

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TORPOINT LAUNCHES LANDMARK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION

Torpoint Town Council this week announced the start of the town's Neighbourhood Plan project. The Council Chambers hosted around 200 members of the public who were keen to find out how neighbourhood planning would affect them, and to have their say on the future of Torpoint.

A presentation led by Mayor Mike Pearn MBE, and Councillors Eddie Andrews, Gary Davis and Andrea Johnson was held for members of the public to learn more about Neighbourhood Planning. An open forum of questions and answers followed, and ensured that the townsfolk were able to raise then and there, the issues that mattered to them. An invitation to be part of a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group saw tremendous support and a number of volunteers to participate in this new venture.

In addition to beginning dialogue with the local community, the Town Council are keen to ensure that the youth of Torpoint understand the role of neighbourhood planning, and how they too can get on board. Cllr John Tivnan visited pupils from Torpoint Community College along with fellow Councillor and Torpoint Community College teacher Chris Goodman, to share the message and encourage youth participation.

Mayor Mike Pearn MBE said, "Our meeting with the public starts the process of consultation with the residents of Torpoint, leading to a plan for the future development of the town that fits with the wants and needs of our local community." He added, "this is an exciting time for the people of Torpoint, and I urge you to get behind the plan, and have your say."

Households in Torpoint can expect to receive a questionnaire after Easter, asking for more detailed thoughts and ideas to assist with pulling the plan together.

A website for the plan has been launched at www.torpointplan.org.uk
All minutes and documents from meetings will be available for public viewing on this website, and also through our Facebook page at 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

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Photo caption: Members of the public intently listening to the presentation.