



Saltash Town Council

Konsel an dre Essa



Town Messenger

The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX
Tel 844846 www.saltash.gov.uk
enquiries@saltash.gov.uk



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Message from the New Mayor

This is my first Town Messenger article and I hope that I can do justice to the occasion, although it may take a little while for me to get up to speed as an author!

Firstly, thank you all for the opportunity to be the Mayor of Saltash. Stephanie and I have been really busy representing you and the Town Council at a wide variety of events which have shown how right we were to choose Saltash to live in. We originally came to Saltash because my job brought me to Plymouth. We selected Saltash by visiting all the towns and villages in the area and then deciding where we liked best. We're still here! It has been a real pleasure for us to meet so many nice people. And as a bonus it has been a fantastic summer, with plenty of sunshine!

There has been much discussion about Public Toilets recently so I might as well get it over with now! As the previous Mayor Martin Gee said in the last issue of the Messenger, the Town has been trying for some time, to adopt the Waterfront toilets under the railway bridge. We are almost there! By the time this edition of the Town Messenger is published we hope that Cornwall Council will have completed the required repair and refurbishments and we can take them over.

Elsewhere the toilets at the top of the Belle Vue west car park have been closed and the disabled toilet is now open to all. Some time ago the Town Council made the Guildhall toilets open to the public and reached an agreement with a number of pubs to make their toilets available to all to make more toilet facilities available. This scheme is continuing and expanding.

In the last issue of the Town Messenger the Town Council started a consultation process to establish what the town considers our priorities should be. Thank you to everyone who took part. We will be using the answers you gave to help us formulate our spending plans for the future.

Our efforts to bring people into the Town Centre continue, with the Cornish Cross, free parking on Saturdays and hanging baskets all being commented on favourably by both residents and visitors. The Talking Bench has certainly brought a sense of fun to Fore Street and seems popular with people of all ages.

Looking into the future the latest draft copy of the Saltash Town Plan, which describes the options for the development of Saltash until 2030, can be viewed on the Town Council website, with paper copies available at the Guildhall on request.

Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan, which will manage that development, continues. For more information please look at the Neighbourhood Plan part of the Town Council website. There are opportunities to take part in a wide variety of tasks so if you want to get involved contact the Town Mayor or Guildhall Reception.

Finally, the last two winters have been relatively mild, next winter may not be. The Town Council has provided a Cold Weather advice leaflet in the "Notices & Information" page of the Town Council website. If you gave any suggestions to improve the advice please contact the Guildhall. In addition if you have a 4WD vehicle and would like to help in the event of bad weather please let us know.

David Yates
Mayor of Saltash



Town Council Priorities Update

Many thanks to all residents who returned a copy of the priorities form in the last Messenger, or on the town council website. All the returns were analysed, alongside forms completed by young people at saltash.net and those completed by town councillors.

As a result the Town Council produced a provisional list of priorities which it then debated in September. In this discussion the top priority was decided to be 'Continuing existing town centre improvement projects (free parking, extra signage, hanging baskets etc.)'.

The high priorities were decided as

- Continuing to develop a Saltash Neighbourhood Plan (for housing, jobs etc. for the next 20 years)
- Providing a 'vibrant Saltash' office (paid employee to oversee publicity, co-ordinate festivals, support community groups, town centre management etc).
For further investigation and final decision by full council
- Promoting appropriate developments to waterside amenities
- Providing grants for community groups (Community Chest)
- Funding festivals in general
- Promoting development of Saltash station building (including additional passenger/community facilities)
- Improving play areas
- Developing the use of the Maurice Huggins Room *within current budget*
- Attracting additional leisure facilities (suggestions: aquarium/ice rink/skate parks/cinema etc)

The town council is now looking into how these top and high priorities will be funded and taken forward.

Other priorities were graded as 'medium', 'low' or 'none' priorities: we are reviewing all of these to make sure that they are consistent and achievable, and there may be a few changes to the list made by October full council. A full list will be published on the town council website after this final decision.

There was considerable discussion about where toilets should fit within the priorities, but it was decided that at this time the Town Council should not prioritise taking these on from Cornwall Council. Instead the Town Council will continue to lobby Cornwall to ensure that they are kept open and maintained to a proper standard.

STIG update

The Saltash Town-centre Improvement Group (The STIG) – a partnership of councillors, Chamber of Commerce and traders, CIC directors and investors – continues to work on projects to improve the town centre.

Over the summer 'Phase IV' saw further Saturday free parking and summer hanging baskets, whilst we have just received funding approval for Phase V.

This will:

- maintain free Saturday parking until the end of March
- fund Winter Hanging Baskets
- pay for a 'Saltash Shopping Week' in December, starting with the Christmas Festival, where parking will be free every day from 10am and there will be entertainment and competitions in Fore Street. It was agreed not to make parking free throughout the whole of December this year in response to requests from traders.

Local Transport planning

Saltash Town Council has formed a Working Party to examine and influence Transport Planning by Cornwall Council and others, this encompasses public transport provision, cycle and walking opportunities as well as road and junction improvements.

There are quite a few schemes being proposed, one of the most significant being at Carkeel Roundabout, with improvements to give additional 'on and off' lanes, this would follow the installation of the long awaited footbridge just to the east of the roundabout.

There is also a proposal to make changes to the access to and from the A38 further to the west that would affect access from the Latchbrook area, one possible solution being offered could mean traffic from Cornwall would have to enter Saltash via Carkeel Roundabout, we have asked Cornwall Council for further information and to consider other alternatives that maintains an access point at the west end of the town. Changes are also planned for the Burraton Cross junction, the Town Council is broadly supportive of the initial plans, but the design should take into account other changes and their impact.

On the buses we hope to see Real Time Passenger systems installed in the town centre, providing valuable travel information, in much the same way as those now installed at Saltash Railway Station. At the station itself, improvements are planned for the frontage with additional footway and lighting. This does not relate to any developments in the former building, although the Town Council has been talking to the new owner regarding the site and the aspirations of both the Council and Community to see the area regenerated.

First Great Western are looking into improvements in local commuter services, as well as improving capacity into Cornwall on Saturdays during the summer, and this will bring welcome extra seats next summer. These improvements will benefit Saltash passengers, but much is reliant on the strong continual growth of usage by Saltash passengers.

For walkers and cyclists, there is more good news. The Town Council are backing proposals for pedestrian crossings at a number of sites where there are distinct strong flows of walkers. The Town Council also continues to seek solutions for the 'missing' Pillmere footbridges that would allow easier access to the Town Centre.

The Town Council are also putting their weight behind plans to improve cycling in the area, and some Section 106 money provided by LIDL's for Sustainable Transport improvements could be used to bolster funding from other sources. Improvements could lead to better access from more distant areas like Pillmere to the town centre, railway station and schools, linking or extending current routes as well as providing more cycle racks where they might actually get used, maybe even providing secure storage at sites such as the railway station.

Meanwhile, other initiatives are actively promoting sustainable transport, such as the use of the Saltash Hopper, a 16 seater mini bus that local groups and organisations can hire at a reasonable cost. For more information contact the Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company via their base at 'For Saltash' or call 01752 848348. You can also 'Try Commuting by Train' FREE for a week, a scheme operated by SRUG (Saltash Rail Users Group), contact them on 01752 841119.

Saltash continues to work on the Neighbourhood Plan

At a Public Meeting in November 2012, eighty-one Saltash residents who attended voted overwhelmingly to create a Neighbourhood Plan for Saltash in order to have a greater say in how and where development is carried out in Saltash Parish through to 2030. The Cornwall Local Plan as it stands requires Saltash to build around 750 new homes between now and 2030, but current commitments and completions reduce this number to less than 600.

A goal of the Saltash Neighbourhood Plan (SNP), as emphasised by those who attended the Public Meeting last November, is to ensure that no new homes are built without equivalent new jobs and appropriate infrastructure. As a first step, a Steering Group was formed in December 2012. They have been concentrating on establishing a formal organisational structure and constitution and are now working to develop the Project Plan, which will not only cover housing and jobs but all aspects of community life.

Continued

Saltash Neighbourhood Plan - continued

Community Engagement is key to developing a successful Neighbourhood Plan, which will undergo scrutiny by an Independent Examiner before it is allowed to go to Referendum. "We need to communicate with and get the opinions of as many residents as possible", said town Mayor, Councillor David Yates who has been chairing the Working Group.

In an effort to get more members of the community involved with the neighbourhood plan, volunteers were solicited at May Fair and Saltash Regatta. Over thirty members of the community signed up and are being contacted to fill the some of the many roles required to take this project forward. The Steering Group is especially looking for anyone with experience in grant writing and information analysis.

Details of all SNP activities can be found on the Saltash Town Council website. All Steering Group meetings are open to the public.

Volunteers needed!

The Road Safety committee is still short of Speedwatch Volunteers. Speedwatch Saltash is still seeking volunteers to join a team to occasionally do speed watches around the area.

If you think you could help please contact Councillor Derek Holley for more information.

Christmas Cheer in Saltash

Christmas Festival

Saturday December 7th

4:30pm – 7:30pm

Christmas Craft and Gift Fair on Fore Street
Lantern Parade & Christmas Lights

Saltash Shopping Week

December 7th – 14th

Entertainment and competitions

Free parking from 10am in all town centre car parks

Have a Stall at the Christmas Fair

Stall pitches available at the Craft and Gift Fair on Fore Street, which will become a Pedestrian Haven between 4:30pm and 7:30pm. Contact the Guildhall for details.

Sing in the Community Christmas Chorus

The Community Christmas Chorus, formed especially for this occasion, will lead the carol singing when the Christmas lights are turned on. All are welcome – any age, any voice! Only a couple of short rehearsals before the big day. Completely **free** – but please register with the Guildhall.

Help with the Lantern Parade

Saltash Town Council has again agreed to help fund the Lantern Parade, but if we want it to become an annual, community event we need to get a group of volunteers to help at workshops, fundraise and promote the Parade. Get **FREE** training in making lanterns out of willow and paper and you can be a volunteer helper at next year's workshops. Contact the Guildhall for details.

Your Town Council:

| Saltash North | Saltash South | Saltash East | Saltash West |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| John Brady t.07792 941743 | Mrs Hilary Frank* t.845114 | Richard Bickford t.841119 | Bob Austin* t.844666 |
| Joe Ellison* t.849340 | Mrs Sue Hooper MBE t.843073 | Martin Gee t.513306 | Mrs Gloria Challen t.840620 |
| Bill Phillips t.518176 | Adam Killeya t.848691 | Derek Holley* t.845418 | Mrs Jean Dent t.303008 |
| Lee Russell t.07966089366 | Ms Gina Donovan t.07540476041 | James Shepherd t.847144 | David Yates t.843260 |

Town Clerk: Mr Ray Lane
t. 01752 844846

* also Cornwall Councillor