

**Town Clerk & RFO – Mrs Camilla Southworth Cert (HE), BA (Hons), FSLCC**

June 2024

BY HAND/SHARED ON WEBSITE and SOCIAL MEDIA

Dear Local businesses in Torpoint,

I am taking the time to write you to tell you about how Torpoint Town Council is looking to enhance accessibility within Torpoint and the high street. In May 2022 Torpoint Town Council adopted their Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. Within this policy it is recognised that to truly understand accessibility issues throughout our community, we would require a group of community focussed residents to come together. In October 2022 the Torpoint Diverse Advisory Panel met for the first time to establish the purpose of the panel, what role they play and how they can provide support to the town council.

Then, in order to enhance accessibility, we needed to understand what the accessibility challenges to the council premises are, so we invited Geoff from disAbility Cornwall & Isles of Scilly to conduct an accessibility audit with town councillors and staff at each of the council premises. This audit is now considered and reviewed at each meeting of the Diverse Advisory Group. A quick win was achieved with the installation of a disabled drop off sign/point at Bénodet Park.

In September 2023 several members of the diverse panel visited businesses in our high street to give information about Torpoint Town Councils 'Inclusive Community Partner' scheme. Several community and local businesses have agreed to join the sticker scheme already and this is an invitation to you to join. Information on the scheme is enclosed.

To join Torpoint Town Council in this exciting venture, working towards our goal, of Torpoint being an inclusive community for all, you are asked to pledge to agree to three requirements, as listed here:

- 1. Help to create an inclusive community in Torpoint where the nine protected characteristics are considered, and everyone is able to better access services.*
- 2. Aim to create a Torpoint where everyone is treated equally and has the same opportunities.*
- 3. Sign up to receive emails form the Torpoint Diverse Advisory Panel about opportunities, such as talks and themed events and learn how to better support diversity and promote equality in our town.*

During a recent Diverse Advisory Panel meeting it was highlighted that accessibility on Fore Street to a number of the shops can be difficult for some residents', with many suggestions on how to potentially combat this put forward. Any structural changes to buildings would not be feasible and currently out of scope for the town council, however, it was suggested that having a 'doorbell' would be useful, enabling everyone to access the services of the shops and businesses that are currently not as easy to access. This would enable residents to ring the doorbell to gain access or to capture the attention of the business to gain services. The Diverse Advisory Panel (town council) are therefore looking to supply and fit any local business with a free doorbell, plus encourage businesses to sign up to the 'Inclusive Community Partner' scheme.

If you are interested and would like to be included in either scheme, please do not hesitate to get in contact. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Lizeta Fellows  
Chair Torpoint Diverse Advisory Panel  
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