



# Torpoint Town Council Strategy

This document sets out our strategy looking 10 years into the future whilst providing detail of projects and activities over the next 12-36 months, providing flexibility in changing times to take advantage of opportunities as they may arise.

Last Reviewed: October 2021

Next Review: October 2022

# Mission and Strategic Objectives



*Our mission is to be open and fair, delivering a sustainable prosperous town economy that protects the environment, embraces the whole community and recognises Torpoint's unique design and location as a gateway to Cornwall and the Rame Peninsula.*

We will achieve our mission by focussing on three strategic goals.

- **Community**

To put the community at the heart of everything we do, providing opportunities for our residents, community groups and businesses, where no-one gets left behind.

- **Community Governance**

To be a leading council operating within best practice and standards as recognised by the town community, members, staff, partners and peers.

- **Community Growth and Sustainable Development**

To ensure the provision of assets, services and to influence the supporting infrastructure to enable the community to grow and flourish, delivering the Vision for Torpoint, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environment and town heritage.

# Vision for Torpoint



In 2030, Torpoint has become a great place to visit and an even more sought after place to live. Whilst just 5-10 minutes across the water from Devon it is distinctly Cornish – this is evident in many of the new buildings that have helped to reshape the invigorated ‘bottom end of town’.



Mayor John Crago  
presenting the Vision to Mrs  
Rosemary Pellew of Torpoint  
Archives May 2016

## Our visionary objectives are to...

1. Stimulate the Town Centre
2. Celebrate the waterfront
3. Strengthen the community
4. Feel part of the Rame Peninsula



A Vision for  
Torpoint

Connecting a  
Cornish town with  
its community,  
waterfront and  
hinterland



# Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Economic Plan



## Vision:

In 2030, Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula's natural and built environment will define the area. The town, an important gateway into Cornwall and the villages and hamlets will be seen as one; part of a thriving and healthy balanced area with communities that will have a vibrant and viable local economy in which local people of all ages can fulfil their potential.

Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula will be sought after places to live and a location for high quality sustainable holidays – whilst still Cornwall's 'Hidden Corner' - people love to visit.

## Areas of Focus:

- **Tourism** – promoting the visitor economy
- **Transport** – enhancing accessibility and communication
- **Environment** – enhancing the attractiveness of public areas and encouraging sustainable uses – making the most of heritage, natural and cultural assets
- **Community** – providing improved community facilities
- **Jobs** – supporting employment opportunities (across sectors including agriculture, retail and tourism)

## Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula Economic Plan

Cornwall's 'hidden corner' – a beautiful place with a sustainable economy and environment



# Neighbourhood Development Plan



To enable the delivery of key aspects of our Vision we will continue working with the community through the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group. We are aiming for the plan to be approved through a referendum in 2022/23.

Our draft Neighbourhood Plan, following feedback from pre-submission screening, is being redrafted to address the comments received and will go to further consultation in early 2022 to ensure it remains current.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is important to ensure development is in line with community aspirations and will ensure a greater share of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding will be able to be kept in the town.

Planning expertise is being received through consultant support with funding from Cornwall Council.

Torpoint  
Neighbourhood  
Plan 2010 - 2030

Shaping  
development with  
the community.



Document prepared by Jillings Heynes Planning and Clifton Emery design.



# Communication and Engagement



The Council will aim to deliver core actions which, if achieved, would have a marked impact on the Council's reputation and the perceptions of residents. These are:

- Manage the media effectively to promote Torpoint and the Town Council;
- Publish a regular Council communication/leaflet three times per year for residents;
- Ensure the Council brand is consistently linked to services;
- Maintain and develop the Town Council website;
- Make best use of Council noticeboards for the benefit of residents;
- Make best use of social media for the benefit of residents.



# Strengthening Our Community



We recognise the crucial importance of building and maintaining great relationships.

Our location and modest size has in the past put us in the periphery of thinking at Cornwall. Over the past 5 years we have developed a strong relationship built on trust and delivery. Cornwall Council understand our high aspirations and are working with us to deliver them. We will continue to support this relationship to provide us with exciting opportunities that we will deliver together.

Boundary changes in 2020/21 provide an opportunity to work with the Cornwall Councilor for Rame Peninsula and St Germans Division bringing all our parishes together. We will encourage a partnership approach with both Cornwall Councillors that represent the town to work on issues and opportunities for us all.

We encourage the development of partnerships in our community by providing support and resource for local groups that will build upon and continue to deliver our vision. This includes, but is not limited to:

Community Health Around Torpoint (CHAT)

Friends of Thanckes Park

HMS Raleigh

Rame Peninsula Public Transport User Group

Local Community Markets

Torpoint Archives & Heritage Centre

Torpoint Environmental Action (TEA)

Torpoint and Rame Active Community Network

Torpoint and Rame Youth Project

Torpoint Town Partnership

Torpoint Traders Forum



# Torpoint Library and Community Hub



In March 2018 the running of a town library was devolved to Torpoint Town Council. We have committed to provide a library in the town as part of the transfer agreement for 25 years to 2043.

We have transformed the old library into a vibrant Library and Community Hub for the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Community, delivering a combined service as a pilot for Vision project Tor26(m) - A new Library for Torpoint.

The Community Hub provides a multipurpose space, that offers a range of high quality services, advice, help and support with the potential to develop new services in response to changing community needs.

It encourages whole community engagement, to build and sustain strong partnerships, by sharing skills, knowledge and resources, between individuals and groups.





# Council Chambers and Offices



Our Council Chambers and offices are key to what we do, supporting small start-up businesses, health and fitness activities and community groups.

The facilities demonstrate and deliver our ambitions providing leading community amenities. We will continue to maintain them to the highest standards ensuring they remain open, accessible and well-used.



# Employment and Economic Prosperity



HMS Raleigh is the principle Royal Navy training establishment giving Torpoint a national presence. As a significant employer with a large number of visitors they are key for the town's prosperity. We will continue to maintain a strong partnership.

Our location and modest size has in the past put us in the periphery of thinking at Cornwall. Over the past 5 years we have developed a strong relationship built on trust and delivery. Cornwall Council understand our high aspirations and are working with us to deliver them. We will continue to support this relationship to provide us with exciting opportunities that we will deliver together.

Our town acts as a hub for the wider Rame Peninsula and needs to attract interest from Cornwall, Plymouth and the wider area. , to help boost investment and spending and encourage visitors to the town. We want to continually improve the image of our town to make it attractive for residents, visitors and investors.

To develop the wider town economy we will:

- Establish and maintain a Torpoint Business Forum to promote and support a vibrant and successful local economy;
- Maximise the use of our property for employment opportunities;
- Act as the market licensing authority encouraging a regular market in the town;
- Encourage community events, for example the Christmas Lights in Fore Street;
- Support festivals and celebrations in Thanckes Park.



# Stimulate the Town Centre

- To continue to support and collaborate with formal and informal business groups to connect them to one another and to the community.
- Improve accessibility, speed reduction, pavements etc.
- To encourage a sustainable multi – modal transport network, to include walking, cycling and public transport
- To explore measures to enhance the High Street experience for residents and visitors.
  - Enhance Sparrow Park as the entrance to the Town Centre
  - Bringing colour to the town
  - Markets
  - Lower Fore Street Car Parking





# Town Centre Development



## Lower Fore Street Redevelopment

To work in partnership with Cornwall Council to encourage a joined up mixed use development for Lower Fore Street.

**Update:** Cornwall Council undertook a feasibility study into the redevelopment opportunity of Lower Fore Street which resulted in them investing £500k to acquire the Police Station and ensure a controlling interest in any future development.

A charette was planned for May 2020, however was delayed due to Covid-19. Town Vitality Funding has been secured to develop a Strategic Outline Case to present to cabinet in November 2021. A charrette type event could follow in spring 2022.



## A Jetty to connect the Tamarside

To work in partnership with Cornwall Council to secure a Jetty for Torpoint. This would provide the infrastructure for a commercially operated passenger ferry to operate on the Tamar, reconnecting Torpoint, Saltash, Mount Edgcumbe and Plymouth.

This is a priority for the Cornwall Gateway Community Network Area.

**Update:** Cornwall Council have completed an Economic Assessment and are now undertaking engineering designs and concept of operation study.

The project aimed to deliver by March 2021.



# Northern Fringe Development



The vision and neighbourhood plan detail a significant opportunity for the strategic growth of Torpoint, much of this is to the north of the town known in our plans as the Northern Fringe. The Council will seek to ensure that any new developments enhance the town and that the necessary infrastructure is in place to support the new developments. These include, but are not limited to: -

- Relocation of St. Columba & Torpoint RFC to purpose built pitch and buildings;
- Torpoint and Rame Artificial Turf Pitch Project;
- A Supermarket located on the Northern Fringe, to provide value for money and reduce out of town travel for shopping;
- New Housing planned and built, according to the Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- Traffic Calming measures where Torpoint connects with the Wilcove entrance to the town and Antony House;
- The establishment of a steering group to review the results of the Torpoint Swimming Pool Feasibility Study and consider sustainable funding opportunities.





# Our Outside Environment, Parks and Operations Team



Having recently taken responsibility for the town play parks and tennis courts, we will implement a phased improvement plan:

- We will manage our parks to a very high standard as expected by the town, will look to extend their offering to become more appealing to a wider age range and provide picnic benches for residents to meet and use the space for longer.
- We will continue to refresh the benches in the town to encourage people to walk, explore and have places to rest, meet and enjoy the area.
- We will gain Plastic free status and actively encourage actions to reduce the adverse environmental impacts of the council and the town.
- Our Operations Team will be visible and approachable as the public face of the council in our parks and green spaces.
- Our Operations team will encourage and educate the community to keep Torpoint clean and tidy and where required will carry out enforcement through the issuing of fines.
- The team will be trained and certified to provide Enforcement through Cornwall Council's Community Enforcement Partnership Programme.



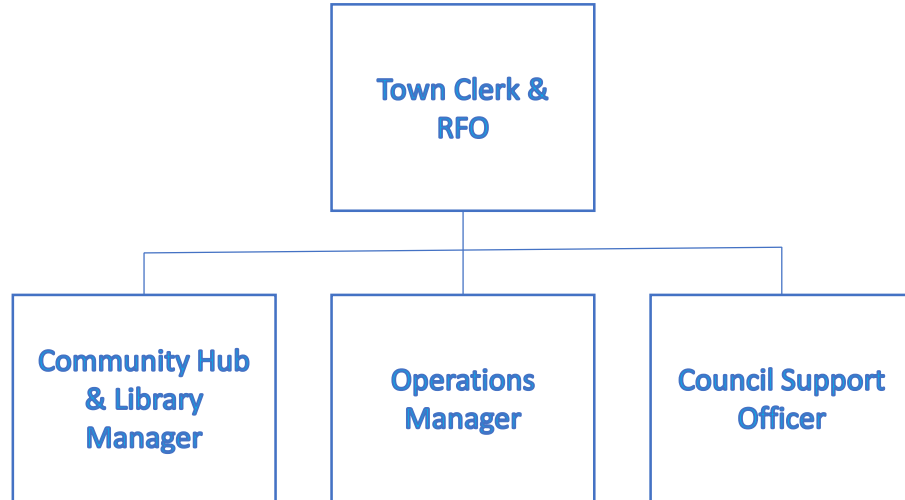


# Section 137 Grants



- We will provide Section 137 grant funding to organisations for projects that support in the delivery of our mission aims and objectives.
- We will fund projects that:
  - make the local community a better place in which to live, work or visit;
  - benefit the people who live in the town;
  - local people support and are involved in.
- Organisations that we can support should be established for charitable, benevolent, social, cultural, recreational or philanthropic purposes. Funding is available for specific projects, but not running costs and strict criteria is adhered to. Further information is available from the Section 137 grant policy.
- We will publicise the availability of Section 137 grant funding using our various communication methods.
- We commit to annually allocate £12,500 to Section 137 grant funding.

# Our Team and Support Systems



We have organised our senior team into three areas:

- **Operations** - delivering our facilities and parks,
- **Community Services** - delivering our Community Hub and Library Services
- **Support** – providing governance, communications, financial and administrative support.

- As the Council role and responsibility change over the coming years the IT, finance and HR systems will need to be developed to ensure appropriate efficiencies and resources are in place.
- We will regularly review our systems and operations to ensure they are kept up to date and comply with regulations and best practice.
- Our staff will be suitably trained and we encourage our team to develop and learn new things to further deliver the Council's aspirations.

# Council and Committee Meetings



Town Council meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm in the Council Committee Room, Open Forum commences in advance of the meeting.

- Finance and Personnel Committee meets to discuss the Council finances, personnel matters and has overall responsibility for the organisational design of the Council staffing structure, also compilation and presentation of income and expenditure forecasts for precept recommendation, for consideration by Council. It is responsible for the Governance of the Council.
- Asset Management and Operations Committee meets to discuss the maintenance of Council property including buildings, land holdings and assets within the ownership or responsibility of the Council.
- Development and Localism Committee meets to discuss growth and development and the Town Council Strategy. This includes the annual review, compilation, project implementation costs and presentation to Council.
- Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and additionally members of the public can address members at the beginning of the Council meeting on the third Thursday, at the Public Forum.
- The Annual Meeting of the Council takes place in May and it is also our Mayor Choosing Ceremony. The meeting is again held on the third Thursday of the month and this also includes the Annual meeting in an election year that usually co-incides with the normal Council meeting cycle.



# How will we measure our success?



