



TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish (Town) meeting of Torpoint held on Thursday 9th May 2024 at 7.00pm in the Council Main Hall, 4, York Road, Torpoint.

PRESENT: - Town Mayor (Councillor G J Davis - Chairman), ten Town Councillors, Former Town Mayors and their guests, representatives from Torpoint Community College, many members of the public plus the Town Clerk and Town Council Support Officer. The Town Clerk and Town Council Support Officer took the minutes of the proceedings on behalf of the town.

1. Minutes of the last Parish meeting.

It was resolved the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25th May 2023 are received and were signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

2. Matters arising from the minutes.

None.

3. Report from the Town Mayor covering the activities of the Town Council.

The Town Mayor (Councillor G J Davis) was delighted to welcome everyone to the Parish (Town) meeting, in this celebratory year, as Torpoint Town Council celebrates its 50th Anniversary and explained the Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting for all the local government electors of the Parish. It is not a meeting of the Town Council however it is chaired by the Town Mayor. As it is a statutory meeting, it is a requirement for the meeting to have minutes to record the event and thanked Milly Southworth (Town Clerk to Torpoint Town Council) and Harriet Bastin (Town Council Support Officer), who had agreed to capture the minutes for the meeting. The Mayor explained that by virtue of it being a statutory meeting the proceedings can be more formal and restrictive, however, this year it will be in the format of a traditional town hall brief of activities, which the council has delivered over the year, as well as what the council will be working on over the year ahead, for and on behalf of Torpoint residents. The Mayor explained, the purpose of the meeting is to enable ordinary electors to find out what is going on in the Parish and to have their say.

The Town Mayor invited the Deputy Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin) to detail some historical moments over her last 25 years' continuous service, she has given to the town council and the town of Torpoint.

The Deputy Town Mayor summarised many events and highlights, including granting HMS RALEIGH the Freedom of the Town; assisting with the planning and organising of whole town events at Thanckes Park, including the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, Gorsedh Kernow in 2014, Armed Forces Day in 2015, plus festivals including the Tourism Festival in 2019. Also, the world record for the longest bunting was set in Torpoint in the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 2012 and this achievement made it into the Guinness Book of World Records. The Deputy Town Mayor spoke about the Town Clerks she had worked with: Tom Brock and Chris Harris, as well as the current Town Clerk, Milly Southworth – highlighting "they have been and continue to be excellent caretakers in this role."

The Town Mayor highlighted the event 'to welcome in the Millennium' was another fabulous showcase in the town. He gave his sincere thanks, on behalf of the council, to the Torpoint Archives for all the wonderful support given to the Town Council over the past 30 years and highlighted their decision to be part of the devolved Library and Community Hub has secured a fabulous mutual arrangement between the two organisations, benefitting the town.

The Town Mayor used a PowerPoint presentation, appended to the minutes, to give the update.

MISSION and STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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.

(The QR code on this PowerPoint slide, links to the Town Council Strategy, which is supported by an Action Plan, both are reviewed on an annual basis.)

The Town Mayor talked about the projects the town council has already achieved, as well as what it is currently 'delivering on': -

- Producing, publishing and distributing a quarterly newsletter to all households.
- The Neighbourhood Development Plan, whose steering group includes local residents', it is anticipated that with changes being made this year, linked to mitigations for the loss of Defiance Field, the plan will be progressed to Referendum by the end of this year.
- The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy which led to the formation of the Torpoint Diverse Advisory Panel, who understand the accessibility of the council assets and have produced an action plan to improve the area and includes improving the access to the recently improved tennis courts.
- The Vision for Torpoint, which in 2016 won The Landscape Institute Awards for Urban Design.
- The Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Economic Plan, developed in 2016, by the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Coastal Community Team.
- The Town Council has become an accredited Living Wage Employer.
- For a number of years, it has been an aspiration of the council to become accredited via the LCAS (Local Council Award Scheme). This is an accreditation scheme within the sector, there are three levels, Foundation, Quality and Gold. A council must meet the guidance criteria and submit an application form, which is considered by a local accreditation panel. In January 2024 the town council was awarded Foundation level and now supported by Town Clerk, it is working towards achieving Gold level.
- In October 2021 the council declared a climate emergency and in August 2022 adopted the climate emergency action plan, which is reviewed twice annually and updated with progress on the actions.
- Lower Fore Street redevelopment and Defiance Field, there has been significant progress on these sites, more information will be shared later in the meeting.

The Town Mayor handed over to the Deputy Town Mayor to give an update on Torpoint Library and Community Hub.

In March 2019 the running of the town library was transferred to Torpoint Town Council and the council has committed to provide a library in the town as part of the transfer agreement, for 25 years, until 2043. The council has transformed the old library into a vibrant Library and Community Hub for Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula community and has extended the opening hours, opening daily Monday to Friday and then on the second Saturday of the month plus the last Sunday of the month for Sustainable Sunday.

Highlighting the average monthly statistics for 2023/24: -

- Footfall of 4,494 (180 per day)
- Borrowers 1,371
- Computer users 132.

As well as the Library and Community Hub staff, there are over 25 volunteers who regularly support the running of the facility. A few of the highlights over the last 12 months, have been: -

- Halloween events of the Autumn Half Term;
- Implementation of Lego Club on a Wednesday afternoon
- School holiday activities at the daily kids club, with lots of smiling faces
- Summer reading challenge - Ready, Set, Read!
- The wonderful, helpful volunteers helpful who are at the heart of the project.
- Successful fundraisers, including Children in Need.
- Royal Naval Personnel and Family support with DWP, Armed Forces Families Federation and Vivo.
- The Library and Community Hub is a thriving hive within our community with lots of visitors that vary in need from day to day, including families with children attending Rhyme time, older members of the community looking for connection at one of our groups or those who need a variety of help and support.

Other highlights include: -

- The Community Larder, where local shops and the Cornwall Gleaning network feed in food that might be wasted. This is helping avoid food waste, but also helps those out in need. Foodbank vouchers are also being issued, for those who really need a helping hand.
- The Social Prescriber joins us weekly for appointments with people who are referred via a GP for support.
- Work with the health services has also grown, offering free blood pressure monitors to borrow, the following have run over the past twelve months: -
 - Chair Pilates over two, six week sessions,
 - A Women's Wellbeing Hope Group
 - A 'Diabetes and you' course.
- Sustainable Sundays are a great success, run every last Sunday of the month, including market Sundays!

The Deputy Town Mayor presented an update on Torpoint Play Parks.

In January 2021 the town council took on the four play parks and tennis courts, which were devolved from Cornwall Council. The council knew that it could do a great job of managing the play parks, secure funding to maintain them better, making them a place fit for Torpoint. Following the initial devolution and over the next 18 months, the council tendered significant packages of work that saw improvements across all the parks. Immediately we saw the parks used more and for longer and they became a place for our families to enjoy, to play, to socialise and have picnics. Friends of Thanckes Park financially supported the installation of a trampoline at Thanckes Park Play Park. We have a fantastic Operations Team: Phil, Stinch, John, Stan and Rich, who all work hard maintaining the parks, keeping them tidy, cut and the equipment in good order. I am sure you would all agree that all the parks together are better now than they have ever been.

The council continues to look at options to make them even better again and working with our Diverse and Inclusion Panel the council is looking at how they can be more accessible with equipment that may be used by the whole community.

Last month the lease fell due on the Operations Team van, over the past two years we were pleased to see that technology had advanced so the council has now taken out a lease on a new fully electric van. As part of the improvements of the parks fencing has been replaced around the tennis courts bringing them back into use. Having aspirations for so much more, but not entirely confident it would be achievable in the short term, the council looked out for the right opportunities to really bring the courts into the 21st century and earlier this year the funding started to fall into place.

The Deputy Town Mayor presented an update on the Tennis Courts at Thanckes Park.

At the end of April the council was really excited to reopen the tennis courts after a full refurbishment over the last couple of months, following a £60,000 investment. The courts have undergone extensive work to ensure viability for years to come, including resurfacing, repainting, new nets and an accessible court level gate system. With financial support from Lawn Tennis Association Parks Tennis Project supported by the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), the council has worked with the community, including Friends of Thanckes Park, Torpoint Street Markets, Cornwall Council, The Rame Group Practice, Devonport Royal Dockyard Sport and Social Club, to raise the full amount required. The council is very grateful to the advice of our 'Diverse and Inclusion Panel' on ensuring the facility was accessible to the whole community.

The LTA Parks Tennis Project is delivering a nationwide programme of investment and is seeing thousands of existing park tennis courts in poor or unplayable condition brought back to life for the benefit of communities across the country, providing vital opportunities for children and adults to get active. The council is very pleased to be one of the earlier projects delivered, the council's organisation and relatively clear project scope and organisation made it a quick project to deliver for the LTA – well done to all the staff, Councillors and organisations that made this project happen. Details of weekly free park tennis sessions that are planned, with equipment provided for the community use by St Columba Rugby Charity will be shared in due course.

The Town Mayor presented an update on plans for the coming year in the town, including: -

- The proposed 3G All weather pitch at Torpoint Community College
- The Torpoint Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- The site known as the 'Northern Fringe' – housing development for the town.
- Lower Fore Street redevelopment, highlighting the partnership between the Town Team Project Board and Cornwall Council.

Update on the Town Team Project Board - £600k of Brownfield funding for the police relocation and demolition of the Police station has been awarded to Cornwall Council, to prepare the site for a multi-million pound redevelopment due to commence by 2026.

Bids for £200k have been submitted, which will fund the required planning up to RIBA2 standard, we await the announcement of whether this has been successful. This will open up applications for the multi-million pound bid for levelling up funding from the government in the next 12 months.

£76K in grant funding has been offered and is currently in the final stages of acceptance, to develop the implementation studies for electric bike hubs across Torpoint and the Peninsula.

4. Electors Questions.

There were several questions from electors regarding the proposals at Lower Fore Street and also a question regarding whether there is any further progress with the possibility of a Jetty at Torpoint.

5. Any Motions from Electors.

None.

6. Date of Next Meeting.

To be confirmed.

Town Meeting closed at 8.00pm.....Town Mayor (Chairman)

DRAFT

Torpoint Annual Town (Parish) Meeting

Main Hall, Torpoint Council Chambers

Thursday 9th May 2024 7.00pm

Agenda

1. Minutes of the Last Town (Parish) Meeting – Thursday 25th May 2023
2. Matters Arising
3. Report from the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor covering the activities of the Town Council
4. Questions From Electors of the Parish
5. Any Motions from Electors of the Parish
6. Date of the Next Meeting – To be agreed



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.



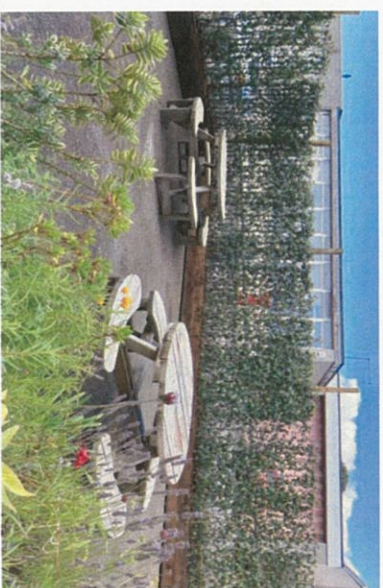
Torpoint Library and Community Hub

In March 2019 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. Dreckly's café has been established in the building and staff and volunteers support the day to day running of the café.

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



Torpoint Library and Community Hub

2023/24 Average Monthly Stats

Footfall 4494 (180 a day)

Borrowers 1371

Computer Users 132



Access to help and support for all



Email: TorpointLibrary@btiscornwall.org.uk
Tel: 01752 812215

**Repair Refurbish
Recondition Reuse**
**SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY AND
REPAIR CAFE**
(INCLUDING A TOY HOSPITAL)

Join us for a cuppa and slice of home
made cake in Dreecky's Café

- ✓ Torpoint Environmental Action
Repair Café: Sewing and Small
Electricals
- ✓ Advice and information
- ✓ Kids Club: upcycle crafts
- ✓ Library services
- ✓ Blankets available for extra
warmth at home
- ✓ Pop-up Community Pantry

**Last Sunday of each month
1000-1400**

NHS **Social Prescribing**
be more active

support your
mental
wellbeing

support
with your
finances

live well
& more
independently

be more socially
connected

be healthier



Torpoint Community Larder and Free Soup Friday



Sustainable Sunday



Access to Local Social Prescriber Tuesday



Torpoint Play Parks



Tennis Courts at Thanckes Park



Fully refurbished tennis courts completed and opened on 27th April, accessible to the whole community, all courts are bookable online and feature on the LTA's database to attract players from the wider area.



The refurbishment of Thanckes Park Tennis Courts has been made possible due to the generosity of these organisations



Devonport Royal Dockyard
Sport & Social Club



01752 814165 www.torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk

Torpoint and Rame Peninsula 9v9 3G Football Turf Project

- Opportunity to deliver a much-needed community asset at Torpoint Community College in partnership.
- Available all year in almost all weathers
- Required to raise significant funding and demonstrate wide community support.
- Funding achieved so far >£280k
- Match Funding proposal invited by Football Foundation bid due Jan 2025
- Stretching target to complete September 2025



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 July 2024.

The proposed plan provides the framework and direction to facilitate the delivery of much needed new housing and employment within Torpoint. The Regulation 14 Consultation of the draft plan concluded in November 2023, 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 kept in the town.

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

Torpoint
Neighbourhood
Plan 2010 - 2030

Shaping
development with
the community.



The Northern Fringe (Defiance Field)

Cornwall Council Pre-Application Advice March 2023 (PA23/01333/PREAPP)

“Pre-application advice for development of the site to provide residential dwellings, a convenience retail food store, a Local Area of Play, and associated parking, access and landscaping works.”

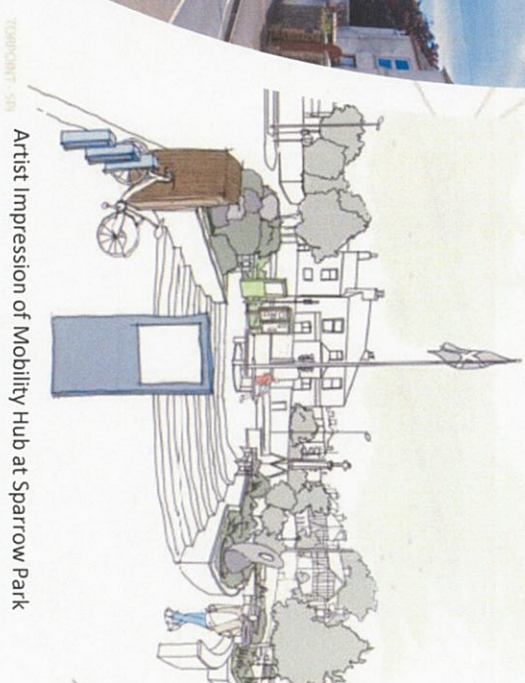
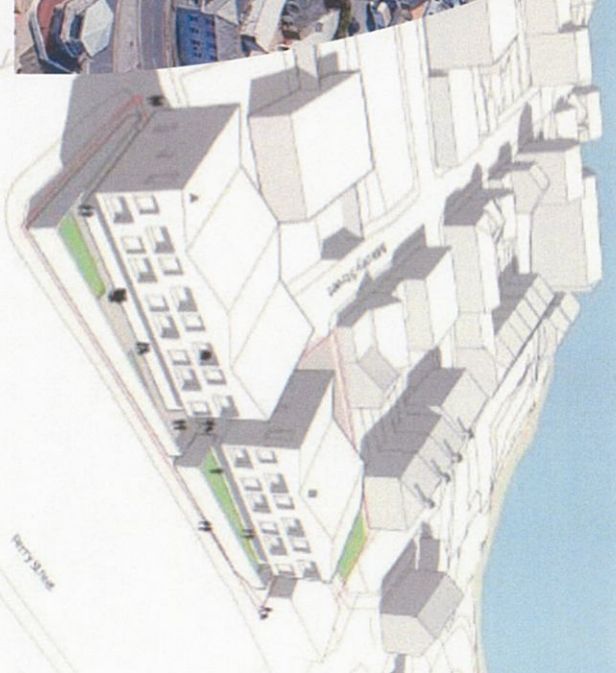
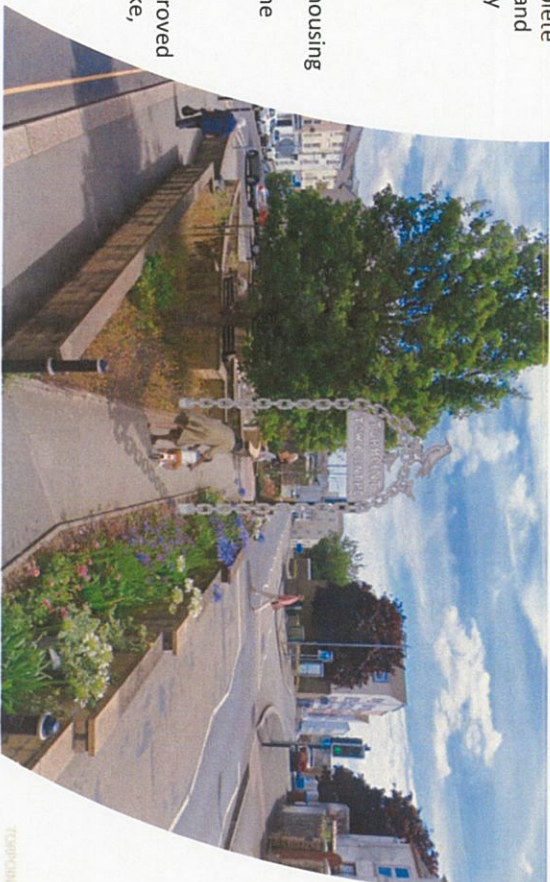
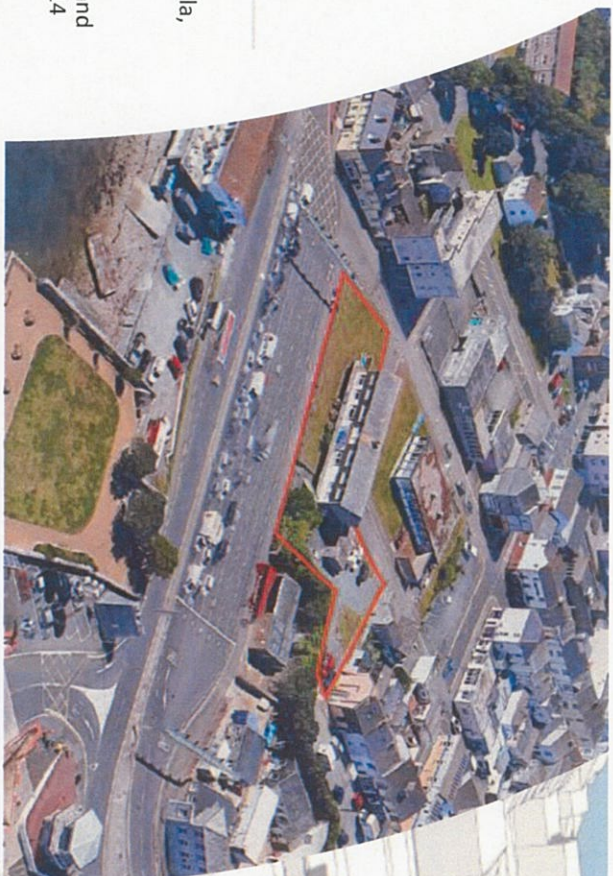
Torpoint Town Council continues to work with Cornwall Council and Antony Estate to ensure any development comes forward as part of a coherent masterplan in conformity to our Draft Neighbourhood Plan with appropriate mitigations for the potential loss of sporting fields.



Snip of [Indicative Site Plan for Defiance Field Site](#)
(lhc design)

Lower Fore Street, Torpoint Integrated Transport Active Network (TITAN)

- Partnership for Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula, including Cornwall Council, Antony Estate, Mount Edgumbe and the Rame Peninsula Parish Councils
- Opportunity to deliver a new Community Hub and Library for Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula, with 14 homes. (34 across the wider site)
- Over >£750k funding achieved to date to complete Strategic Outline Case, Transport Studies, Options and demolition of the former Police Station (End of May 2024).
- Commitment to commence replacement development by Summer 2026.
- Defiance development outline planning advice received with a view to develop supermarket and housing
- Sustainable developments should connect to the wider area – Torpoint Integrated Transport Active Network
- Transport Hub Study completed proposing improved sustainable connections across the peninsula by bike, boot, bus and boat.



Artist Impression of Mobility Hub at Sparrow Park

Former Police Station Building

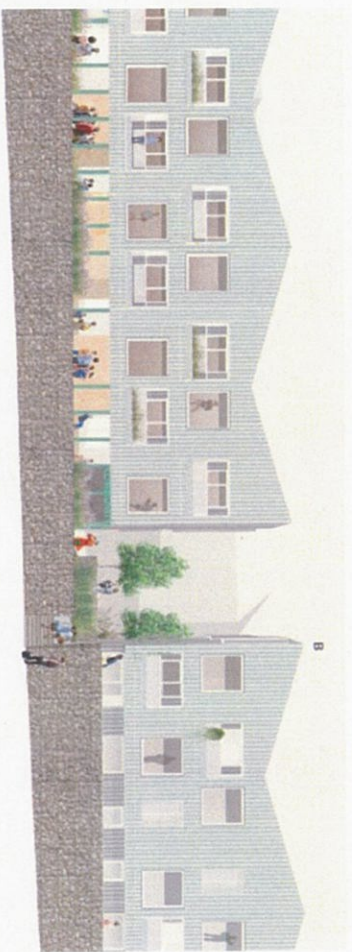
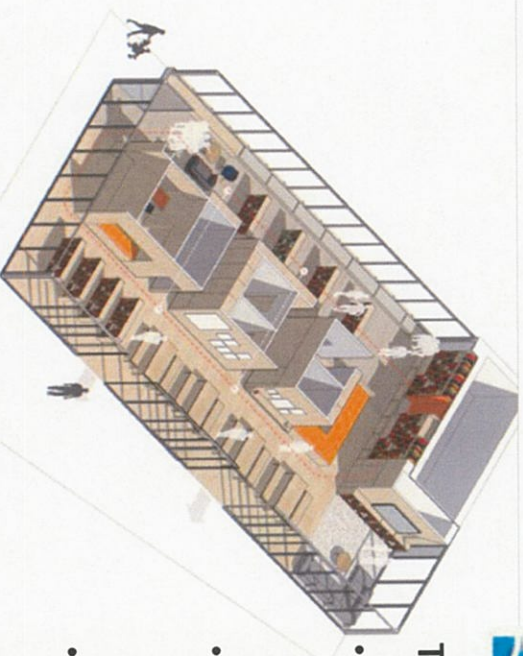


Target Program

- Demolition commence May 2024
- Outline Planning Advice Summer 2024
- Development commencing Summer 2026



1. External access to community building
2. Commercial access to residential accommodation
3. Stopped access to parking
4. New storage



Feasibility Artist Impressions

Feasibility Report

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