

Torpoint is Awarded 'Plastic Free Communities' Status as it Takes Action on Single-Use Plastic

Torpoint has joined a network of communities across the UK who are leading the way to tackle throw away plastic at source. The town has been awarded Plastic Free Community status by marine conservation charity, Surfers Against Sewage (SAS), in recognition of the work it has done to start reducing the impact of single-use plastic on the environment.

Local Torpoint Town Councillor Mrs. Chris Goodman took on the role of Plastic Free Communities lead to co-ordinate community groups and businesses to take action to reduce the use of single use plastic in the town.

Registering with the SAS Plastic Free Communities movement, key organisations and businesses in the town agreed to put in place a five-point plan. The objectives include: setting up a community led steering group, instigating the SAS Plastic Free Schools education programme, getting local council commitment and working with local businesses, organisations and community groups to spread the word and minimise the amount of disposable plastics they use.

Councillor Mrs. Goodman said: "The community of Torpoint have really got behind the plastic free agenda and it has been a pleasure working with the community to tackle this issue."

Special thanks are extended to The Top Chip Shop, The Town Fryer, Kathy's Fruit and Veg shop, Hearts Kitchen and Beat 4Autism CIC, who have worked to reduce single use plastics in their businesses.

We have held many events whilst working towards accreditation. A Plastic Free Stall was held at the Torpoint Field Day Festival. Support from various groups has included: - the Friends of Thanckes Park, Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Lions, T.S. Ramehead Sea Cadets, Carbeile Junior School and Torpoint Nursery and Infant School. Also, Torpoint Environmental Action, plus Torpoint Rowers.

Torpoint Library and Community Hub hosted an Environmental Action week, the focus was to raise awareness of the dangers of plastics in our oceans. Activities were led by Torpoint Environmental Action, Torpoint Library and Community Hub, Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Lions and Awenek Studio CIC. Torpoint Schools linked up to attend a Schools' Council Plastic Free Forum, held at the Council Chambers.

A huge effort has been made by 17 community groups, 5 businesses, Torpoint Town Council, Torpoint Community College, Carbeile Junior School and Torpoint Nursery and Infant School. It has been a real community effort and this work to reduce single use plastic will continue.

Rachel Yates, SAS Plastic Free Communities Project Manager, said: "It's great to see the work that Torpoint has done to reduce the availability of avoidable plastics, raise awareness and encourage people to refill and reuse.

"We have over six hundred communities across the UK working to reduce single use plastic and the impact it has on our environment. Every step those communities and the individuals in them take is a step towards tackling the problem at source, challenging our throwaway culture and encouraging the habit and system changes we need to see."