

Torpoint Library and Community Hub update – June 2026 report for the Development and Localism Committee.

Hub Grant update

The application for – Torpoint Library and Community Hub, Hub Grant for this year, has been successful. The award is broken down into - firstly a baseline grant and then under the four themes of start well, live well, age well and die well.

1. £7,200 – Baseline funding. A little less this year as some of this grant has been shared with new hubs.
2. £2000 – Start Well
3. £2000- Live Well
4. £2000- Age Well
5. £2000- Die Well

Total - £15,200

National Year of Reading

To support the National Year of Reading, which is about inspiring people of all ages to read, or listen to audio books, the plan for Torpoint Library and Community Hub is as follows:

1. Two adults' teatime events in the café area, where people can read an extract from their favourite book, or a poem, or talk about a book review. People can be as creative as they like, even talking about a favourite painting/drawing etc. Or simply come and listen.
2. Two children's daytime activities that will spark imagination, creativity and encourage reading.
3. Engaging with young people – Twelve young people from Torpoint Community College, attended a book review with Author Tom Palmer.

Work Experience Pupils

We had the pleasure of hosting three work experience pupils from Torpoint Community College. The pupils got involved in the following: gardening at Thanckes Park, joining in with Pilates, joining the art group for health and wellbeing on Tuesday, researching what activities we can put out in our Tuff Tray, joining our singing for friendship and memory! Also supporting our outreach work at Albion Court.

Friends of Thanckes Park, had 8 pupils who attended the library most afternoons to complete their projects.

W/k 29TH June, another work experience pupil will be joining the library from Devonport High School for Girls. Whilst with us, they will need to undertake an independent project, which is likely to revolve around the Summer Cornish Reading Challenge.

Armchair Pilates

Armchair Pilates is going from strength to strength, covering not only how to move/exercise safely when living with pain, but also teaches people to balance better, staying steadier on their feet. The group has become so popular with our older members of the community, a further booking for 6 sessions will quickly be booked in again! There is a huge need for these sessions.

Volunteer Meetings

Two volunteer meetings have taken place; the purpose of the meetings is to enable good communication and ensure that volunteers views are taken into consideration.

The first meeting was with the book volunteers, and the second meeting was with the café volunteers. Meetings will happen where possible twice a year.

Pain Café

The Pain Café has now run for eight months, with two more sessions left. Following the last session in July, there will be a two-month break and review. People have asked for it to continue to run, and this is something that we need to consider, as there are staffing implications.

Suicide Awareness Sessions

On the 12th of June, Healthy Cornwall delivered at the Council Committee Room, two Suicide Awareness Sessions. One in the afternoon and one early evening. The afternoon session had a good number of people attend, and twelve people have signed up to be on the steering group. One person attended for the evening session. Steve Webb from Healthy Cornwall, delivered a presentation for around forty minutes, covering some facts around suicide. Steve then went onto talk about the Safer Communities Project, giving the example of the bridge in Staffordshire, where a high number of attempted suicides took place in 2024. The community came together and created a peaceful garden, as an intervention before people accessed the bridge. The garden has notice boards with lots of helpful contact numbers and positive messages. This intervention has reduced attempted suicides significantly. The safer suicide project for Torpoint, will start with a Steering Group who will work together to identify the needs for Torpoint. This has to be a community led project.

For Cornwall some sad facts:

In Cornwall more than 1 person per week dies by suicide (61 in 2024, 85 in 2023, 86 in 2022).

The 2022-24 three-year rolling England average was 10.9 deaths per 100,000, the rate for Cornwall was 15.0

In 2024 the Cornwall rate was 13th highest out of 91 in England by unitary authority/county.

Sensory Trail around the Library

A sensory trail is now in place around the library which has been created by Beat4Autism. Along with alphabet letters, there are footstep feet, a grounding station with sensory touch items. The aim is to help any children or adults with any neurodivergent manage in the library environment. We also have some really nice fluffy sensory mats for children to sit on or just hold and stroke.



Torpoint Library and Community Hub



We welcomed 4,944 people through the door!

Work Experience



This month we have welcomed three work placement pupils, Adriana, Florrie-May and Abigail, from Torpoint Community College, who have spent a week with us at the Torpoint Library and Community Hub. The three students have been involved in Armchair Pilates, supporting our Singing for Friendship and Memory Group, assisting our volunteer on doing book displays and helping with the library service jobs. As well as helping in our community café, once they had completed level 2 Food Hygiene. They have also supported our outreach singing, helped research Tuff Tray ideas for sensory play, visited the Foodbank and met with the Town Clerk, Milly, and Nolwenn from Cornwall Council's Creative Industry and Visitor Economy team. Friends of Thanckes Park, organised by Samm, also had eight work experience pupils, who undertook their projects in the library every afternoon. Our pupils also helped garden at Thanckes Park one morning.



Torpoint Environmental Action Group



Every Tuesday mid-morning we welcome the TEA Group, who come into us after they have been around the town litter picking. A number of work experience pupils joined them this month!



Tom Palmer's visit

Tom, an award winning children's author, has just completed a tour of all the libraries in Cornwall!



Twelve pupils from Torpoint Community College met with Tom, and got to ask him lots of questions about what it's like being an author. They learnt about his planning and writing process and were very interested in hearing how he comes up with his writing inspiration.

National Year of Reading

For the National Year of Reading, we are planning two teatime events called, Armchair Sharing Evening.

People will be able to pop along to the library community café, have a sandwich and share their favourite poem, book, extract from a book or article.

We are planning our children's activities that will inspire their imagination and encourage reading!



Keep an eye out on our socials and our poster-board for the dates.

We have a full house for Armchair Pilates!



As part of our offer of health and wellbeing activities for the community, our free arm chair Pilates is in its third week and we have around sixteen people attend. Feedback is that people think its wonderful that this is offered in their local library and community hub, as well as making people feel a little fitter.

