

Town Messenger



Edition 20 : January 2010

A Special New Year Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents and Friends,

May I wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year – A tall order in these very turbulent times!!

May I also take this opportunity to thank all the people from Saltash and surrounding area who have contributed to the life of the town this past year and over many years. We have so many wonderful people in Saltash who give their time and talents so freely to make the town a better place for all of us – they run the numerous churches, clubs, societies, forums, uniformed groups, sports teams, choirs, charity shops and charitable and worthy organisations. Many thanks to all of you!

Thank you, to the Civic Amenities Committee, plus Marilyn and staff and supporters at Saltash Town Council who co-ordinate the Christmas event in Fore Street every year – Likewise to all who took part this year, either by performing or indeed supporting the event and very often working so hard behind the scenes. This year it was in the relentless wet and cold weather!!

May I also thank the team who organised and fund raised for our spectacular Christmas lights – they are superb every year!! – The team work so hard behind the scenes. In addition, the volunteers who helped with the staging and traffic management - they know who they are; there were foot soldiers for every vital role – and I can't thank them all enough!! - And I know they won't mind me giving a special tribute to our wonderful Air Cadets and Fire Cadets and their leaders, who braved the storms on the night for us all. It was such a pity that it rained and rained and rained – never the less – the lights went on at 5.00 pm (assisted by Mike Taylor of BBC Radio Cornwall) – and the performers braved the elements and put on a wonderful show-ably supported by Malcolm Down on the sound system. In the end we made the decision that the Carol Service would be staged in the Saltash Wesley Church – and I am so grateful to the Trustees of the Church for hosting our Service and likewise to Reverends Alan Butler and Margot Davies for such a splendid Service. (In the warm)!! Many stalls stuck it out until the bitter end and several shops remained open to greet customers old and new for a Festive welcome. Piglets won the Festive Dressed Window Competition and Barnardos were runners up – there were many, highly commended shops too! – I would like to thank all the shops who kindly participated and supported the town's Festive event. Please continue to support our local businesses – They are here for us all year 'round – and are so very generous to local worthy causes!!

My special thanks are also offered to all those who provide outstanding services door-to-door – (Royal Mail in particular) - we get a very loyal and efficient service from them; and not forgetting our refuse collection and waste management teams.

We are all thinking of families who have been bereaved at this time of year – in particular those families who have lost loved ones during current conflicts; Please can we remember them in our prayers and our deeds.

I and consort John and Deputies Adam and Merryn have enjoyed meeting so many lovely members of the community (including so many young people) in 2009 –and we very much look forward to meeting and serving many more of you in 2010 and beyond. We thank you all for offering us such warm and welcomed friendships and for receiving us with open arms.

On behalf of Saltash Town Councillors and staff and families – once again – our very best and sincere good wishes to you all.

Sue and John Hooper

Saltash Town Mayor and Consort

A brief guide to planning

*Planning is one of the most controversial issues that councils deal with, but it's also something that residents, and town councils, can genuinely influence. This guide will help you do that: it is without prejudice and should be read and used at your discretion. **Always check with Planning Officer.***

How planning works

- Cornwall Council decides planning applications based on planning policy – a set of rules and guidelines set nationally regionally and locally.
- Each planning application is given to an officer to make a recommendation
- In about 95% of cases the officers recommendation is accepted without the application going to a planning committee
- In the other 5% of cases the application goes to the committee. The Cornwall Council Planning Committee then makes the decision.
- If permission is refused, it can be appealed to a planning inspector. If an application is allowed objectors have no right of appeal, though they can take a case to the Local Government Ombudsman if they feel the council has mishandled the matter causing injustice. However the Ombudsman **cannot** change the planning decision.

If extreme cases you can seek judicial review of a planning decision in the High Court, but this is extremely unusual (and expensive!)

The Town Council's role

- The Town Council doesn't get to make the final decisions, but all applications in Saltash go to the Town Council for comment and a recommendation.

If the Town Council's recommendation is different from the planning officer, then the planning officer will give the council further information on their thinking, and the Town Council will either:

Accept the officer's recommendation

Call the application into committee

If a Saltash application goes to the planning committee, then the town council can send a representative to speak at the meeting.

Tips for getting your view across

Applications should all be listed at public access (http://planapps.cornwall.gov.uk/PublicAccess/tdc/tdc_home.aspx)

Cornwall Council should also write to near neighbours and display a notice nearby. Applications should also be listed in a local newspaper, currently the Cornish Times

- You can send your comments to Cornwall Council (at Luxstowe House, Liskeard), to your own Ward Councillors and to the Town Council (at the Guildhall): it's worth doing all three.
- At both the Town Council and Cornwall Council **one** supporter and **one** objector can speak for three minutes, and take questions. You need to register first (with the Town Clerk, or with the Committee Clerk at Cornwall)
- Your Cornwall Councillor also has the power to take an application to committee: contact them early.
- When objecting, it is important to stick to **Material Planning Considerations (MPCs)**: there are some issues that count in planning, and some that don't. Using non-MPC's can really damage your case.
- MPCs can include: Design, Loss of amenity, Street Scene (does it fit?), access and traffic, impact on listed buildings, impact on economy, impact on crime, impact on local services
- MPCs do **not** include impact on property values, loss of view, loss of profit due to competition, ownership of the land / access, civil matters (e.g. ownership of water or sewage pipes), covenants on land, the character of the applicant, the future plans of the applicant, moral objections, or the fact that the work has already been done without permission.
- MPCs do not usually include: the personal circumstances of the applicant

Remember that Councillors cannot give a definite opinion on **any** planning application **until** it comes to the meeting. If they do then they are not allowed to take part.

Elwell Woods Update

The big moment has arrived – by the time the “Messenger” hits your doormat, the Saltash application for the major Flagship Lottery Community Spaces Award will be submitted to Solihull, hopefully with all 40 pages and 20 Appendices all correctly completed in time for the deadline of January 11th. We are in competition for this major grant with just two projects in Exeter and Torbay, but the Saltash application, led by Saltash Waterfront Residents Association SWRA for eligibility purposes, must have the most spectacular X Factor in the New Celtic Cross.

The team have taken notice of all the useful comments and opinions from the questionnaires completed, and our bid will show two very strong changes from the plans previously on display :

The 20 metre Celtic Cross is now intended to be removed from the woodland, and sited on the Pocket Park area alongside the slip road, where it will be far more prominent, and can be built without disturbing the woodland.

The community woodland will be just that, with upgraded paths, disabled access and wildflower clearings, still with an orchard on the top level and benches and seats to enjoy the views. But most of the semi mature trees will remain, and undergrowth and saplings be selectively thinned, for replacement with native deciduous mature species.

Wish us luck for this major project for Saltash and Cornwall – a decision is expected next March

Do you want a NHS dentist in Saltash?

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust are opening a new NHS dentist in Saltash during the next few months. To get yourself on the waiting list then ring 01726 627990.

It is important to register your interest so they can correctly plan how many dentists are required.

Police Volunteer Programme – Community Speed watch

Saltash Police are looking for volunteers to become involved in a local community speed watch, after suitable training, teams would be deployed with speed monitoring equipment to monitor traffic speed in hot spot areas highlighted by the community. Volunteers need to be 18 or over & would be vetted prior to acceptance.

Please contact your neighbourhood team for further details. Email: Saltash@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Messenger Walk No.8 : From Saltash Guildhall. Distance about 1.5 miles

Go down Lower Fore Street past the Guildhall (or, if the Guildhall is open, call in for “An introduction to Saltash Town Trails” leaflet for ideas for other, much longer, walks).

Further down Lower Fore Street take the footpath, opposite Boscundle Row, that goes under the Tamar road bridge. From under the road bridge follow the path up-hill alongside the bridge to just past a gas valve complex: then take the path (Elwell Lane) to the right that goes through Elwell Woods.

(Or to see one proposed site for the Celtic Cross continue up to the top of the hill: the proposed site for the Cross is on the highest ground. Then either return to the path near the gas valve complex: or continue straight on, to the road near the Drill Hall, turn right and go down Sand Quay Lane directly ahead of you).

Elwell Lane leads to Sand Quay Lane. Go down Sand Quay Lane to Old Ferry Road and Jubilee Green. Turn right along Old Ferry Road, under the Tamar road and railway bridges to Saltash Waterside. Pass the Ashtorre Rock (or stop there for coffee etc): then past the old ferry slipway: and the Boatman, Union Inn, The Waterside (yet more opportunities for refreshment).

If tidal conditions permit take the lane between Saltash Sailing Club and The Waterside Inn to the beach. Go along the beach, keeping well up on the shore line to avoid deep mud. Go under the railway viaduct and on to Coombe Creek. Use the well defined path ahead leading to Coombe Road. Turn right and go up-hill along Coombe Road ; under a railway bridge; and on to Culver Road. Go down Culver Road past Mary Newman’s Cottage.

From Culver Road go straight ahead, across Albert Road , to Silver Street . Admire the ‘Fisherfolk’ and Saltash Waterside Residents Association (SWRA) Sub-Tropical Garden. Under the railway bridge , turn right through the arch into SWRA’s Huntley Garden . From Huntley Garden go uphill along Lower Fore Street and back to the Guildhall .

Have you enjoyed the Messenger walks?

Get Walking Keep Walking is hoping to reach 100,000 new walkers with the launch of www.getwalking.org.uk There's a Get Walking pack to download, as well as tips on how to get started, and advice on walking for health.

SATURDAY 20th FEBRUARY

AT THE GUILDHALL – SALTASH SHOWCASE

Following the success of the Showcase last year, another opportunity to find out what is going on in Saltash. Local organisations will be on display in the Guildhall with demonstrations throughout the day and refreshments available.

10.00am – 3.00pm in the Guildhall, Lower Fore Street

Anti-Social Behaviour Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 9th February 2010** at 2.00pm in the Guildhall. The meeting is open to any members of the public who wish to attend.

Pillmere Consultation

The caravan will be in the lay-by opposite the post box on

Saturday 9th January 2010 10.00am—4.00pm

Dog Fouling

The Town Council have once again debated the issue of dog faeces being left on our streets. The Council were very concerned that a small number of irresponsible dog owners caused good and caring owners to be "tarred with the same brush". Some Councillors expressed the view that dog owners who did not clear up the dog fouling should be banned for life from keeping dogs! Others reminded the Council of serious diseases that could be picked up from dog faeces, particularly by young children.

Residents who witness dog fouling can report the incident to Cornwall Council. Ring 01579 345439 with full details.

Quiz

1. What year was the Beating of the Bounds revived, the Bathing Pool built, Ashtor Wharves bought and Warfelton Housing Estate started. (clue: the sum of the numbers comes to 18)
2. The Bathing Pool is probably unique in the whole of England in how it came to a sticky end .What happened?

Answers to the last quiz questions:

1. The first Wesley Church was sited, until the road bridge was built, in Lower Fore Street, on the left, just below the footpath entrance to the bridge. It was sold to the Masons when the second was built in Fore Street ,opposite Supadrug.
2. St Nicks Church in Alexandra Square has a special Mayor's seat at the front because the Town Council owned the Church for hundreds of years up to 1924, and even paid the chaplain (probably the only such church in the UK).

Don't forget if you have any concerns about the Town, you can contact your local Councillors

Burraton Ward

Peter Clements	Tel: 842425
Sue Hooper	Tel: 843073
Colin Riches*	Tel: 846843

Essa Ward

Adam Killeya	Tel: 848691
Merryn Killeya	Tel: 848691
Colin Oakes	Tel: 845207
Bruce Reid	Tel: 308387

Pill Ward

Joe Ellison	Tel: 849340
Martin Gee	Tel: 513306
Derek Holley*	Tel: 845418
Fran Knight	Tel: 847970

St Stephens Ward

Bob Austin*	Tel: 844666
Richard Bickford	Tel: 841119
Peter Stephens	Tel: 846597
David Yates	Tel: 843260

* indicates Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillors

Bryan Preston	Tel: 848240
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Town Clerk

Mrs Marilyn Small, BA (Hons)
Email: townclerk@saltash.gov.uk
Tel: 844846 Fax: 840914

Town Council Office Opening Hours:

9.30am - 4.30pm Monday - Friday
Website: www.saltash.gov.uk

Meet the People

Councillors will be in Fore Street on the following dates to discuss local issues with residents:

Saturday January 23rd 2010
Saturday February 20th 2010
Saturday March 18th 2010

Competition result

The winner of the Christmas event poster competition was Isobel Whittam.