Agenda 16 f)

F+OC
03/11/26

19th October 2026 (via email) to the Town Mayor

Dear Madam Mayor,

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the ongoing state of the Torpoint Ferry service and the damage that the situation is causing to Torpoint, its local economy, its businesses and its community. As a business owner, I have experienced the consequences personally, and the situation has contributed to my decision to leave Torpoint.

The ferries are not simply a transport service; they are a vital lifeline connecting Torpoint with Plymouth and the wider area. Local businesses depend on the reliable movement of customers, staff, suppliers and visitors. When the service is unreliable or subject to disruption, it creates uncertainty, discourages people from travelling to the town and places additional pressure on businesses that are already working hard to survive.

The economic consequences for Torpoint must not be underestimated. Every customer who decides not to make the journey, every visitor who chooses to go elsewhere and every business that struggles to operate because of unreliable transport represents a potential loss to the local economy. Over time, this can affect jobs, business investment, local spending and the vitality of the town centre. If businesses begin to leave Torpoint because the situation becomes unsustainable, the consequences will be felt throughout the community.

As a business owner, I have invested in Torpoint and contributed to its local economy. My decision to leave is not one I have taken lightly. It is deeply disappointing to feel that the circumstances surrounding such an essential transport link have made remaining in the town increasingly difficult. When businesses are forced to reconsider their future or relocate, Torpoint loses more than a business: it risks losing employment, revenue, local investment and the contribution those businesses make to community life.

I am also concerned about the knock-on effects for local organisations, including Torpoint AFC. Through rent paid to Torpoint AFC, my business has contributed financially to the club and, in turn, to the wider local community. This is an example of how local businesses and community organisations support one another. If businesses are forced to leave or reduce their activities, that relationship is put at risk. The potential loss of rental income and other business support could make it more difficult for local organisations to maintain their facilities, activities and services for the people of Torpoint.

This is why the ferry situation should not be viewed solely as a transport issue. It is also an economic issue, a business sustainability issue and a community issue. The long-term effects could extend well beyond the immediate inconvenience of delays and disruption.

I recognise that responsibility for operating the ferry service may rest with Cornwall Council and other relevant authorities. Nevertheless, I believe the town's leadership has an important role in ensuring that the impact on local businesses, residents and community organisations is properly represented and that meaningful action is pursued.

I would therefore ask:

- What representations are being made to Cornwall Council and the relevant authorities regarding the reliability and future of the ferry service?
- Has the wider economic impact on Torpoint's businesses, employment and town centre been properly assessed?
- Is consideration being given to the financial consequences for local community organisations, including Torpoint AFC, when businesses are affected or forced to leave?
- What practical steps can be taken to protect Torpoint's economic future and ensure that the town remains a viable place in which to live, work and run a business?

I am raising these concerns because I care about the future of Torpoint and the people and organisations that make it a community. It is extremely disappointing that a business owner who has contributed to the town and supported a local football club through rental payments should feel compelled to leave, partly because of the circumstances surrounding such an essential service.

Torpoint deserves a reliable ferry service, and its businesses deserve the opportunity to operate on a fair and sustainable footing. Without meaningful action, there is a real risk that the town will continue to lose business activity, economic opportunities and the community benefits that come with them.

I would appreciate a considered response outlining what action is being taken and how the concerns of local businesses and community organisations will be represented.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Jezard
The Gourmet Box