

Partnership marks new chapter for Torpoint Library

Torpoint Library has been secured for the community with Torpoint Town Council officially taking over the service today (March 1).

The library has reopened under the town council's management and a new agreement with Cornwall Council.

The arrangement, which is part of Cornwall Council's devolution programme, means Torpoint Library and Information Service remains part of the countywide service so customers keep their existing library cards and can still visit, borrow and order books online from other libraries in Cornwall.

The Town Council will support all the key services essential to a modern library, including book loans, free computer access and weekly rhyme time sessions to toddlers and carers, with support from Cornwall Council.

Cornwall Council has expressed thanks to the Town Council for its commitment and hard work throughout the process.

Torpoint Town Mayor, Councillor Lambert Keise, said: "The Town Council is delighted to support this initiative. Together with the existing services, the Library will be transformed to become a Community Hub incorporating the Torpoint Archives and a café, which will be managed by The Old Rowing Club.

"The Library and Information Service will close for refurbishment on Wednesday 3 April and is scheduled to reopen on Saturday 27 April. The Community Hub will then re-open and a launch event will follow shortly afterwards.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Shevioc Parish Council for their financial contribution towards the Library and their appreciation of this vital service for Torpoint and the surrounding communities."

Customers will be able to borrow items for an extended loan while the library is closed for refurbishment.

The Town Council has undertaken significant research into the financial benefits of managing the car park located on Tamar Street alongside the Library facility. Due to the poor condition of the car park accompanied by a predicted low income, the Town Council has made the decision the car park will not be included in the transfer.

Edwina Hannaford, Cornwall Council Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, said: “We have been working closely with town and parish councils and community groups to find the best custodians for local libraries through our Library Transformation Programme.

“Our aim has always been to work with partners and communities to create sustainable services aligned to local needs. As a result of our agreement with Torpoint Town Council, local residents will be able to continue enjoying their library for many years to come.”