consultation and both Combe Martin and Ilfracombe have conducted consultations over the past two years. The largest sample came from the Ilfracombe Open Consultation Week. Although there was only an age analysis in the Combe Martin Sport Survey, opinion is that the 24 to 40 age groups is least likely to volunteer information at 'drop in' consultations. House to house questionnaires tend only to get full representation if they are filled in on the doorstep or are later collected door to door. It must also be recognised that the least privileged residents are the least likely to respond to questionnaires – they may need a sympathetic human approach. The NOP/MORI Poll (results, available at the end of May) should have provided an age weighted random sample.

5. Other Relevant Programmes in the Area Covered by the Neighbourhood Management Programme

- 5.1 Both Ilfracombe and Combe Martin have Regeneration Programmes particular to those communities. Bratton Fleming as yet had no specific scheme but has recently won the grant to undertake a Parish Appraisal, under Planning for Real.
- 5.2 The North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership serves all Northern Devon but parts of its programme may effect the members of the three communities;
- Devonwide Domestic Violence Programme
 - Stayfast – supervision and leisure programmes for school age young people at risk of offending
 - Criminal justice alcohol worker
 - Life Education Centre Schools Programme
 - Drugs Education Programme for 4-11 year olds
 - Young and homeless worker
 - GOYA – sport based youth inclusion programme for young people at risk
 - Handy persons Security Scheme – burglary prevention for the elderly and those on low incomes.
- 5.3 Sure Start operates in Ilfracombe, Combe Martin and Berrynarbor. The aim is to improve the well being and life opportunities of young children under four through better health, childcare and educational opportunities and to strengthen families and communities. Services offered are;
- Feeding your baby group
 - Pop in for parents/careers to join in with play and to meet informally with the Sure Start team
 - Dads Group and Mums Group
 - Mini Movers – a gym club for the under 4's
 - Dads and Kids Breakfast Club
 - Treasure Basket – Play for children just started sitting
 - Babies under 12 months Pop-In
 - Smoke Stop Group
 - Parenting Groups
 - Early Steps and Early Start
 - Family Talk – making communication with your family fun
 - Healthy Eating

- Speech and Language Therapist
- Dental Health Educator
- Educational Psychologist
- Pre-school Advisory Teacher
- Teenage Pregnancy Worker
- Tiny Travelers – Transport to Sure Start activities, hospital, appointments etc
- Home Visitors – A team of Home Visitors who are available to offer support and provide advice and information a whole range of family issues
- Toy Library which travels throughout the Sure Start area
- Home Safety Equipment Loan Scheme
- Small grants for groups working with young people and for training

At the moment 413 children under 4 and 533 parents are registered with Sure Start.

- 5.4 The Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme is based in Ilfracombe with a worker particularly specifying on Ilfracombe Central and Ilfracombe East. Using a grant from Europe the tasks are;
- To take forward Neighbourhood Regeneration through community engagement, especially encouraging those who find it difficult to make their voices heard
 - Expansion of the employment base
 - Helping community financial literacy/debt counselling
 - Crime prevention and community safety
 - Volunteering support activities
 - Promotion of cultural and arts opportunities
 - Helping provision of careers information, advice and guidance, development of training materials/transferable skills
 - After School care activities
 - Social and personal skills development
- 5.5 The Working Together Project is managed by North Devon College under the European Social Fund, Objective 2. The Project covers the six most deprived wards in the North Devon and Torridge District Council area, of which two are Ilfracombe Central and Ilfracombe East. The aim is to

reduce labour market exclusion by assisting young people and other disadvantaged groups to participate in the workforce. The project addresses the barriers of beneficiaries living in the wards including lack of confidence, low self-esteem debt issues, substance abuse and long term absence from their job market. It is also an equal opportunity project because of the large number of women, living in the wards. A number of linked organisations including North Devon Pathfinder Trust Ltd, Working Advocacy in North Devon, Add Action, The Construction Industry Training Board, Barnstable Poverty Action Group, North Devon Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Treads Motor Project, North Devon Housing Society Ltd, Age Concern, North Devon District Council, Devon County Council, The North Devon Enterprise Agency, Jobcentre Plus, Connexions Cornwall and Devon and Devon Partnership NHS Trust will work with the project.

- 5.6 The Market and Coastal Town Initiative is a government driven approach to the regeneration of Market and Coast Towns in rural England. The initiative is being carried out by a regional partnership led by the South West Regional Development Agency. There are currently fifteen towns in Devon taking part including Ilfracombe. Infact the area covered is Ilfracombe and its hinterland which stretches from Woolacombe in the west to Combe Martin in the east. The vision is to create vibrant, healthy and sustainable Market and Coastal Towns in the South West by helping local communities and their partners to;
- Prepare plans for the future that cover all aspects of community life in the Ilfracombe area
 - Develop the skills and strengths needed to be effective partners
 - Share good ideas and learn from local, regional, national and international experiences
 - Secure the funding and professional help to turn these plans into reality

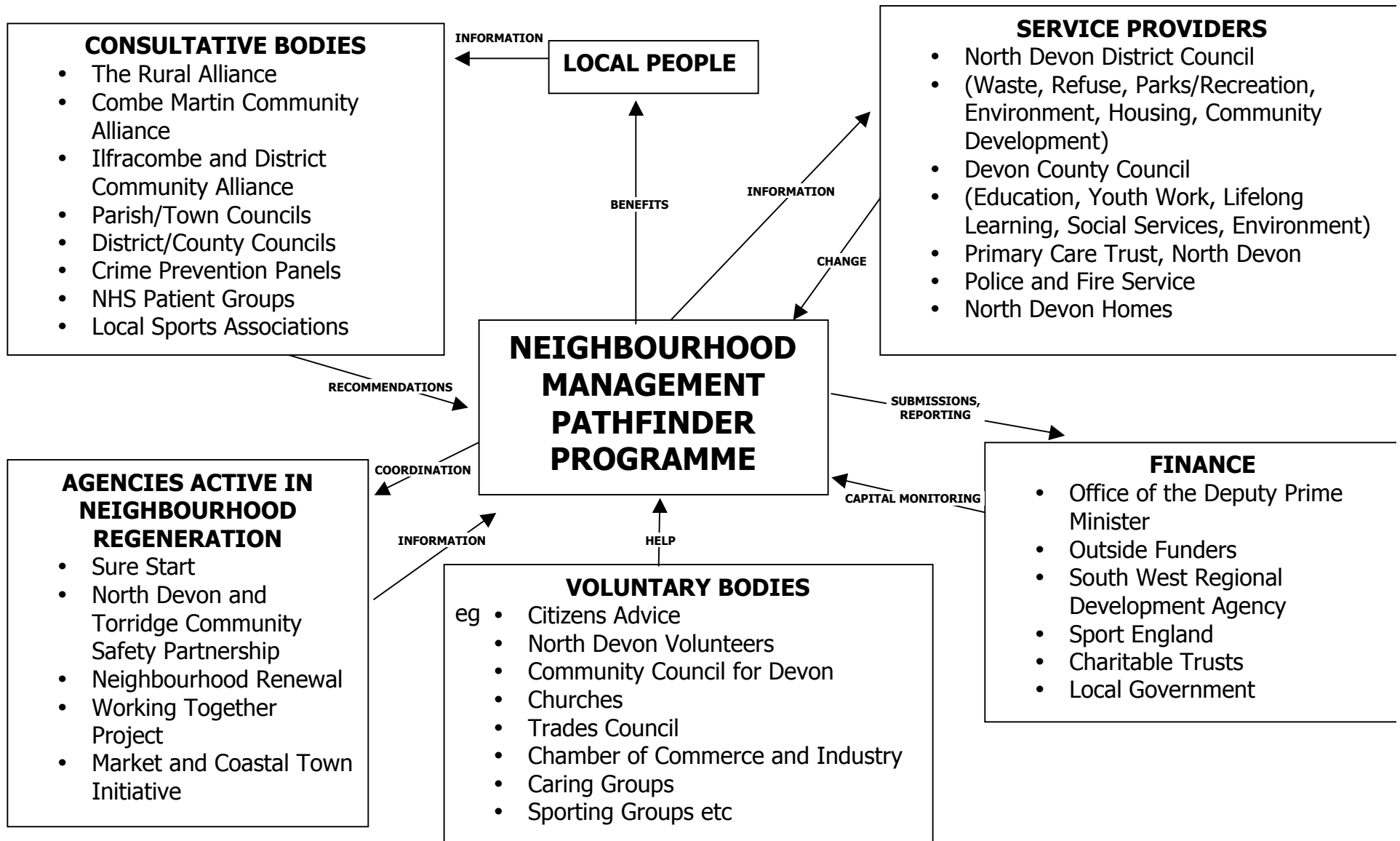
The Ilfracombe and District Community Alliance received grant aid to conduct a consultation and to draw up an Action Plan. That Action Plan is now prepared.

Some detail is found in 4.6 of this report and the full plan is included in the appendix files. Implementation of the plan will have several aspects;

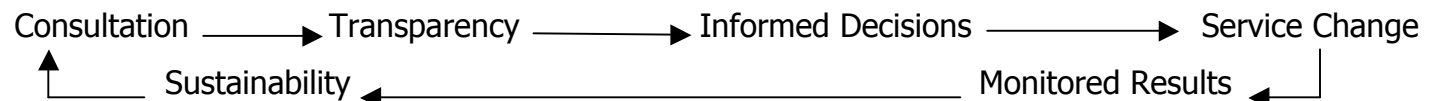
- Theme groups to continue driving forward their development areas
- The Brokering Process – bringing potential funders together to raise capital and work cooperatively on projects

- 5.7 Each of the three communities publishes Local Organisation Guides and the lists are impressive. There are many groups who will have a contribution to make to the Neighbourhood Management Programme and they will be keen to take part. It is worth noting that they are already active and their advice should be sought.
- 5.8 Agencies in North Devon such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, the North Devon Volunteering Agency, Poverty Action Group, The Community Council for Devon and the North Devon Chamber of Commerce and Industry have a part to play in developments.
- 5.9 It will obviously be important for the Neighbourhood Management team to work in cooperation with other programmes. Pooled information may avoid duplication and make better use of resources.

6. Relevant Partnerships and Potential Engagement with the Neighbourhood Management Programme



KEY STAGES:



7. Barriers and Enablers to Deliver the Stage 2 Delivery Plans

- 7.1 There is an excitement and a local expectation from the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Project. The three Community Alliances are well established so that consultation, communication and feedback are eased.
- 7.2 The County Council, North Devon District Council, Parish, Town Councils, Health and the Police are sympathetic and recognise the need for costed service change at neighbourhood levels.
- 7.3 There is a history of volunteering and voluntary organisations within the three communities which gives local energy and ownership.
- 7.4 Bratton Fleming, Combe Martin and Ilfracombe have the first Rural Pathfinder, thus enabling new ground to be broken without the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister being influenced by previous schemes.
- 7.5 A great deal of information is already available from statistics and previous consultations.
- 7.6 The District Council and County Council Officers who prepared the application for the Pathfinder Programme are experienced in submissions to and dealing with Central Government. A strong team will produce the essential leadership.
- 7.7 Although there is presently local excitement about the Pathfinder Programme, beware of over consultation. Some believe that consultation can take the place of action and cynicism quickly sets in. Transparency must always take the place of Chinese whispers. Some swift easily seen actions always help.
- 7.8 The Local Authorities and Public Authorities have statistical information but they will be the first to admit that the costs of services at a neighbourhood level are not always available. New programmes must be devised to capture such data (there is a cost implication).

- 7.9 The concentration of service provision at neighbourhood level implies a change of culture at local and Public Authority level. Greater pooling of information, joint decision making and cooperative financing may be necessary.
- 7.10 If the pathfinder programme is to succeed it must work along with the political process and with local politicians.
- 7.11 The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit recommends that neighbourhood statistical information be compared with national averages and where possible, similar information from other Pathfinder areas. *Beware:* the North Devon Pathfinder is the first one to address rural deprivation. Rural deprivation is no less real than that in urban areas but is often different and does not look so dramatic. For example, the statistics on car ownership (54% only in Central Ilfracombe) do not seem as dramatic as the number of burnt out cars in an inner city district of Sheffield. Yet the isolation in a rural area from lack of car ownership represents real deprivation.

The National Averages on recorded crime are far higher than for those in Bratton Fleming, Ilfracombe and Combe Martin. Yet these are pockets of high crime in particular categories and the fear of crime in an older population is very real.

- 7.12 Although the annex to this report contains many statistics, they are not exhaustive. It will also be important to maintain up to date neighbourhood data so that service improvements can be measured using starter data against data collected after a defined period of service change.
- 7.13 Although the Pathfinder area is fortunate in having other partnerships and voluntary organisations, there will be a need to coordinate activity and avoid duplication. Ownership is productive, duplications wastes resources.
- 7.14 Locals may see the three areas making up the Pathfinder as very different. Neighbourhood loyalty could prompt each community to fight for

a bigger share of the cake. Central Government sees the Pathfinder as one rural area and assumes a common programme.

8. Conclusion

It is impossible when writing such a report not to envisage beneficial change. If only some of the aspirations of the local communities become reality then it will succeed. The Pathfinder Programme can make a difference and it can prompt other organisations to improve the services they provide.

It has been a pleasure to work in partnership with Jo Ash. If the full team is of her caliber and enthusiasm, mountains will be moved.

9. Annex

- Four full files of statistical information as outlined in 2.2
- File on Ilfracombe
 - Discussion with the Chair of the Ilfracombe and District Community Alliance
 - The Civic Trust in Ilfracombe 1886 – 1990
 - Meeting to initiate a Ilfracombe Community Alliance November 2000 plus notes on consultations at the meeting
 - Ilfracombe Community Alliance notes of the meetings April 2001, February 2002
 - The Ilfracombe and District Community Alliance Interim Action Plan 2001 – 2004
 - Market and Coastal Town Initiative: Ilfracombe, expression of interest pro-forma to the South West Regional Development Agency
 - Ilfracombe Market and Coastal Town Initiative – 1st Draft Action Plan
 - Ilfracombe Market and Coastal Town Initiative – 2nd Draft Action Plan
 - Ilfracombe and District Community Alliance MCTI, consultation and set tasks
 - FOCUS – The free monthly community magazine
 - Local Organisations Guide 2003
 - Ilfracombe specific census statistics 2001
- File on Combe Martin
 - Discussions with Michelle Beaumont, Clerk to the Parish Council and the Chair of the Combe Martin Community Alliance
 - Minutes of Combe Martin Parish Council, Jan, Feb, Mar 2004
 - Notes from the Combe Martin Community Alliance Traffic Group – Mar 2004
 - Combe Martin Community Alliance Sport and Recreation Task Group: A Ten Year Development Plan for Sport and Recreation 3rd Draft
 - The Combe Martin Community Appraisal, January 1997
 - The Combe Martin Community Consultation, June 2002

- The Combe Martin Community Alliance: Projects in Combe Martin
- Housing in Combe Martin – A report from North Devon District Council
- Local Organisations Guide 2003
- The Shammichite – Free monthly community magazine
- Combe Martin Parish Council Annual Report

- File on Bratton Fleming
 - Notes on a meeting with the Chairs of the Parish Council and the Rural Alliance
 - Parish Council minutes Feb, Mar 2004
 - Parish Questionnaire 2003/04 'What have we got? What do you want?
 - Bratton Fleming News – Spring 2004 – listing organisations and the names of officials.