

Date: 13 April 2026

Dear Town Clerk and Councillors,

We write ahead of tomorrow's Extraordinary Town Council Meeting to submit questions for the agenda. We welcome the council's initiative in calling this meeting and we hope it marks the beginning of a sustained and public conversation about the future of community sport and leisure in Torpoint.

We are submitting questions in two parts: the first concerns the 3G pitch, which we understand is the primary item on tomorrow's agenda; the second concerns the closure of the Torpoint And Rame Community Sports Hall, which we believe should be considered alongside the 3G pitch and which raises related legal and community questions.

We ask that these questions be formally recorded in the meeting minutes.

Part 1: The 3G Pitch

Q1 Status of the funds

Please provide a detailed breakdown of all funds raised for the 3G pitch project, including: the total amount raised to date; any expenses already deducted; who currently holds the funds and in what account or fund; and what the legal position would be if the project does not proceed including whether any funders have conditions requiring their contribution to be returned if the pitch is not built.

Q2 Funder deadlines

Is there a deadline imposed by any of the project funders by which commitments must be confirmed? Is there a date after which any funding would lapse or must be returned? The community needs to understand the urgency and timescale it is working within.

Q3 The school's stated concern about maintenance

It is our understanding that the Trust's primary concern about the 3G pitch is the long-term maintenance liability once the warranty period expires. If that is the case, would the Trust be willing to explore a stakeholder-backed maintenance reserve fund contributed to by all organisations using the pitch under a formal usage agreement as a way of removing that liability from the Trust entirely? This is a well-established model for community sports facilities across the country.

Q4 A combined community agreement for both facilities

Can the 3G pitch and the sports hall management question be addressed together as part of a single community agreement? For example, as part of a social enterprise/CIC/ Community Benefit Society that takes on responsibility for both facilities, providing the Trust with a fixed income and no management burden, while returning both to sustainable community use. We would welcome the opportunity to present this proposal formally.

Part 2: The Sports Hall

We are conscious that the sports hall was not included on the agenda for this meeting. We believe it should have been. The closure of the sports hall on 31 March 2026 with no prior public consultation and no transition plan affects a far larger number of residents than the 3G pitch, and raises serious legal and funding questions that have not yet been addressed publicly. We ask the council to hear these questions and to commit to a further extraordinary meeting specifically on the sports hall.

Q5 Commitment to a further extraordinary meeting

Will the Town Council commit to holding a further extraordinary meeting specifically on the closure of the Torpoint And Rame Community Sports Hall, given that its closure affects the community at least as significantly as the 3G pitch, and given that the legal and funding questions surrounding it have not been publicly addressed?

Q6 What the council has been told

Has the Town Council received any formal communication from Torpoint And Rame Co-operative Learning Trust about its intentions for the sports hall? If so, will it share that communication with the community? The community is currently being asked to accept a closure with no explanation and no timeline.

Q7 The lease position

Can the Town Council confirm whether the YMCA has formally surrendered its lease on the sports hall? The Land Registry records show that the registered lease runs until 17 April 2036 not August 2026 as the community has been told. If the lease has not been formally surrendered, the YMCA remains the legal tenant and the school cannot simply grant interim access. If it has been surrendered, what is preventing the Trust from granting an immediate interim licence to allow community clubs to resume use of the hall?

Q8 National Lottery funding obligations

Can the Town Council confirm that the sports hall was built by Cornwall County Council's own Lifelong Learning Portfolio using National Lottery funding, under grant conditions that typically require community use to be maintained for 20 to 25 years? Will the council write formally to Cornwall Council asking them to investigate whether those grant conditions remain in force, and to Sport England requesting the same?

Q9 Asset of Community Value

Will the Town Council formally explore nominating the sports hall as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011? Such a nomination would give the community a right to bid if the Trust ever sought to dispose of the facility, and would place the hall's community importance on the public record.

Q10 Why only now?

These extraordinary meetings are welcome. But significant events affecting this community — the closure of the sports hall, the withdrawal of the YMCA, and the potential loss of the sixth form all carry consequences for local residents that are at least as serious as the 3G pitch. Will the council commit to a principle that future decisions of this magnitude will trigger a public extraordinary meeting as a matter of course, rather than leaving communities to find out through informal channels?

Q11 Neighbourhood Plan Objectives?

The neighbourhood plan states 'enhancing sport facilities' and 'providing more opportunities for physical activity for health benefits'. Losing the sports hall will mean that facilities and opportunities for physical activity will be reduced. What action are you going to take to ensure the sports hall and opportunities for physical activity at the facility are not lost?

Our Position

We are not seeking confrontation with the school, the Trust, or this council. We have a practical proposal — a Community Interest Company that takes on both facilities, removes financial risk from the Trust, and returns them to sustainable community use. We want to work with everyone constructively.

But the community deserves honesty, transparency, and a clear public process. We hope tonight's meeting is the start of that. We ask that these questions be answered on the record, and that the responses are minuted.

We look forward to attending the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of Save Torpoint Sports Hall

Sarah Webber
Joe Trethewey
Matthew Pontin
Leigh Cottrell
Rob Parsonage
Steve Pike
Kieran Moon
Jane Helyer
Cailan Robinson