

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Jan, at the Strategic Growth Overview & Scrutiny Committee, with Portfolio Holders present and the meeting being live-streamed, I raised two specific issues affecting Torpoint. A synopsis of the discussions is shown below.

### **1. Street Lighting (Portfolio Holder: Cllr Loïc Rich)**

I highlighted that Torpoint borders Plymouth and has people moving through the town throughout the night, yet our street lighting is currently turned off between midnight and 5am. I explained that:

- Torpoint has an ongoing drugs problem and is being used as a distribution centre to other areas.
- There is considerable anti-social behaviour in parts of the town.
- The police have advised that switching off the lights reduces the effectiveness of CCTV and makes it easier for people to hide in the dark.

I asked the Portfolio Holder to accept a formal letter from myself – and from Torpoint Town Council, should they decide to write – requesting that Torpoint be treated as a special case and that our street lighting is returned to normal operation.

**The Portfolio Holder agreed to accept such a letter.**

### **2. Thanckes Car Park (Portfolio Holder: Cllr Dan Rogerson)**

I then raised concerns about the Notice relating to Thanckes Car Park. I explained that:

- When I was previously consulted by an officer, the question related to whether caravans should be charged, not to the car park becoming fully chargeable for everyone.
- I was therefore very surprised to see the proposal in the Notice that Thanckes could become a pay-for-all car park.
- The car park is heavily used as an overspill by school staff and parents, YMCA health club users, dog walkers, volunteers clearing litter and other volunteer groups working in the extensive grounds.

I stated that I will be recommending to Torpoint Town Council that they write to the Portfolio Holder requesting that Thanckes Car Park be removed from the Notice, and that I will support this request separately. I asked that this request be taken very seriously.

The Portfolio Holder agreed to accept such a request.

**Tamar Crossings TAG**, 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 – Extraordinary Meeting – I attended the Joint Committee meeting held in Plymouth City Hall to discuss the way forward associated with the Tamar TAG crossings Admin Fee. A Tamar Crossings Public Statement has been issued that confirms a public consultation will take place to gain a view on the way forward from stakeholders, before a decision is made. An Economic Statement regarding the Bridge and Ferry is in production and this will be available to support the public consultation. The Joint Committee will be asking the local MPs either side of the Tamar to take responsibility for trying to transfer the Bridge and Floating Road (Ferry) to a department in government.

Tamar Crossings Operations Director, Philip Robinson, has offered to provide a further update to the Town Council if they would like to know more about the

challenges he is dealing with and the way forward with the Public Consultation and an explanation on the Economic impact of the Bridge and Ferry on the local community.

**Torpoint Junior Schools Public Consultation** – A public consultation regarding the Junior schools in Torpoint has commenced to better understand the communities' -

**Cornwall Councillor Surgeries** – Councillor surgeries will take place in Torpoint Library on the following days; further dates will be promulgated once the initial surgeries have taken place and a better understanding of the resident's needs is known.

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 10-12am

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm; 29<sup>th</sup> 10-12am

**Police and Crime Commissioner Budget** – The P&CC has written to government to highlight the reduction in government support for FY 2026-27; it has been assessed that the police in Devon and Cornwall will see a £3m reduction, although the government has suggested this can be made up by increasing the precept. The PCC has stated she will not be increasing the precept to make up the shortfall in funding. Devon and Cornwall receive approximately 1% less compared to other forces across the country.

**Cornwall Council Budget** – Cornwall Council has responded to government regarding the funding allocation for 2026-27. While the Council is supportive of the longer-term settlement as this allows for longer-term planning, the reduction in funding, amalgamation of various funds, precepts and grants has resulted in Cornwall Council being left in a position of flux. For example, the Adult Social Care element is unknown as it has been amalgamated with other grants and allocations. Once further details are known a further update will be provided to allow Torpoint Council to understand how this may impact services.

#### **Other topics**

- Parking issues along Bickern Road will be progressed
- Completing repairs to the wall alongside Trevol Road and the road in Bellevue Square will be a particular focus.
- Fly-tipping on Upper Fisgard Way to be addressed