

Community Enterprises PL12

Chair's Report to Saltash Town Council 27/11/2020

November has been another month of upheaval and change, but we do have some positive things to report.

Like many of our independent Fore St shops, the Hub closed at the beginning of the month with lockdown, and is due to re-open on 2nd December. We hope that Saltash residents will support their independent local businesses on Fore St and beyond.

We have now appointed Sarah Martin as Transport Co-Ordinator, to kick-start the Hoppers and create a more community-wide service over the coming months. Sarah & Sue are working hard to put measures in place for a Covid- safe service. Services commence on Wednesday 2nd December with our weekly Shopper service; this will be by booking only, with restricted numbers and designated seating.

We are hopeful that the Dementia Voice groups can resume soon.

During this lockdown we have continued our volunteer service for shopping, jigsaw swaps & book swaps, & these have been much-appreciated. These will go back into storage after lockdown, in case of a further lockdown.

The Community Fridge has finally opened from the Hub, & early signs indicate that it will be well-used over the coming months. It is open to all, with an emphasis on saving good food from going to waste; we're hoping this will open it up to people who may be embarrassed to go to the FoodBank. The service is open for 2 hours every Tuesday, Friday & Saturday; opening times are about to change slightly with the end of lockdown. We have 5 new volunteers helping with the project. We're exploring options for a more permanent home for the Community fridge.

CEPL12 have joined the newly-formed Saltash Food Alliance, bringing together numerous local organisations who help with food need; we are represented by myself and fellow Director Sam Gardner.

Peter Ryland has been in discussions with the Post Office, with a view to CEPL12 taking on the Fore St franchise if no-one else comes forward. We are pleased to hear that the Post Office will now remain in its current location.

Peter Ryland & I represent CEPL12 on the Town Team committee, leading a proposal for new Fore street seating, trees and recycling bins. We are currently in consultation with Cornwall Council and highways over what is allowable.

One of our Directors has resigned as a Director, having found it increasingly difficult to juggle a busy work schedule with his role as a Director. We therefore have a Director vacancy.

Other local projects that CEPL12 is participating in include the Christmas Tree Festival, & the Window Wanderland Trail.

We will not be meeting as a Board before Christmas, so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Saltash Town Council for their support, in helping to make Saltash such a wonderful community to live & work in. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and a healthy and happy 2021.

Jo Baskott, Chair