

Subject:

Notes of the last Torpoint Diverse Advisory Panel meeting held 30th September 2024

Dear all

Sincere apologies for the delay, notes from the last meeting held 30th September 2024, 4,00pm in Torpoint library and community hub are detailed here: -

Present: Councillor Mrs Lizeta Fellows (Chairman), Christopher Burns, Phil Griffiths (Operations Manager), Tania Horrocks (Community Hub & Library Development Manager), Gemma Lee (new member/resident), Lisa May (Social Prescriber), Kirsty Winfield (Oakwood College)

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were submitted from Cllr Mrs Chris Goodman, Claire Griffiths, Becky Lingard, Keiran Moon.
2. The notes/actions from the previous meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 2024 were approved. The outstanding actions/matters arising are included on this meeting agenda.
3. a) Inclusive partner and sticker scheme – there are letters to be issued. Torpoint TC to sign up. Need to agree the sticker design and ensure education about the sticker design is shared. When a launch event happens, should include the local churches as well as The Rame Group Practice.
b) Doorbell scheme for Fore Street traders – similar to the inclusive partner scheme, need to allocate time to implement this project.
c) Improve accessibility to Thanckes Park play park and the tennis courts: -
 - i) Tennis court number 1 is now wheelchair accessible, publicity of the availability of the accessible court will follow. St Columba Rugby Trust has donated tennis racquets and ball which are stored in a secure chest at the side of the court. Following a question asked about alternative payment options, for those who do not have a debit card. If anyone who is in this position, please contact the council office, as alternative cash payment option can be made to book a pay to play court or annual membership.
 - ii) Members' accept that Thanckes Park play park is difficult to access, which is included in the Accessible audit of council premises. This group had a site visit to review whether the provision of access via the [currently locked] gate at the top of the park is viable. Members' now agree to look at improving the access to the play park from the main path in Thanckes Park (opposite the tennis courts entrance gate).

The Operations Manager and Clerk met with Cornwall Council's Environment Manager, who understood the desire to improve accessibility at the play park. The Environment Manager has spoken to the lead on the Urban Green Shoots programme to see whether the programme could cover an upgrade, however, it was too early in the Urban Green overall programme to confirm either way at this stage. Need to ensure Torpoint Ramps Forum is advised of the desire to improve accessibility to the play park. (Action Clerk)

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/blue-badge-disabled-parking-permits/free-disabled-parking-when-you-dont-pay-car-tax/>

Additionally, Tamar Crossings offer an annual allowance of free crossings, here is the link to the details: -
<https://www.tamarcrossings.org.uk/prices/mobility-scheme/>

e) Accessibility to The Rame Group Practice – Chris B attended the PPG meeting. There is a cost of living event planned for Saturday 12th October @ Torpoint Library and Community Hub. Cllr Fellows offered to attend to provide support with accessing the ‘Turn2us online Benefits Calculator’. Lisa May highlighted, as Social Prescriber, she is able to make a direct referral to the Citizens Advice Cornwall for support for individuals.

f) St. James Church / Cornwall Council Highways – possible installation of disabled bays. Cllr Tivnan has established, from Cornwall Highways, for a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) the anticipated cost would be £15k, which is cost prohibitive.

g) Accessibility video for the library and community hub – the filming has been completed, with the editing and voice over needed, it is hoped this will be ready to publish in the near future.

h) Funding for Sports Wheelchairs for tennis – the council funded £300 towards the cost of each wheelchair, with The Dan Maskell Tennis Trust funding the balance. There is one adult and one child sized wheelchair available to use on tennis court 1. Currently, to use a wheelchair, you will need to telephone the council office who will then arrange for the wheelchair to be available, until a more suitable storage solution is found.

3. Accessible Play Equipment – progress update. The fundraiser at Bénodet Park raised £856.00. This amount is being added to the fundraising total, which additional funding bids being written. Currently £9k short of the target figure of £30k. Other donations are expected, including from the RNA (Royal Naval Association).

4. Accessible Audit undertaken on all council premises – the metal handrail has been removed at Cambridge Field, thanks to Phil and the Operations Team.

5. Funding opportunities – “Cauldwell Children” is an organisation worth considering as a possible funding opportunity.

6. Communications Plan – an update will be included in the October council newsletter, it will likely focus on the accessible play equipment project.

7. Correspondence from members.

i) Is an accessibility statement needed for the new accessible path currently being installed at Thanckes Park? Agreed to wait until the path / project is finished.

ii) Possible neglect of adults in the community – winter wellbeing opportunities. The library and community hub provides a safe space for the community to visit and seek help.

8. Any other Business.

i) Lisa May (Social Prescriber) explained she receives patient referrals via The Rame Group Practice and has confidential meeting slots available in the library and community hub weekly, every Tuesday, from 10am – midday. Employed by Age UK, her role is to support health and wellbeing in the community. Lisa is happy to be invited to future meetings of this group.

ii) Gemma Lee enquired about a recent disable parking issue, which arose, will contact Cllr Tivnan for guidance on the matter.

9. Date and time of the next meeting to be agreed in due course.

Meeting closed at 5.34pm.

Kind regards

Milly