

# TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

## TORPOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – STEERING GROUP

### Terms of Reference

#### **1. Name**

The name of the organisation shall be the Torpoint Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

#### **2. Purpose.**

The purpose of the Steering Group shall be to support the Town Council to carry out the following tasks:

- 2.1 To develop and submit the Torpoint Neighbourhood Development Plan to Torpoint Town Council in compliance with the Cornwall Local Plan and National Planning Policy.
- 2.2 Investigate and identify support for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 2.3 Identify sources of funding.
- 2.4 Take responsibility for planning, budgeting and monitoring expenditure on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and report back to the Town Council on these matters.
- 2.5 Liaise with relevant authorities and organisations to make the Neighbourhood Development Plan as effective as possible.
- 2.6 Identify and disseminate ways of involving the whole community and gather the views and opinions of as many groups and organisations in the community as possible.
- 2.7 Determine the types of survey and information gathering to be used.
- 2.8 Be responsible for the analysis of the survey, as well as the production and the distribution of the final report.
- 2.9 Identify priorities and timescales for local action in the Project Plan, including the lead organisations and potential sources of project funding.
- 2.10

#### **3. Membership**

- 3.1 The Steering Group shall be made up from a good cross-section of the community, including Town Councillors nominated by the Town Council.

#### **4. Defining Roles**

- 4.1 At the first meeting, the Steering Group will elect a Chairperson.
- 4.2 The Steering Group may also appoint a Communications Co-ordinator.
- 4.3 The Steering Group will also appoint a Bridging Co-ordinator to liaise with the Town Council and to present a written report at Town Council meetings for endorsement.
- 4.4 The Town Council has appointed the Assistant Town Clerk as the secretary and finance coordinator. This post is an administrative role and contains no voting rights on motions or propositions at the meeting.
- 4.5 Wherever possible all other members should have a specific role, to be agreed by the Steering Group. (For details see Roles & Relationships.)
- 4.6 To provide regular written reports back to the Town Council on progress, issues arising and outcomes.

## **5. Roles & Relationships**

- 5.1 Town Council insurance will cover the previously agreed activities of the Steering Group and volunteers, but Steering Group members, in liaison with the Town Clerk, need to ensure that terms of the insurance are not breached.
- 5.2 The Town Council will provide the opportunity for the endorsement of regular reports via its meeting agenda.
- 5.3 Working Groups will carry out duties specified by the full Steering Group, which may include, but is not limited to:-
  - i) Data gathering
  - ii) Consultations
- 5.4 The make-up and purpose of Working Groups will be regularly reviewed by the full Steering Group.
- 5.5 It is expected that all Steering Group members abide by the principles and practice of the Town Council Code of Conduct including declarations of interest.
- 5.6 To provide regular written and/or reports to the Town Council on progress, issues arising and outcomes.
- 5.7 All members of the Steering Group will be required to complete a mandatory Register of Interests declaration.
- 5.8 In the interest of time, Steering Group members may be required to agree on email, to items that have been previously discussed and agreed during a meeting.

## **6. Meetings**

- 6.1 The Steering Group shall meet monthly or as may be required.
- 6.2 At least seven clear days' notice of meetings shall be sent to members via the communication method agreed with, and appropriate to, each individual member. The preferred method of communication is via email.
- 6.3 The notices of meetings (Agenda) should detail the matters to be discussed. Members are required to submit items for the Agenda to the Chair at least seven clear days ahead of the scheduled meeting.
- 6.4 The Secretary shall keep a record of meetings, and circulate notes to Steering Group members and the Town Council in a timely fashion. The latter will publicise the notes via their usual methods.
- 6.5 Meetings will be scheduled as required and made available to the public via notice boards/websites/online.
- 6.6 All Neighbourhood Development Plan meetings should be open to the public.
- 6.7 Copies of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct will be available at all Neighbourhood Planning meetings.
- 6.8 The new Chairperson or Vice Chairperson will be elected annually following the Annual meeting of the Council.

# Appendix 1

## Working Groups

- The Steering Group may establish such Working Groups as it considers necessary to carry out the functions specified by the Steering Group.
- Each Working Group should have a lead person.

## Finance

- All grants and funding will be applied for and held by the Town Council, who will ring-fence the funds for Neighbourhood Development Plan purposes only.
- Notification of all planned expenditure will be given to the Town Council before actual costs are incurred.
- The Finance Co-ordinator shall keep a clear record of expenditure supported by receipted invoices and will regularly review and update the budget in liaison with the Town Clerk.
- The Finance Co-ordinator in partnership with the Town Clerk, will draw up and agree with the Steering Group procedures for volunteers who wish to claim expenses.
- The Finance Co-ordinator will report back to the Steering Group and the Town Council on planned and actual expenditure for the project.
- Invoices will be made out in the name of the Town Council who will pay them at their next scheduled Council or Committee meeting.
- Members of the community who are involved as volunteers with any of the Working Groups may claim back any previously agreed expenditure that was necessarily incurred during the process of producing the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This includes, but is not limited to, postage, stationery, telephone calls and travel costs.

## Dissolving the Steering Group

- At the conclusion of the Neighbourhood Development Plan project the Town Council and Steering Group should discuss the future working of the Steering Group. If the Steering Group wishes to dissolve it must notify the Town Council.