

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, 15 June 2015

## TORPOINT RESIDENTS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS IN FIRST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY

*The SE Cornwall town of Torpoint made its voice loud and clear, when 1,174 residents responded to the first-of-its-kind household Neighbourhood Development Plan survey.*

Over three-and-a-half thousand surveys were hand delivered to all Torpoint residences by an army of local volunteers, and an online survey was available, from April to late May. The survey asked residents to share what they like and dislike about Torpoint, and what development(s) they would and would not like to see in the area.

- **17%** (186) responses were from under 20s,
- **6%** (70) responses were from the 21-30 age group,
- **10%** (113) responses were from the 31 to 40 age group,
- **16%** (172) responses were from the 41 to 50 age group,
- **17%** (186) responses were from the 51 to 60 age group,
- **34%** (383) responses were from the over 60s.

A good **11%** (122) of the survey responses came from school pupils under the age of 15 living in Torpoint. The surveys were delivered to them through the schools, and the students were able to freely voice their opinions on the future development of their town.

On the whole, residents are satisfied with the current provision of services and facilities within Torpoint. Residents praised Torpoint for its community spirit **24%** (252) and friendly feel **18%** (195), with its unique location and proximity to Plymouth **18%** (186). A little over **50%** (560) respondents were fairly or very satisfied with schools in Torpoint. **24%** (98) respondents expressed an interest in adult and community education opportunities.

The greatest dissatisfaction is voiced in the area of sports, leisure, art and culture facilities, with over half, **53%** (604) respondents very or fairly dissatisfied with the current offer.

**50%** (306) respondents expressed dissatisfaction with waste management and recycling, with many respondents unhappy with travelling to Saltash to dispose of waste items. **12%** (120) respondents were unhappy with parking arrangements in the town.

Local playgrounds were mentioned by **30%** (152) of respondents, in particular referencing the upkeep and maintenance of play equipment.

**39%** (315) respondents did not wish to see any housing/flats developments in the town, compared to **5%** (59) who wished to see housing development.

Matters that are particularly pertinent to the young people of the town, included; the skate park, sports and leisure activities, employment opportunities, and a general desire for 'things to do.'

But when it comes to the matters that upset the townsfolk, residents are unanimous in that the town is suffering from excessive littering in streets and lanes, untidy footpaths, dog waste and looking generally tired and dirty. Additionally, there was strong support for redeveloping the lower end of town encompassing the police station and former fire and health stations.

A theme that will continue to be explored as the Neighbourhood Development Plan progresses, will be how residents wish the area to be developed. When residents were asked to consider what development they would like in the town, the results indicated **31%** (322) a swimming pool, a supermarket **24%** (247), and **18%** (189) commented on improving the variety of shops in the town. However, **7%** (59) respondents were not in favour of a supermarket, for fear it would negatively impact upon Fore Street. **18%** (163) respondents were not in favour of an increase in charity shops, estate agents, fast food outlets and pubs/clubs.

Councillor Mrs Andrea Johnson, Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group said, "We are thrilled with the response rate to this survey. I am particularly delighted to see a strong response from the under 16s. The Steering Group felt very strongly that if the response rate from the youth was too low, the survey would not be representative enough of the town's opinions, and we are very grateful to the staff at Torpoint Community College, who made it possible for the students to access the survey."

She added, "Looking after green spaces, waste management, housing supply, protecting and preserving our wildlife, looking at ways to improve and redevelop the lower end of town and the waterfront, are coming through as strong themes for further exploration through the Neighbourhood Development Plan. We thank the residents of Torpoint for their time in putting their ideas down, so that we can now begin to work through them."

The next steps of the project include the appointment of specialist town planners who will be appointed in July using The Big Lottery Fund Awards 4 All grant funding. The planners will work with the steering group to take the ideas and suggestions from the townspeople, and work them up into a solid vision for Torpoint. Residents can expect further consultation and detailed plans to emerge over the summer and into the autumn of 2015.

The website for the Neighbourhood Development Plan where all documents related to the project is available at [www.torpointplan.org.uk](http://www.torpointplan.org.uk) and also through our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/torpointneighbourhoodplan](https://www.facebook.com/torpointneighbourhoodplan)

For more information, or to get involved with the project please contact:  
admin@torpointtowncouncil.org.uk

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### **Notes for editors**

Torpoint, with a population of almost 8,000 lies at the mouth of the river Tamar, Cornwall, opposite Devonport dockyard and the city of Plymouth. The river is crossed by three chain ferries, which carry cars, buses, trucks and pedestrians across the 500 yard wide tidal estuary. Torpoint is the Gateway of South East Cornwall and the Rame peninsula.

The town was originally developed to provide housing for workers at the dockyard, and naval facilities were also built around the town. At one time the main route from Plymouth to Cornwall was across the ferry, but the opening of the Tamar Bridge north of the town, the decline of employment at the dockyard, and the reduction in Royal Navy facilities has seen the focus of the town shift towards providing local employment, as well as providing housing for workers in Plymouth.

Nearby Antony House (now in the ownership of the National Trust) is the seat of the Carew-Pole family, whose forebears were responsible for much of the early development of the town in the eighteenth century. The house contains an extensive portrait collection, and the surrounding gardens and park, laid out by Repton offer delightful walks with vistas across the estuary.

A Neighbourhood Plan comprises the use and development of land within an area, in this case Torpoint. The community can contribute their ideas, likes and dislikes in respect of issues that matter to them be they, facilities, housing, land use, environment, heritage, arts and so on. A Neighbourhood Plan, once it has passed through a number of steps, and been scrutinised by Cornwall Council, can then be voted upon by the local people. Once approved and accepted, the Neighbourhood Plan becomes law.

For all press enquiries please contact the Town Clerk on: 01752 814885 or email admin@torpointtowncouncil.org

[www.torpointtowncouncil.org](http://www.torpointtowncouncil.org)

[www.torpointplan.org.uk](http://www.torpointplan.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/torpointneighbourhoodplan](https://www.facebook.com/torpointneighbourhoodplan)

**The key demographic results from the survey are as follows:**

- **1,174** survey responses

**GENDER PROFILE**

- **58%** (631) respondents were female, **42%** (457) respondents were male

**AGE PROFILE**

- **11%** (122) responses were from the under 15s, **6%** (64) responses were from the 16-20 age group, **6%** (70) responses were from the 21-30 age group, **10%** (113) responses were from the 31 to 40 age group, **16%** (172) responses were from the 41 to 50 age group, **17%** (186) responses were from the 51 to 60 age group, **19%** (213) responses were from the 61 to 70 age group, **15%** (170) responses were from the over 70 age group.
- **12%** (145) of the surveys were responded to online, **88%** (1029) responses were paper-based.