

Councillor Mrs. Chris Goodman – Acceptance speech

Mayor Making Ceremony 16th May 2019

Acceptance Speech (The speech can be accessed, in full, on Youtube – please see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFG2os5Mi7k>)

I am very pleased to accept the invitation to be Mayor of Torpoint for the Civic Year 2019/2020. I should like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support in voting for me. I promise to work with energy and enthusiasm to honour that trust. Mr Chris Goodman will be Mayor's Consort for the Civic Year. Deputy Town Mayor will be Miss Rachel Tanner BEM and Deputy Town Mayor Consort will be Mr Bob Evans. The Mayor's Chaplain for the Civic year will be Father Michael Brown. The Mayor's Cadet for the Civic year is Buffy Taylor, who represents the Youth of Torpoint in this role.

The Town Council is working on a project to erect a War Memorial in Eliot Square to commemorate service personnel and civilians from Torpoint who were killed in World War 11 and Other Conflicts. Donations towards this project have been received from relatives of the Fallen, as well as from the Royal British Legion Torpoint Branch; Royal Naval Association Torpoint & Rame Branch; Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Lions Club and Torpoint Masonic Lodge, Carew 1136. I should like to thank them for their generosity and support.

I became a Torpoint Councillor in 2015. I have had the honour of being Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee. I have been Chair of the Asset Management and Operations Committee for the Civic Years 2017/18 and 2018/19. I have been Deputy Mayor for the last two Civic Years which I believe has been excellent preparation for the role of Mayor. What I believe to be important is that we cherish and protect the things that make Torpoint that very special town in which we have chosen to live, but endeavour to bring about change to improve opportunity and life chances for everyone in our community.

Working on the devolution of assets, the Library and the Parks, has forged a much closer, cooperative, working relationship with Cornwall Council. I intend to be proactive and outward looking in seeking opportunity for our community. In the Town Council's Development Plan for next year we have planned to continue with our aspiration to bring more colour to the town. We will continue work started at Sparrow Park. Phase one has been completed and we were pleased to be in receipt of three camellias which were sponsored by Mt. Edgcumbe Park. We are continuing with the plan to bring colour to Rendel Park with a refreshed planting scheme. I should like to thank Torpoint Town Council Asset Management and Operations Committee for the volunteering hours given. Whilst volunteering in the parks we have been approached by many individuals in our community who would like to help with the garden maintenance on a voluntary basis and community volunteering is something that I would like to encourage and facilitate in my year of office.

There is work to be done in Thanckes Park. The tennis courts need updating and the skate park equipment is also looking tired and also needs modernising.

An exciting development this year has been the purchase of the Police Station by Cornwall Council which demonstrates their shared support for the Town Council vision for the redevelopment of Lower Fore Street and the community aspirations relating to the Neighbourhood Plan. We look forward to progress being made this year with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Nationally, and more locally, in Plymouth we have all noted shops closing down. When looking at the Archives history of Fore Street, Torpoint, in times gone by, I was interested to

note a jewellers and watchmakers, drapers shop etc. Everything could be bought locally and in doing so provided jobs for the growing population. Indeed, times have changed with the revolution in the way we can choose to shop on the internet but we must, as a community, endeavour to support our existing shops on our 'high street' and shop locally when we can. Or else, as the saying goes "Use it or lose it."

With the possibility of a water transport initiative planned for Torpoint and the continual success of the Torpoint Street Markets it is important that we market Torpoint as an interesting destination rather than an area where traffic passes through on the way to somewhere else. Communication will be key to my Mayoral Year. Communication, I am sure we all agree that effective communication is not only about communicating ideas, informing our community of services, opportunities and events but, equally, it is about effective listening. Hearing what our community is saying, internalising the information, interpreting the information and taking the most appropriate course of action.

I will enjoy being out and about in our community. I will visit the businesses, the emergency services, the schools and nurseries, the clubs and societies in the town, the care homes, the youth groups and I will listen. Torpoint Town Council has been focussing on developing social media to enable us to communicate in a variety of ways. It is important that we reach out to everyone within our community and this means using tried and tested ways as well as utilising advances in technology, there is further work to do in this area.

In February, Torpoint Town Council signed up to a Plastic Free Town Campaign with Surfers Against Sewage and I will be working this year with community partners, to make a difference town-wide with regard to green issues and to complete the accreditation to become Plastic Free Torpoint. I mentioned previously about cherishing the things that make Torpoint a special place and one of those of those things is that Torpoint is a town that cares. This care is shown in the number of volunteers that we have who give generously of their time and energy expecting no reward. I should like to take this opportunity to thank those volunteers for their contribution and to encourage others to become volunteers this year in order that we can work together for the good of our community. Torpoint Town Council contact email address: adminassistant@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk Tel: 01752 814165.