

Mayors Column Town Council Messenger November 2023

It's been a busy month, with many community events, from the 55th anniversary of the Floral Art Club, to the AGM of the Music Speech and Drama Festival. We have also visited several sporting clubs, we attended a cracking game of rugby at Saltash Rugby Club, where the First XV beat St Austell convincingly, as well as the 125th anniversary evening of Saltash Sailing Club and the 50th anniversary swimming competition for Caradon Swimming Club which took place at Saltash Leisure Centre. All these events are run by volunteers, and I am so impressed by the strength and depth of the volunteer teams that make sure everything happens so efficiently. These volunteers often start when their children join a club or group, but then stay on to support others, often creating lifelong commitments and friendships. Don't hold back if you have an interest in helping at any of our volunteer organisations.

The Town Council continue to work closely with our Cornwall Councillors to support Saltash Leisure Centre, and I am very pleased that the leisure centre has received a share of additional funding to help them address some of the energy costs this winter, enabling them to keep the pool open. GLL who are the operator have shown great commitment to Saltash in the last year or so, much down to the way the community fought to keep the centre. GLL are a charitable social enterprise who run many public Leisure Centres across the country and are committed to delivering affordable access to leisure and sporting facilities. Please continue to support the centre and help make it the best in Cornwall.

We are also extremely lucky to have the China Fleet Club in our town, providing employment for many, and giving us access to high quality facilities on our doorstep. The China Fleet has a rich history of supporting those who serve, or who have served in the Navy and Royal Marines. From its origin in Hong Kong, Saltash is now the home to a facility we can be proud of. The China Fleet Club trustees recently celebrated their efforts in moving to a more sustainable future. With their own water supply, waste treatment plant and now a huge Solar PV array, amongst other initiatives, they are increasingly cutting their impact on our environment and quickly progressing towards their aim of zero impact. Well done to the trustees, management team and all the staff in everything you do to support service personnel and the local community and businesses in the area.

Breaking Banking news..

Earlier this year, many were disappointed to hear that Lloyds Bank were to close their doors next year. They have promised to provide a facility until a new Banking Hub is up and running.

I am pleased to say that several councillors have now met with the Cash Access UK team, who will operate a new hub, and everyone came away excited and impressed with what is being promised. Whilst the location is not yet decided, it will be in our town centre, and it will provide 5 day-a-week, 9 till 5 opening with dedicated banking positions. The hub will offer basic banking for all, you can pay in and withdraw cash, check balances. Whilst all these facilities are available at our Post Office now, the hub will also have a separate area where the major banks will offer dedicated bank staff, on a rota basis to provide more specific advice and support from your own bank.

The Town Council now have just a few more meetings before we agree our budget for 2024-25, you can see all the budget statements online and are always welcome at meetings to see how your volunteer elected councillors try to do the best for Saltash and how they decide how the Saltash Town Council portion of your Council Tax is decided. Some hard decisions will inevitably need to be made over the coming weeks.

The Towns next big event is the Christmas Festival on December 2nd, we look forward to seeing you there.

Councillor Richard Bickford
Mayor of Saltash 2023-24

Meet Your Councillor

Councillor Lennox-Boyd



I became a Town Councillor in October 2017 as I had already been elected as a Cornwall Councillor in May 2017.

I had been running the Brunel public house since 1988 so my connection with Fore Street and the businesses in the Town are paramount to my reasons of wanting to be a Town Councillor.

We all realise running a business is not easy so we as Town Councillors need to support and make decisions that enhance our Fore Street and make it a place that people feel safe to visit and enjoy the experience of shopping.

My role as a Cornwall Councillor is Chairman of Cornwall Licencing so with my experience of running licensed premises in and around Cornwall for over forty years, I can bring my experience and knowledge to make the right decisions for businesses in Cornwall.

I have been working closely with many businesses in Saltash after a spate of burglaries and shoplifting to help create a Shop Watch group in Saltash so we can all get together, discuss the problems that they are facing as a group.

On Thursday 19th October a group of multi-agency members met in Saltash including Safer Saltash, Devon and Cornwall Police, Refugee and Asylum Seeker Resettlement Team, The Complex needs Team, Crimestoppers, Town and Cornwall Councillors.

We spent the day visiting public facing businesses, we had in depth conversations with staff about any form of hate crime and asked if the businesses would support us by displaying a 'NO PLACE FOR HATE' window sticker in their shop/taxi/pub/restaurant/surgery/school/library. This sticker which is visible in the windows supports the fact that this will not be tolerated in Saltash. On this sticker there is a QR code which can be scanned to report immediately to Devon and Cornwall Police any form of hate crime which includes (sexism, racism, disability etc.)

Along side the window stickers we also had leaflets that have been produced by the Resettlement Team which encourage compassion from the English-speaking community towards refugees and third-party reporting information from crime stoppers.

After this very successful hate crime campaign we had ran in Saltash over 65 businesses, traders and organisations in the town participated. One of the major points that was brought to my attention by all businesses in Saltash was the need for CCTV in our town due to the fact of numerous robberies that have occurred in the last few months.

With this issue in mind the local businesses are looking to form a group to support them called "Shop Watch" this will be supported by Devon and Cornwall Police with the supply of radios on a reduced charge per month.

Environmental Vision Audits

This is a meeting of multi-agency sectors, which include safer Saltash, Town and Cornwall Councillors, Devon and Cornwall police, Cornwall housing and Cormac. Certain areas in Saltash have been chosen to walk and visually inspect for issues such as dog fouling, drug use, littering, overgrown walkways and paths and any fly tipping. We have found this to be very beneficial to ourselves as we are on foot as a group and able to communicate personally with the public.