

TORBAY VIEW

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Shopmobility in Torbay



Shopmobility provides electric scooters and powered and manual wheelchairs to help people with limited mobility to use the shops and facilities in the town centres of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. Shopmobility is for anyone, young or old, resident or visitor, no matter if their disability is permanent or temporary.

A service for residents and visitors alike

It is advisable to book scooters, powered wheelchairs and wheelchairs in advance, either by telephoning or calling at the centre.

Torquay Shopmobility

1 Lymington Road, Torquay TQ1 4BW
Telephone 01803 380982

Paignton Shopmobility

Victoria Car Park, Garfield Road,
Paignton TQ3 6AU
Telephone 01803 521771

Brixham Shopmobility

Central Car Park, Brixham
Telephone 01803 858304



Initiated and supported by



New volunteers always welcome

Message from Nick Bye

After nine months in office, serving the people of Torbay as your first directly elected Mayor, there are some encouraging signs of progress as we work towards a clean, safe and prosperous Bay.

Upton St James Primary School celebrate its past, present and future at a reaffirmation ceremony this month. I would like to thank Headteacher Susi Holdway for her 17 years of dedicated service to the school, and wish deputy headteacher Adrian Slater all the best when he takes over the headship in September.

We also played host to Government Minister Phil Woolas who has pledged to take Torbay's fight for regeneration cash direct to the powers that be at Westminster.

We took Mr Woolas to visit the new vantage point at South Devon College and Occombe Farm - two of Torbay's latest achievements. We also visited the Foxhole estate, one of Torbay's more economically deprived areas, but where some excellent community projects have already improved the look of the area.

The Minister went back to London with a clear sense that Torbay Council and the wider community has a real commitment towards economic prosperity as our top priority and a whole range of schemes to deliver this from Brixham Fish Quay to the Kingskerswell by-pass.

Torbay View is brought to you free of charge, funded through advertising, courtesy of the Herald Express.

FEEDBACK: We welcome your comments on this publication and ideas on what to include in future issues of Torbay View.

Contact the Editor: Editorial Enquiries TBV, The Communications Team, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay TQ1 3DR. Tel: 01803 208832.

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Cover picture: Coastline from Babbacombe Downs. Photograph: Peter Surcombe.



Ironically, we were stuck at Kingskerswell for 45 minutes, en route to the minister's train, so I have a feeling he left with that particular problem fresh in his mind.

Another important event was the launch of Torbay's Children and Young People's Plan.

The plan sets out our vision for the future, and is the result of months of collaboration between a wide range of organisations.

The aim of the plan is to be more joined-up in our approach to these services – identifying problems at an early stage and talking to each other to make sure they are sorted out.

The highlight of the event was the involvement of the schools, from across Torbay. From serving the refreshments to showcasing some of the finest local musical talent, and I would like to thank all the schools and our partners for making it such a success.

Nick Bye

Mayor of Torbay

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NEWS BRIEF

Bus it to beautiful Brixham this summer

Brixham's park and ride is back this summer by popular demand.

The number 12 Stagecoach bus will once again shuttle visitors and locals to and from land next to the Cayman golf site at Churston and Brixham town centre.

It will operate during the peak summer season – from Monday 24 July until Sunday 3 September inclusive. Two buses will provide a frequent service from 8.30am to 6.30pm, seven days a week.

The charge will be £1 per adult, 50p per child or £3 for a family ticket.

Signs will be put up at Windy Corner to advertise the park and ride and traffic signals will also be installed at the entrance to the site for safety.

For further information on bus services and travel information in and around Brixham, Torquay and Paignton, call Traveline on 0870 6082608. Alternatively visit one of the three Tourist Information Centres at Brixham Harbourside, Paignton Esplanade and Torquay Harbourside.



Betting shops, bingo halls, casinos, amusement arcades and all other gambling premises in Torbay are being reminded that changes to the national gambling laws are about to start.

Under the Gambling Act 2005, the responsibility for the licensing of all premises used for gambling across Torbay will be transferred to Torbay Council on 1 September 2007.

As part of the new regulations the council is required to produce a Gambling Policy which sets out how it will make licensing decisions as well as the issues that applicants will need to consider when making an application.

Torbay Council is now inviting local residents and businesses to have their say on the draft policy.

The draft policy has been written in compliance with the Act, regulations and guidance. For example Torbay Council would not be able to prohibit gambling, even if it wished to do so. It's role and that of the Gambling Commission, is to ensure that gambling is provided in such a way that it complies with the following licensing objectives:

- preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being being used to support crime
- ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

The policy will be available from the council's website at www.torbay.gov.uk/gamblingact2005 from now until 14 September. Anyone wishing to comment should e-mail gamblingconsultation@torbay.gov.uk or write to Frances Hughes, Assistant Director, Environmental Health and Consumer Protection, Abbey Road, Torquay, TQ2 5EJ.

ADVERT

RECYCLING – your questions answered

Thanks to the efforts of local residents, Torbay's recycling figures are on the increase.

Here are some of the questions Torbay Council receives about recycling, and the answers to them.

Please keep this information handy for future reference. If you have any other questions about recycling, please telephone 01803 207751.

Can I recycle both aluminium and steel drinks cans in the can banks?

Yes, this does not cause a problem because steel cans are easily separated from aluminium using a magnet.

Can I recycle catalogues and magazines with glued spines?

Yes, these do not cause us any problems.

Can I recycle envelopes?

No, the plastic windows and glue used on many envelopes mean that they cannot be recycled.



Can I recycle junk mail?

Yes, junk mail can be placed in your green wheeled bin/box for recycling, or put into a paper bank. Please remove any plastic coverings etc first.

Can I recycle Yellow Pages?

Yes, Yellow Pages can be placed in your green wheeled bin/box or a paper bank for recycling, BUT only during September and October when the new directories are delivered,

Do you have to remove the labels on tins and jars?

No, this is not necessary as they get burnt off in the recycling process.

My green recycling bin/box has not been emptied and had a sticker placed on it. Why?

This is because your green bin or box was found to be contaminated with non-recyclable items by the refuse collectors. If recyclable materials in the refuse lorry become mixed with dirty non-recyclable waste from contaminated bins, they become spoiled and can't be recycled. The wrong sort of waste also makes life extremely unpleasant and hazardous for our workers at the sorting plant who separate by hand all the waste you put in your green bin.

What can I recycle in my green-wheeled bin?

Newspapers and magazines paper (including junk mail and shredded paper) cardboard (no waxed or foil lined drinks cartons please) plastic bottles, drink and food cans, aluminium foil – all loose please. We can also accept textiles which are the only items we would like bagged and labelled.

Where can I buy a reduced price compost bin or wormery?

Discounted home composters can be purchased via a local company (Westcountry Worms) who stock all the bins on our behalf. Please contact them direct on 01803 712738, informing them that you are a resident of Torbay to enable you to take advantage of the discounted prices.

Where can I recycle black glass?

Black glass can be put in with brown glass in a bottle bank.

Where can I recycle blue glass?

Blue glass can be put in with the green glass in a bottle bank.

Where can I recycle food tins?

Food tins can be placed in your green wheeled bin for recycling or can be placed in a can bank.

Where should I put my wheeled bin/box out for collection?

Your wheeled bins or boxes should be placed at the boundary of your property where it joins the road or pavement.

Why do I have to separate the glass that I take to the bank?

This is because mixed coloured glass cannot be recycled back into its original colours. This is especially important with clear glass.

Why don't we have banks for plastics bottles?

Plastic bottles take up a lot of space and don't weigh very much. The value of plastic bottles in a full bank is less than the cost of picking it up, so plastic banks are not cost effective to operate.



TORBAY LIBRARY SERVICES

Out of school?

- FREE weekly computer sessions offered to all children who do not attend school - long term or short term.
- One off fun workshops for all children in foster care.
- T-shirt design, animation, movie making.
- Contact: Susan Herlihy at Torquay Library on 01803 208310.



Council launches It's Foul campaign

Nobody likes dog poo in public places and a new high-profile campaign being launched by Torbay Council in the summer aims to stamp it out by encouraging responsible dog ownership.

The 'It's Foul' campaign will highlight the problems of dog fouling with a poster campaign, visits to local schools as well as many other exciting events that will be unveiled as part of the official launch at the end of July.

To kick-start the campaign the council ran a campaign to find the local canine character that will front the publicity and lead by example.

The winner was Brillo the border terrier from Chelston, and will be appearing on leaflets and posters around the Bay.

Cabinet Member Councillor Jeanette Richards said: "We wanted to give responsible dog owners across the Bay the opportunity to get involved - and what better way than to centre the campaign around their dog!"



Fronting the campaign: Brillo the border terrier from Chelston

"Dog mess is dirty, unpleasant, a potential risk to health and quite rightly concerns most of us wherever we live.

"I recognise that the majority of dog owners already scoop up the poop, and we are hoping that the campaign will encourage others to do the same."

Exchequer and benefits successes

Following a review of working practices earlier in the year, the Benefits team at Torbay Council has improved the time it takes to pay a benefit claim by an average of 10 days (from 44 days to 34 days).

A full-time benefits processor is now available in Housing Services to help those most at risk to complete their claims properly and more emphasis has been placed on working in partnership with social and private sector landlords to improve claim clearance and communication.

For more information on how the Exchequer and Benefits Team can help you please contact 01803 207207

A to Z on your PC

Need to check when your holiday refuse collection is? How to recycle? Or check on a planning application? It's now as simple as a click of your mouse with Torbay Council's online A to Z of services.

The A to Z currently lists over a thousand services in a growing directory of all Torbay Council services. It also provides information links to local and national agencies and organisations such as the emergency services, The Samaritans, Childline, Citizens Advice, Age Concern, local hospices and Jobcentre Plus.

To use Torbay Council's electronic A- Z service go to www.torbay.gov.uk/a-z

The planning service provided by Torbay Council is now better than ever

Last year it was rated as one of the best in the country and this year 79% of customers who chose to take part in recent a customer survey agreed, saying they were satisfied with the service.

A dedicated customer service officer is now available to provide advice and support to members of the public and improved e-planning means that accessing relevant documents is now available at the touch of a button.

For more information or advice on planning issues please contact 01803 207801.

Minister praises Bay's commitment to the economy

An important fact-finding visit to Torbay by a Government Minister towards the end of June was hailed a great success.

Phil Woolas, Minister for Local Government and Community Cohesion, undertook the visit after pledging in January to come down to South Devon to see for himself the issues facing Torbay.

His itinerary took in Brixham Harbour, discussions on regeneration issues, and a visit to South Devon College to see what part the college can play in boosting the economy. He also saw areas of the Bay that need further investment.

Nick Bye, Mayor of Torbay, said: "This was the best 24 hours work for Torbay in a long time. It just shows what can be achieved when we all sing from the same hymn sheet.

"The Minister went back to London with a clear sense that Torbay Council and the wider community has a real commitment towards economic prosperity as our top priority and a whole range of schemes to deliver this, from Brixham Fish Quay to the Kingskerswell Bypass.

"I would like to thank personally all those who helped make this visit a success."

Richard Morgan, Chief Executive of the Torbay Development Agency, said: "We were delighted to host the Minister's visit and were most encouraged by his rapid and sympathetic grasp of Torbay's economic situation.

"We aimed to show him the balance between our reliance on a nationally declining tourist industry, and the immense efforts that are now going in to regeneration and creating new economic opportunities.

"The Minister acknowledged this balancing act and expressed open admiration for the enthusiasm and commitment he experienced throughout his visit to the Bay.

"The Minister emphasised the importance of unity within the business community and encouraged us to continue to work together with shared goals and purposes to maximize opportunities for the Bay.

"He was totally supportive of our regeneration projects and has undertaken to use his influence to try and unblock funding issues where they are impeding our programme. The issue of the South Devon Link Road (Kingskerswell) surfaced regularly and was illustrated by a 45-minute delay en route to the Minister's train, but thankfully we arrived at the station with three minutes to spare!"

'Excellent care' of pupils praised at Paignton school

A Paignton junior school has received praise from Ofsted for its 'excellent care' of its pupils, in a recently published report.

Foxhole Junior School in Paignton was also described by inspectors as 'rapidly improving' despite a satisfactory standard of education already being provided.

The 228-pupil school has a high number of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities and houses two units for pupils with autism and social, emotional and behavioural needs. These units were labelled 'outstanding' in the report, and inspectors paid tribute to the headteacher's commitment and the high level of care and support for these pupils. They said the "positive attitudes and the good behaviour exhibited by all pupils are testament to this."

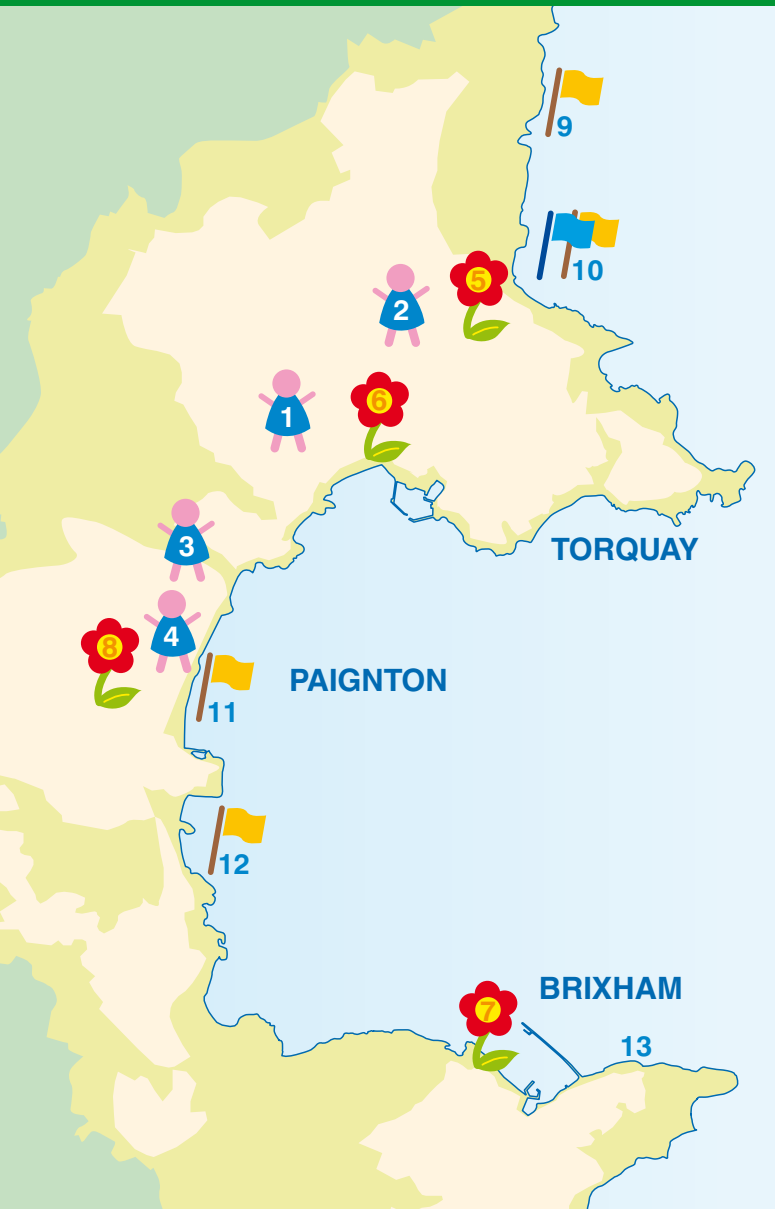
Headteacher Jo Tucker said of the report: "We have made strong improvements in many areas, which have resulted in good progress - standards have been raised and there is a strong commitment to further improvement.

"It is particularly pleasing that the teamwork and support of the community have been recognised as a strong feature, ensuring the best education and care of the children."

This magazine is available in other formats, including large print and braille. Call Torbay Council's Communications Team on 01803 207048 for more details.



Pictured left to right: Councillor Kevin Carroll, Mayor Nick Bye, Local Government Minister Phil Woolas MP and Captain Paul Labistour, Brixham Harbourmaster.



PLAY AREAS



1 Rocket Park

Torbay Council recently joined forces with the Chelston Parks Friends' Group to successfully transform Rocket Park into an area fit for an astronaut.

A new seesaw, mini rocket, slide and climbing frame, as well as a special needs springer, were installed to provide variety and adventure.

2 Upton Park



A large dragon has invaded Upton Park play area, but do not be scared -- he only wants to play.

The huge dragon was part of a make-over for Upton

Park play area which also includes new play equipment and a safety surface.

3 Old Paignton Road

Following a revamp this play area now provides an experience which is truly out of this world for budding young space explorers.

New 'galaxy' equipment has been installed including a supernova circular roundabout and black safety surfacing.

Out and about in the Bay

Torbay is blessed with more than 100 beautiful parks and gardens from tranquil hideaways to bustling play areas.

There are also 22 miles of dramatic coastline harbouring 20 beaches from wide sandy stretches to hidden rocky coves. So whether you're looking for a quiet spot under a tree, a play area to amuse the children or a place to lay your towel there is something to suit everyone.

4 Preston Green, Paignton



A large pirate ship is the latest edition on Preston Green and was installed following contributions from the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management.

This year's **Children's Week** (16-19 August) is to be bigger and bolder with more activities plus some of the old favourites from the popular open air festival. The week will culminate in a grand finale on Saturday 19 August. For more information visit www.torbay.gov.uk



GARDENS

5 Tessier Gardens



Hidden away between Babbacombe and St. Marychurch, Tessier Gardens is a small and delightful park that was given to the town in 1933 by Mrs H.A Tessier.

The park has features such as a sun temple, dahlia borders, small pond area and numerous shelters.

In accordance with covenants bestowed upon the council in 1933, children under the age of 18 are not permitted in the park, but Torbay Council permits children to enter the park under adult supervision.

6 Abbey Park, Torquay

The original pond and water rock garden – dating back to 1924 – has been significantly improved in recent years but the show-piece of the park is the Italian Gardens with a fine collection of Torbay palms.

There is disabled access and the gardens are accessible by public transport.

7 Battery Gardens, Brixham

Battery Gardens is not a cultivated park but more a natural landscape of trees, shrubs and grass with one of the most panoramic views in the Bay. It is also a Scheduled Monument and has its own Friends Group.

As far back as the 1780s the area was used for militia training. Most significantly it was a World War 2 Coastal Defence Battery, with up to 250 soldiers based there.

The gardens are accessible by public transport, but disabled access is limited.

8 Oldway Mansion, Paignton



Oldway Mansion symbolises the magnificent legacy of Paignton's most colourful family - the Singers of sewing machine fame.

Beautiful gardens surround the Mansion, formal gardens to the South of the house and the Italian Style garden, located to the east. There is also a less formal garden, featuring a grotto, two ponds, a waterfall and a wide range of subtropical plants.

BEACHES

9 Watcombe Beach, Torquay

This is a sandy beach with limited parking.

Swimming is safe with care and facilities include toilets, cafe, a beach shop and deckchair/sunbed hire.

10 Oddicombe Beach, Torquay



This beach is a mixture of sand and shingle and is just below the north end of Babbacombe Downs. Access is steep but the cliff railway is a fun alternative.

Facilities include toilets, café, beach shop and deckchair/sunbed hire.

11 Paignton Beach, Paignton

This is a long sandy beach with easy access. There is a large grassy green adjacent and ample parking nearby.

There are lots of kiosks and cafes by the beach and amusements on the pier.

Swimming is safe with care and facilities include toilets, deckchair/sunbed hire, pedaloes and family bikes.

12 Goodrington Sands, Paignton



This is a long sandy beach with a Seashore Centre, Quaywest Waterpark, Youngs Park and Inn on the Quay all right behind the beach.

There are plenty of kiosks, toilets and amusements available. Swimming is safe with care and there are excellent rockpools at low tide.

13 Shoalstone Beach, Brixham

A shingle and rock beach right next to Brixham's popular, outdoor seawater pool. There is limited parking, swimming is safe with care and facilities include toilets, a café and deckchair/sunbed hire.

TEAM TORBAY



Winning illustration from the "I've met a Street Warden" competition;
Inset: Torbay Street Wardens



Street Wardens

Torbay's street wardens have been pounding the pavements around Torbay since 2002 providing a vital link between the local community and the Police.

The initial scheme, which started in Hele, has gone from strength to strength with seven wardens now patrolling areas in Torquay and Paignton.

The wardens' aim is to build safer, stronger communities by reducing anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime through patrolling. The wardens are there to be the focal point of contact for the community, reporting residents' problems or concerns to the relevant agencies and assisting with community projects and visiting vulnerable people.

They are familiar faces in their patrol areas and aim to be approachable and highly visible. Their presence on the local streets has a positive effect on general behaviour and helps improve community spirit.

They have enforcement powers to issue tickets for dog fouling but their role is not one of enforcement, but one of assistance and support.

If you live in one of the street warden areas; Watcombe, Barton, Hele, Torre, Foxhole or Queen Elizabeth Drive and would like to discuss any problems you are experiencing, or if you have any ideas on how to improve your local community please telephone 01803 208091 or e-mail street.wardens@torbay.gov.uk

Working towards a safe, clean Torbay

A new security team run by Torbay Council is keeping the streets of Torbay safer than ever with late-night patrols around council buildings and car parks and a 24-hour call-out service.

Historically the council's security patrols have been provided through external contracts. However, in June this year the decision was taken to bring the service in-house and is now run by council staff.

The four-strong team work on a shift basis patrolling council-owned areas around the Bay from the Town Hall to Oldway Mansion and beach huts to beaches and car parks.

They provide peace of mind for people in the area and also act as a deterrent against anti-social behaviour or acts of vandalism.

Rob Osborne, Corporate Security Officer, has been working for Torbay Council since 1996 and now fronts the team. He said: "We are patrolling Torbay between 6pm and 2am every day and will react to any incident including anti-social behaviour or alarms going off on council property.

"From 2am until 8am a member of the team is on-call to deal with any issue that may arise.

"We also lock the stairwells of car parks every evening and more recently we have been keeping a watchful eye over Torre Abbey whilst it undergoes a major makeover.

"Over the past few weeks we have also been targeting some of the hot spots in the Bay including Beacon Quay car park and Victoria multi-storey where there have been reports of 'boy racers' or intimidation in the past."

All of the members of the team are qualified door staff or security officers and can be hired to provide security at any event being held on council property.

For more information please contact Rob Osborne on 01803 207655.

Rob Osborne, Corporate Security Officer





Place your bets for a casino in Torbay

Torbay's dream of becoming a Monte Carlo-style resort has moved a step closer after it was named on a short-list of possible locations for a casino.

More than 60 local authorities around the country had submitted bids to the government. The list has now been reduced to 31 contenders who will find out if they have been successful by the end of the year when sixteen areas will be chosen.

Torbay's submission follows a poll on the council's website inviting local residents and businesses to have their say on the proposal. A total of 184 responded and of those 74% were in favour of a casino in Torbay.

The bid has been supported by the Mayor, Nick Bye, the Torbay Community Partnership, the Torbay Development Agency Ltd, Torbay Strategic Partnership and the Regional Assembly who fully recognise the huge potential that a casino would generate for the Bay.

Richard Morgan, Chief Executive of the Torbay Development Agency said: "Getting to the short list is wonderful news for Torbay and takes us nearer to the vision of increasing quality we have for Torbay.

We feel this English Riviera vision would be fully supported by an atmosphere of Monte Carlo sophistication. This would be a win-win situation.

"A casino would create a significant number of full-time jobs as well as attracting more visitors, including more high-spending tourists, to boost the economy of the Bay."

£3.5million waterfront project nearing completion

The regeneration of Torquay's waterfront has taken a step closer with the completion of the heavy structural works and the start of the streetscape improvements including new furniture, upgraded paving and public art.

When completed the area will boast a Mediterranean café culture with Al Fresco dining, street lighting and an attractive viewing area looking across the harbour.

It is envisaged that these smaller works will not be disruptive to the season and they will be complete early September.

Brixham Regeneration

Planning application and public exhibition

A planning application to regenerate Brixham with a new fishmarket, quay and employment space at Oxen Cove was submitted to Torbay Council in March and some objections were received.

As a result a number of meetings have been held between the Torbay Development Agency's appointed architect, the planners and some consultees, including English Heritage and CABE to review the objections and suggest necessary changes to the plans.

A public meeting was also held to discuss the application with Torbay Council's Special Development Control Committee.

Several people spoke both in support of the project and against specific details in the design. However, the project received good general support from the Committee.

Current funding situation

The major fish market, employment space and tourism project continues to progress but the funding of the project remains the critical issue.

Outline approval has now been received for all sections of the £16.6 million project, except for the remaining £2 million requested from DEFRA/MFA.

This part of the funding specifically targets the fishing facilities which continue to be regarded as crucial to the future of Brixham. This part of the funding is therefore an essential component but has not yet been resolved.

Town centre car park development

Work has been ongoing on the town centre car park development and all five developers from the short list have been approached offering them the opportunity to improve or revise their bids.

At least three developers have agreed to do this. When all of the short list developers have completed their work we will re-evaluate all new offers at one time – this is expected to be in the Autumn.



Register of Electors

Changes to how you can return the
annual registration form

0800 197 8608

During August all households will receive the annual registration form. If there are no changes to the details printed on the form you can confirm this by calling the above FREE telephone number and entering the security code printed on your form.

You can now also do
this via the web....go to:

www.registerbyinternet.com/torbay



Apply online for your child's school place

If your child is due to start school either for the first time, or is moving from primary to secondary school in 2007, you will be able to apply for a school place in September 2006.

If you have access to the Internet you can now apply online, which has many benefits:

- It is quick and easy to do
- 24 hours a day, seven days a week from 1 September until the closing dates
- You will get an email confirmation that your application has been received
- There is no risk that your application will get lost
- You can change the details on your application right up to the closing date (please keep a note of your reference number)

- The system is secure so your information is protected

Deadlines for applications

Secondary schools - 20 October 2006

Primary schools - 13 October 2006

The result of your application will be available online on the published allocation date – 15 December 2006 for primary schools and 1 March 2007 for secondary schools

To complete your application online visit www.torbay.gov.uk where you will find step by step guidance to filling in the online form.

If you have any queries about the online school admissions process please telephone 01803 208908.



Give a little time ...
make a **big** difference

Have fun and make a real difference to the lives of disabled children and their families living in Torbay.

Become a 'Family2Family' carer providing short-term breaks on a regular basis to a disabled child.

This can be anything from a few hours a week to a weekend a month, or more.

We need all sorts of people!

You could be working, retired or unemployed, with or without children, single or with a partner. You do not need any particular experience or qualifications, but we are currently short of carers with nursing experience.

Training, support and an allowance are provided.



Call NOW for more information!

Gill Harris
Parkfield House, Paignton

01803 402781



PART OF
Shared Care Network

UNSUNG HEROES

Welcome to my world!

**“Live day to day, you can’t alter fate,
If you’re tired, go to sleep, the washing can wait,
One thing I know, and I hope you can see;
I’ve got MS, but it’s not having me!”**

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is one of the most common diseases of the central nervous system. Today around 85,000 people in the UK have MS with 261 currently recorded in Torbay.

MS is the result of damage to the protective sheath surrounding nerve fibres of the central nervous system. When it is damaged, this interferes with messages between the brain and other parts of the body.

Symptoms vary widely and include blurred vision, weak limbs, tingling sensations, unsteadiness, fatigue, cramps, visual problems or slurred speech.

Gill Dunbobbin is the MS Project Co-ordinator for Torbay and was diagnosed with MS when in her twenties.

Gill said: “Most people with MS are diagnosed between their 20s and 40s and they often fear that they will never lead a normal life again. The truth is that no two people get MS in exactly the same way and there are many support services in place to help people to stay in work and live independently.

“I work closely with social services, GPs, MS nurses, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists to ensure that the services we provide meet the needs of the people in Torbay.”

MS information and support service

People who live with MS are available on Wednesday mornings between 10am and 1pm to provide friendly and helpful information and support about the disease and local services.

They are available via an advice line on 01803 552175 or people can visit The Chadwell Centre, Torquay Road, Paignton, TQ3 2DW.



**Gill Dunbobbin, MS Project
Co-ordinator for Torbay**

A parent and child group for people with MS who have young children meets every Friday afternoon from 1pm until 3pm in the Sure Start building in Queen Elizabeth Drive.

In partnership with South Devon Health Services two exercise sessions are held for anyone with MS every Thursday at Torbay Leisure Centre, Paignton.

For more information about any of the above contact Gill Dunbobbin on 01803 654727.

Home-based break and enabling service

This is a new service that has been introduced for people in Torbay with MS and their carers.

Highly trained staff can offer flexible care for periods of 2 hours to 3 days. They provide carers with a break but can also enable the person with MS to do things that they would like to do such as shopping, banking, attending classes or groups or even sewing.

Rob, 45, is severely affected by MS and found himself living in near isolation until six months ago when he was recommended the service through his social worker.

Rob is an essential wheelchair user and said: “I used to have to give my two children money to choose their own Christmas presents but last Christmas I was able to go into town with my worker and choose the gifts which I knew my children would love.

“The service has turned my life around and allowed me to do all of the things that I thought were not possible.”

To arrange an assessment please contact Gill on 01803 654727.

CHECK IT OUT

It's official... locals **love** their library

Libraries across Torbay have received a big thumbs up from local residents following a recent consultation on customer satisfaction. And topping the bill was the helpful library staff with 99 percent of those taking part rating them as good or very good.

The findings were from a survey of over 1,200 members who were asked a number of questions relating to library staff, how they use their library, availability of books, CDs and DVDs and overall opinion.

The results showed overwhelming support for the libraries across Torbay with 83 percent rating the quality of books and other materials as either good or very good and staff were also recognised with nearly 98 percent rating their knowledge and expertise as good or very good.

Cabinet Member Councillor Jeanette Richards, said: "There have been some exciting developments within the library service over the last year. It has retained the prestigious Government Charter Mark, which recognises the excellence of the service that is provided to the people of the Bay. "

Celebration Week at Torquay Library

Dick Francis, author of award winning novels such as *Forfeit* and *Come to Grief*, will be paying a special visit to Torquay Library on Thursday 27 July between 10am and 11am as part of Celebration Week (24-29 July).

Other events taking place include:

- Digital photo workshop
- Quick reads – Come and choose your free 'quick read', with titles by many popular authors.
- Life of Brunel – Illustrated talk by renowned local historian and author John Risdon on the great Victorian engineer in this, his bicentennial year.
- Ancestors online – research your family history with help from expert staff.
- Music, rhythm and rhyme – share the magic of our popular bounce and rhyme sessions with your little groovers (aged 0-3 years)

For information on the other events taking place during Celebration Week or to find out if booking is necessary please drop into Torquay Library or call 01803 208310.



Praise has been received from local residents, and visitor numbers are up following a recent makeover of Torquay Library.

The library, which welcomed around 220,000 visitors last year, has been brought into the 21st Century with more seating, lower shelves, a coffee machine, comfortable reading areas with shelving for more books stock and an interactive zone with graphic novels.

But the Library Service recognise that it may not have got everything right. Changes to the way in which the fiction books are now arranged has been met with varied reactions. To find out more, Torquay Library will be asking customers how they would like to see the fiction books arranged and make the necessary changes in response to the feedback.

ADVERT

I have pleasure in introducing this Annual Report for 2005-06 on behalf of Safer Communities Torbay. I was elected Mayor of Torbay to deliver a clean, safe and prosperous Bay. The Safer Communities Torbay partnership has a key role to play in delivering that vision. With its emphasis on drawing together the main partners – Torbay Council, Torbay Care Trust, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, Torbay Youth Offending Team, Devon Fire and Rescue and Devon & Cornwall Probation – and working closely with the public and voluntary sector, it is already achieving results in not only making us safer, but making us feel safer. Plus I particularly welcome the various initiatives outlined in this report and thank everybody involved in promoting community safety.



Nick Bye
Mayor of Torbay



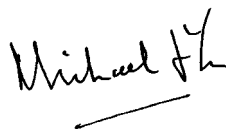
Introduction

The reduction of crime and disorder in Torbay is now the responsibility of a dedicated team... Safer Communities Torbay.

Our aim is to further reduce crime and disorder in Torbay, making people feel even safer. Many factors can contribute to crime and disorder making the community feel unsafe, so we work in partnership to tackle such issues as:-

- Alcohol & Drug Misuse
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Prejudice-Related Crime
- Public Reassurance
- Volume Crimes e.g. burglary, vehicle crime, violent crime, criminal damage and theft.

But community safety is more than just crime – healthy living comes into it and the social/economic factors that impact on crime.



Michael Yeo
Strategic Director for Community Services

Targets & performance

Safer Communities Torbay focuses its work around two main priority areas: crime and communities. Each area has one key national target to achieve by 2008, which has been given to us by the Government.

These constitute our vision for the future of community safety in Torbay:

CRIME: To reduce crime in Torbay by 17.5%.

COMMUNITIES: To increase public

reassurance, community engagement and confidence in the criminal justice system.

Despite these targets being laid down by the Government, we are able to make them locally relevant.

For the crime target there are ten different crime categories that need to be addressed. The partnership has set individual targets for each of these crime categories and figure 1 is a table outlining our performance for 2005/06.

New measures to reduce crime and disorder take time to have an effect,

hence in the first year overall crime figures in Torbay are just over target, by 2.7%. It is worth mentioning that crime is in fact down on last year by some 265 crimes, so although we are not hitting all of our ten crime targets, it is encouraging to see crime figures on the decrease in Torbay.

One of the main reasons we have failed to meet our target of 7,662 crimes is due to the number of incidents of criminal damage (3,323 in 2005-06). Initiatives are already underway by Safer Communities Torbay and our partner agencies to reduce the incidence of criminal

damage and it is anticipated the benefits will be seen over the next few years' performance figures.

Encouragingly, a combination of initiatives by Safer Communities Torbay has resulted in domestic burglary and theft from a vehicle seeing a dramatic reduction in the number of incidents for 2005-06.

For the communities target, a combined Crime & Disorder and Drugs Audit took place in 2004 to identify the type of crimes and issues that affect the quality of life of

residents in Torbay. This information was provided by statutory and voluntary agencies and supplemented by views gathered through various forms of public consultation. It is this public consultation with the community of Torbay which has been key in establishing a baseline for people's main issues and concerns, their feelings of safety (fear of crime) and what priorities they have for crime reduction.

As part of this process, a View Point 9 survey was carried out. (View Point 9 is Torbay Council's residents' research

panel. The panel broadly represents the population of Torbay and is balanced, ward by ward, using age and gender. This means the results from the panel are representative of the bay as a whole).

The partnership held a fear of crime survey in January 2006 (asking similar questions to the View Point 9 Survey in 2004) to see how Safer Communities Torbay are performing with regards to residents' fear of crime in Torbay. The results can be seen in figure 2 below.

Figure 1: Performance for 2005/06

Crime Type	Total crimes 2004-05	Total crimes to achieve target	Total crimes 2005-06	How we performed against our targets
Theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle	266	255	364	+109 crimes (+42.6%)
Theft from vehicle	1,045	1,024	825	-199 crimes (-19.4%)
Vehicle interference	103	102	92	-10 crimes (-9.8%)
Domestic burglary	763	738	523	-215 crimes (29.1%)
Theft or unauthorised taking of a cycle	96	86	144	+58 crimes (+66.8%)
Theft from person	222	206	228	+22 crimes (+10.9%)
Criminal damage	3,195	2,907	3,323	+416 crimes (+14.3%)
Common assault	712	662	635	-27 crimes (-4.1%)
Wounding	1,646	1,597	1,652	+55 crimes (+3.5%)
Robbery	88	85	85	0 crimes (0.0%)
Total	8,136	7,662	7,871	+209 crimes (+2.7%)

Figure 2: Results from Fear of Crime Survey (January 2006)

Community Issues (fear of crime)	View Point 9 Results (2004)	View Point Target for 2008	Survey Results (2006)
To increase the number of people who feel safe when alone in their own homes at night	60%	75%	67%
To increase the number of people who feel safe when out on their own after dark in Torbay	28%	50%	34%
To reassure and educate the public and individual communities about the true levels of crime in Torbay so that fewer believe there is a lot more crime	39%	20%	29%
To reduce the number of people either fairly or very concerned about having their property/vehicle damaged	61%	50%	34%
To reduce the number of people either fairly or very concerned about being burgled	44%	45%	-
To increase the number of people who have heard of Safer Communities Torbay and/or the Community Safety Strategy	19%	50%	27%
To reduce the number of people who are fairly or very concerned about drug use in Torbay	58%	30%	26%
To build confidence in the criminal justice system so that those who become a victim of crime report it	50%	50%	21%

(The above statistics from the 2006 survey are only an indication of our performance in order to highlight areas for Safer Communities Torbay to focus on; hence they should not directly be compared to the View Point 9 results).

Although statistically Torbay is a fairly low crime area, the impact of crime on victims and on communities can be great and hence community safety remains a high priority for Torbay's residents and for Safer Communities Torbay. Older people in particular fear crime, a fear which can often dominate their lives. In reality older people are far less likely than young people to become a victim of crime.

It is therefore essential residents of Torbay are informed about crime levels in their area so they have a real perception of what is occurring and take steps to ensure they do not become victims.

What we have achieved/funded...

The Safer Communities team's overall purpose is to improve the quality of life of residents, visitors and workers through crime and disorder reduction and by increasing community engagement. To achieve this we make the most of existing Bay projects and take forward new ideas concerning crime prevention and the removal of the opportunity for crime.

Successful examples of Safer Communities in practice during 2005-06 include:

Know The Code



In 2004 a piece of research was conducted by Torbay's Youth Offending Team called 'No Limits' to find out about young people's drinking in Torbay and their views regarding

alcohol. The results exposed the risks that young people take as a result of alcohol use.

From this work the Know The Code campaign was developed, targeting young people, their role models (i.e. young adults 18 - 25 year olds), parents

and the licensing trade. A variety of striking posters, banners, beer mats, keyrings and information booklets amongst others complete the overall campaign, launched 9th July 2005.

Since then the same young people from the 'No Limits' survey were asked if their drinking habits had changed since 2003/04 and the response was 23% said it had as a result of the campaign. Furthermore, violent crime in Torbay has reduced by 9% from April 2005 to January 2006, compared to the same period in 2004-05. Violent crime committed by females under the age of 18 years old has also decreased by 20% in the same period.

Safe Bus

A static ambulance acting as a minor injuries unit has been based at Torquay harbourside Friday and Saturday evenings to support any vulnerable persons in need i.e. those suffering the effects of drink or drugs, victims of crime, those lost or stranded, afraid to go home, or simply in need of some advice. A successful pilot exercise ran over Christmas and New Year and assisted over 30 people as a result. The bus is staffed by a team of professional and trained volunteers from partner agencies and the wider public. It also links in with our 'know the code' campaign to promote safe and responsible drinking in Torbay and has received funding from the partnership.

Gemma's Wardrobe

Gemma's Wardrobe is a one-hour interactive theatrical performance targeted and devised for Year 9 students in 5 schools across Torbay providing a unique combination of empathy and entertainment. The performance features a 'forum theatre' at the end, in which students are given the opportunity to enter scenes from the play as characters in order to positively affect the outcome. This is then followed up by a one-hour workshop in which the students are able to investigate issues of self-esteem, peer clusters/pressure, health and attitudes towards drugs and alcohol use. Gemma's Wardrobe formed part of our Drug & Alcohol Community Awareness Campaign.

Kushbai

'Kushbai' is a group of Torbay LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning) young people who meet up to hang out and discuss everyday life issues. 'Kush' is an Asian word that means gay and this word was chosen because it symbolised an openness to all cultures as well as sexualities. 'Bai' is their funky way of saying 'bay'.



Safer Communities Torbay have helped Kushbai provide an environment where young LGBTQ people can hang out and socialise without fear of confrontation or discrimination. Kushbai want to challenge homophobic bullying by researching and recording incidents of abuse and devising questionnaires and workshops for young people, to help raise awareness and to challenge prejudices. These will then be taken to schools, youth projects, and anyone else interested! There are also plans to write and direct an animated film of the group's individual experiences of 'coming out' and also their day-to-day experiences of dealing with homophobia.

Community Action Days



Safer Communities held its second Community Action Day in the Merritt Road area of Paignton in October 2005. The Council filled 3 skips full of unwanted household items, helped by the Probation Service (individuals who were undertaking Community Punishment). The Police and Fire Service provided crime and fire

prevention advice and took numerous referrals for their Safe 'N' Secure and Fire Home Safety Checks respectively. It was an excellent opportunity to meet some of the local residents, clean up their neighbourhood and encourage them to look after their own area. The day was seen as a success by all and Safer Communities Torbay are looking forward to their next Community Action Day.

"I Am Who I Am, Are You?"



At least one-in-four people in a same sex relationship will suffer domestic abuse in their lifetime, but a feeling of isolation often prevents them seeking help.

In November 2005 a campaign entitled "I am who I am, are you?" was launched to raise awareness of the agencies and services that are available to members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Torbay.

To raise awareness four striking posters and beer mat designs were unveiled, each showing a different aspect of domestic abuse. They were distributed throughout venues in Torbay.

Safe 'N' Secure

Safer Communities Torbay has secured the homes of the most vulnerable across Torbay through a Safe 'N' Secure Scheme. The Scheme provides free security advice and upgrades in the form of locks and internal security measures to our most vulnerable across Torbay.

With funding from Torbay Council we are able to identify vulnerable members of the community (e.g. victims of burglary or the elderly in Torbay) the opportunity to have their home security upgraded. We can only take referrals from local organisations such as Age Concern, the Police, Social Services, Victim Support and other voluntary groups mainly due to the limited funding

available and because we aim to help those most in need.

Over the last few years we were able to access European grants to help people who live in Torquay's most deprived wards (Ellacombe, Tormohun and Torwood) and we secured nearly 1,000 homes in total in just these 3 wards. (100 more have been secured in 2005-06).

Looking ahead to 2006-07

Safer Communities Torbay has had a significant impact on reducing crime and disorder since its inception in 1998. Some initiatives are now embedded into the mainstream services of the Council and Police, such as Street Warden Schemes and the Safe 'N' Secure Scheme to secure the homes of the most vulnerable across Torbay. All making a real difference to the quality of life to residents of Torbay.

As mentioned in our performance section, criminal damage will be a major focus this year due to the high volume of crimes and the inconvenience caused to those residents of Torbay unfortunate to have been affected by this crime.

Anti-social behaviour is another area which can have a great impact on the quality of people's lives in Torbay and Safer Communities Torbay will be ensuring that complainants are informed of any action taken by relevant agencies to address their particular issue.

With regards to Domestic Abuse we will be working to increase the safety of victims and increasing our awareness raising of this crime which affects 1 in 3 women, 1 in 6 men and 1 in 4 people in a same sex relationship.

A Diversity Audit is being performed in 2006 to assess the needs and concerns of those experiencing prejudice-related crimes in Torbay (either racially aggravated or homophobic/transgender). The results of which will be key in planning ahead to reduce the number

of hate crimes reported.

Safer Communities Torbay seeks to address public reassurance by implementing a Communications Strategy for the next three years. This will essentially address the issues of well-being in the community by engaging with residents to inform them about the true levels of crime in Torbay and give the advice needed to prevent them becoming a victim of crime.

With regards to drug misuse we will be reducing waiting times for treatment, increasing treatment capacity and redesigning the treatment system to achieve a more effective drug treatment process. Alcohol has been recognised as an overarching theme and as such is being addressed across all areas of the partnership with various agencies. Know the code has shown to be successful in promoting safe and responsible drinking across Torbay and this will be backed up by the expansion of taxi marshalls, the stay safe bus, increased policing to coincide with the night-time economy and bio-metric testing as a condition of entry, amongst other innovative initiatives. For further information or to make an enquiry please contact us via the details below...

Our contact details

Safer Communities Torbay
c/o Torquay Police Station
South Street
Torquay TQ2 5AH

Tel: 01803 841440

Fax: 01803 841436

Email: scatt@torbay.gov.uk



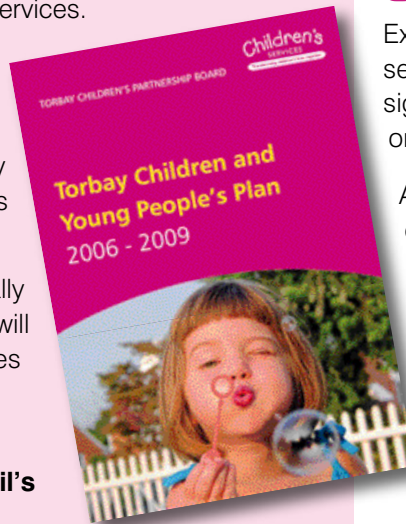
Council launches blueprint for young people

A vision for future generations has been outlined in Torbay's Children and Young People's Plan - the culmination of months of planning and reorganisation throughout the council's children's services department, and partners in health, the police and the voluntary sector. Its vision of 'transforming children's lives together' sets out plans to provide locally delivered, high quality and responsive children's services.

Strategic Director for Children's Services, Margaret Dennison, said: "This plan forms the basis of our transformation of services for children and young people in Torbay, and contains not only our aspirations for the future, but also the methods by which we intend to deliver them.

"We are at the forefront of local authorities nationally in the way we are shaping local services, and we will continue to strive to be the best - providing services that will help every child in Torbay to fulfill their potential, no matter what their circumstances."

Copies of the plan are available on the council's website www.torbay.gov.uk/childrens-plan



New curriculum provides more opportunities for all

Exciting new developments for secondary school pupils will encourage significantly more young people to go on to further and higher education.

An ambitious and pioneering new curriculum, aimed at 14-19 year-olds aims to raise standards across the board in Torbay, particularly among non-selective schools.

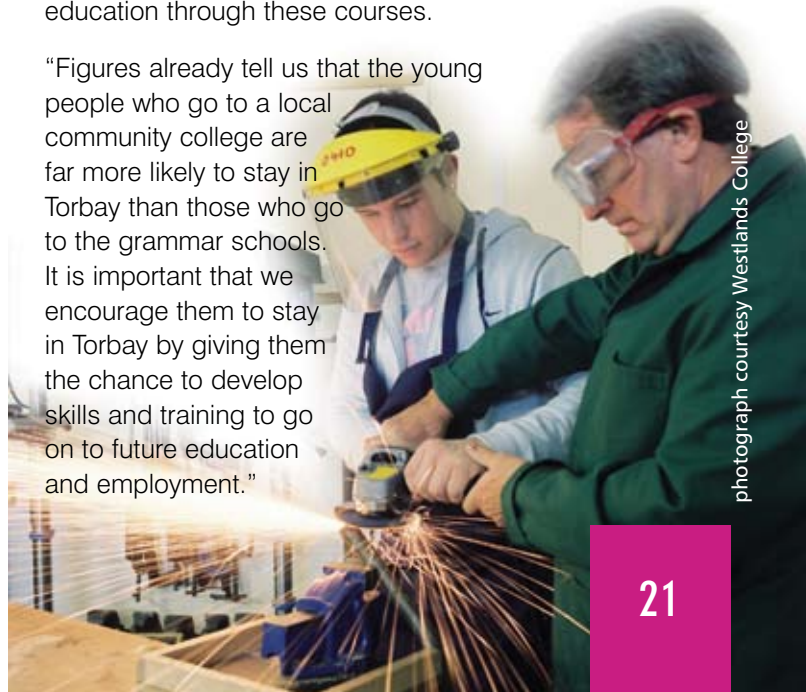
Torbay Council is leading the way in introducing this new curriculum, which comes into effect in

September and will eventually be rolled out to schools across the country.

In addition to the range of academic qualifications currently built into the curriculum, courses will be available on a wide range of subjects including animal care, hair and beauty, vehicle maintenance, catering, childcare and outdoor education. These courses will lead to a recognised qualification, and enable students to continue studying the subject at a higher level when they reach 16.

Mayor Nick Bye, who is cabinet member for children's services said: "The programme aims to re-engage young people whose needs are not being addressed through the current curriculum, and we hope to have a whole new group of young people taking up further and higher education through these courses.

"Figures already tell us that the young people who go to a local community college are far more likely to stay in Torbay than those who go to the grammar schools. It is important that we encourage them to stay in Torbay by giving them the chance to develop skills and training to go on to future education and employment."



photograph courtesy Westlands College

ADVERT

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Y

young carers service torbay208365
youth service.208278

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Name	Address	Telephone/email	Ward	Political group
Beverley BRENNAN	4 Sherwell Hill Torquay TQ2 6LT	606925 Cllr.B.Brennan@torbay.gov.uk	Preston	Torbay Group
Dave BROWNE	35 Shire Close Paignton TQ4 7SW	842246 Cllr.D.Browne@torbay.gov.uk	Churston with Galmpton	Liberal Democrat
Nick BYE (Mayor)	Mayor Office Town Hall Castle Circus Torquay TQ1 3DR	207001 Mayor@torbay.gov.uk	Elected Mayor	Independent
Kevin CARROLL (Deputy Mayor)	2 Brantwood Court Brantwood Drive Paignton TQ4 5HP	557580 (Mobile) 07769 655580 Cllr.K.Carroll@torbay.gov.uk	Roundham with Hyde	Conservative
Christine CARTER	54 Dartmouth Road Paignton TQ4 5AN	665801 Cllr.C.Carter@torbay.gov.uk	Goodrington with Roselands	Liberal Democrat
Colin CHARLWOOD	3 Centenary Way Torquay TQ2 7SB	616194 Cllr.C.Charlwood@torbay.gov.uk	Shiphay with the Willows	Liberal Democrat
Jean COPE	70 Padacre Road Torquay TQ2 8QQ	329753 Cllr.J.Cope@torbay.gov.uk	Cockington with Chelston	Liberal Democrat
Alan CRAIG	54 North Boundary Rd Brixham TQ5 8LQ	852011 Cllr.A.Craig@torbay.gov.uk	Berry Head with Furzeham	Conservative
Steve DARLING	2 Homestead Road Torquay TQ1 4JL	328778 Cllr.S.Darling@torbay.gov.uk	Watcombe	Liberal Democrat
John DAVIS	36 Moor Lane Torquay TQ2 8NU	313041 Cllr.J.Davis@torbay.gov.uk	St Marys with Summercombe	Liberal Democrat
Ian DOGGETT	33 Lammas Lane Paignton TQ3 1PS	555025 (Mobile) 07814 306224 Cllr.I.Doggett@torbay.gov.uk	Clifton with Maidenway	Liberal Democrat
John DUNN (Chairman of the Council)	1 Blythwood Crescent Cedar Court Road Torquay TQ1 3HJ	323150 (Office) 207025 (Mobile) 079896 893662 Cllr.J.Dunn@torbay.gov.uk	Ellacombe	Liberal Democrat
Alan FAULKNER	257 Teignmouth Road Torquay TQ1 4RT	323368 Cllr.A.Faulkner@torbay.gov.uk	St Marychurch	Liberal Democrat
Jenny FAULKNER	257 Teignmouth Road Torquay TQ1 4RT	323368 Cllr.J.Faulkner@torbay.gov.uk	Tormohun	Liberal Democrat
John HANLEY	Flat 5 Lawrence House 6-7 Lisburne Crescent Torquay TQ1 2LS	(Home) 213363 (Mobile) 07775 720564 Cllr.J.Hanley@torbay.gov.uk	Wellswood	Conservative
Chris HARRIS	To be advised	(Mobile) 07914 983274 Cllr.C.Harris@torbay.gov.uk	Tormohun	Independent
Gill HAYMAN	44 Hawkins Avenue Torquay TQ2 6ER	616488 Cllr.G.Hayman@torbay.gov.uk	Tormohun	Liberal Democrat
Martyn HODGE	3 Gillard Road Brixham TQ5 9EG	(Mobile) 07932 620999 Cllr.M.Hodge@torbay.gov.uk	Berry Head with Furzeham	Conservative
Colin HURST	Ocean View Panorama Livermead Hill Torquay TQ2 6PZ	(Mobile) 07747 655710 Cllr.C.Hurst@torbay.gov.uk	Goodrington with Roselands	Conservative

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Name	Address	Telephone/email	Ward	Political group
Michael HYTCHE	10 Monterey Close Torquay TQ2 6QW	606495 Cllr.M.Hytche@torbay.gov.uk	Cockington with Chelston	Conservative
Mike JAMES	Flat 3b 1 Courtland Road Paignton TQ3 2AB	(Home) 698227 (Mobile) 07837 055608 Cllr.M.James@torbay.gov.uk	Roundham with Hyde	Liberal Democrat
Gordon JENNINGS	49 Halsteads Road Torquay TQ2 8EZ	311741 Cllr.G.Jennings@torbay.gov.uk	Watcombe	Liberal Democrat
Peter KILLICK	97 Milton Street Brixham TQ5 0AR	(Home) 851579 Cllr.P.Killick@torbay.gov.uk	St Marys with Summercombe	Liberal Democrat
Chris LOMAS	Mount House 11a Mount Road Brixham TQ5 9SA	854191 Cllr.C.Lomas@torbay.gov.uk	Berry Head with Furzeham	Liberal Democrat
Loretta McHUGH	20 Shiphay Avenue Torquay TQ2 7EA	(Work) 207072 (Mobile) 07818 011441 Cllr.L.McHugh@torbay.gov.uk	Cockington with Chelston	Liberal Democrat
Beryl McPHAIL	5 Lydwell Road Torquay TQ1 1SN	293254 Cllr.B.McPhail@torbay.gov.uk	Wellswood	Conservative
Derek MILLS	5 Bascombe Close Brixham TQ5 0JR	(Home) 843412 (Mobile) 07775 567029 Cllr.D.Mills@torbay.gov.uk	Churston with Galmpton	Conservative
Michael MONAGHAN	155 Sherwell Valley Road Torquay TQ2 6EW	690050 Cllr.M.Monaghan@torbay.gov.uk	Shiphay with the Willows	Liberal Democrat
John NICHOLLS	185 Blatchcombe Road Paignton TQ3 2JP	550287 Cllr.J.Nicholls@torbay.gov.uk	Blatchcombe	Liberal Democrat
Ian OXLEY	173 Southfield Avenue Paignton TQ3 1JX	(Home) 553672 (Mobile) 07855 931060 Cllr.I.Oxley@torbay.gov.uk	Preston	Independent
Ruth PENTNEY	42 Higher Polsham Road Paignton TQ3 2SY	(Home) 554905 (Mobile) 07905 512136 Cllr.R.Pentney@torbay.gov.uk	Clifton with Maidenway	Liberal Democrat
George PORTER	43 Longstone Road Paignton TQ4 7HN	407592 Cllr.G.Porter@torbay.gov.uk	Blatchcombe	Liberal Democrat
Jeanette RICHARDS	Montana 217 Dartmouth Road Paignton TQ4 6LG	846004 Cllr.J.Richards@torbay.gov.uk	Blatchcombe	Conservative
Cindy STOCKS	9 Ellacombe Road Torquay TQ1 3AT	295702 Cllr.C.Stocks@torbay.gov.uk	Ellacombe	Liberal Democrat
Roger STRINGER (Vice-Chair of the Council)	Roselands Ashleigh Close Torquay TQ2 8HP	312331 Cllr.R.Stringer@torbay.gov.uk	St Marychurch	Liberal Democrat
Jean TURNBULL	64 Barcombe Heights Paignton TQ3 1PT	(Home) 403569 (Mobile) 07899 774056 Cllr.J.Turnbull@torbay.gov.uk	Preston	Torbay Group
Andy WESTWOOD	Rosebud Cottage 13 Lower Shirburn Road Torquay TQ1 3ET	(Mobile) 07854 591772 Cllr.A.Westwood@torbay.gov.uk	St Marychurch	Conservative

August 2006 Events

Recycling Eco Rangers

Tues 1 August, 2pm

Gamekeepers Cottage,
Cockington, Torquay

Learn about recycling through a
range of fun-packed activities.

☎ Torbay Coast and Countryside
Trust - 01803 606035

Cockington Fayre

Weds 2 August

Seashore Rangers

Weds 2 August, 1pm-3pm

Seashore Centre, Goodrington

Dress as pirates or smugglers to
hunt treasure, enjoy stories and a
beach picnic

☎ Torbay Coast and Countryside
Trust - 01803 606035

A night at the musicals

Thurs 3, 24 & 31 August

Princess Theatre, Torquay

Tickets available from Torbay
Tourist Information Centres

☎ 0870 2414120

Coral Coast Cruise

Every Thursday in August

1.15pm - 3.15pm

Paignton Harbour

View the Bay's geology, birdlife
and possibly dolphins from the
best vantage point.

☎ Torbay Coast and Countryside
Trust - 01803 606035

Torbay Steam Fair

Fri 4 - Sun 6 August, 10am - 5pm

Market Field, Brixham

Torbay Steam Association
welcomes everyone young and
not so young to the steam fair
www.torbaysteamfair.com

Paignton Regatta

Sat 5 - Sun 13 August

Paignton seafront

Races and onshore activities
throughout the week. Fireworks
on 8 August.

☎ 01803 666005

Abba Mania

Sat 5 & 26 August, 7.30pm

Princess Theatre, Torquay

Tickets available from all Torbay
Tourist Information Centres

☎ 0870 2414120

Night Fever 3

Every Saturday in August

Babbacombe Theatre, Torquay

Tickets available from all Torbay
Tourist Information Centres

☎ Babbacombe Theatre
01803 328385

Berry Head tidy-up

Thurs 10 August, 10am - 1pm

Volunteer day, Brixham

☎ Torbay Coast and Countryside
Trust - 01803 606035

Snorkelling

**Thurs 10 & 24 August,
11.30am - 1.30pm**

Seashore Centre, Goodrington

Discover the wonders of Torbay's
only underwater nature reserve.

☎ Torbay Coast and Countryside
Trust - 01803 606035

60th Torbay Children's Week

Mon 14 - Fri 18 August

Paignton Green

Children's Week will be packed
full of fun and entertainment.
Each day has its own theme.

☎ English Riviera Tourist
Information 0870 7070 010

Torbay Regatta

Sat 19 - Weds 23 August

Events and activities for all the
family. Fireworks on 21 August

☎ English Riviera Tourist
Information 0870 7070 010

National dolphin watching weekend

**Sat 19 - Sun 20 August,
6am - 7pm**

Berry Head, Brixham

☎ 01803 882619 for details

Red arrows display

Sun 20 August

Torbay Harbour

A warm welcome to the Red
Arrows as they return as part of
Torbay Royal Regatta.

☎ Torbay Coast and Countryside
Trust - 01803 606035

Continental Market

Fri 25 August

Paignton Promenade

Wind in the Willows

**Thurs 31 August, gates open at
6pm performance starts at 7pm**

☎ English Riviera Tourist
Information 0870 7070 010

All theatre shows can be booked
at any of the Tourist Information
Centres in Torbay. No extra charge!

For more information about any of the
events please call the English Riviera
Tourist information line 0870 70 70 010

For more information on events in
the area and to subscribe to the
English Riviera e-mails, please check
out www.theenglishriviera.co.uk

The times and dates of events may
be subject to change - please check
details with the organisers.