

PRESS RELEASE



24/08/2026

Saltash Town Council Seeks New Café Partner at Saltash Railway Station

It is with sadness that Saltash Town Council announces that the café at Isambard House, Saltash Railway Station, will close in its current form, on 31 October 2026.

Trackside Café opened in June 2024 as the final stage of Saltash Town Council's refurbishment of Isambard House. The station refurbishment project restored key facilities at the station, including a public waiting room, café and toilet facilities, creating a welcoming and accessible hub for both the community and those travelling by rail. The project, which restored the derelict Saltash Station building, received £685,000 of funding to restore the building and provide passenger facilities. The largest partner was Cornwall Council, who funded £300,000 of work through their Local Transport Plan.



The Town Council partnered with local resident and business owner Dawn Couch to bring the cafe vision to life. Dawn brought extensive experience in hospitality, customer service and community engagement to the role, including through her operation of the Poolside Café at Saltash Leisure Centre, where she will now be focusing her efforts.

Over the past two years, Trackside Café has established itself as much more than a station café, it has played an important role in supporting community life at Isambard House and Saltash Station. Dawn and her team regularly welcomed community groups, supported events and activities through catering and refreshments, and contributed to a wide range of local functions.

Through its role as a welcoming meeting place and local business, Trackside Café contributed to a number of the Town Council's strategic objectives, including supporting health and wellbeing, boosting jobs and economic prosperity, and to work with key stakeholders to support access to affordable, accessible and sustainable transport.

The Town Council would particularly like to thank Dawn and her team for the welcoming atmosphere they created.

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I'd like to thank the Town Council, all our customers, community groups, visitors and rail passengers who have supported Trackside Café since we opened. It has been a privilege to be part of the station community and to get to know so many wonderful people. We've made some fantastic memories and are incredibly proud of what we have achieved. Thank you to everyone who came through our doors and helped make Trackside Café such a special place.

— Dawn Couch, Trackside Café Operator

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We are very sorry to see Trackside Café close and would like to thank Dawn and her team for the contribution they have made over the past two years. Trackside Café has played an important role in bringing life back to Saltash Station and helping Isambard House establish itself as a valued community asset.

Since the refurbishment of the building, it has provided a welcoming space for rail passengers, residents and visitors, supporting the station's role at the heart of the community. Its success has supported many of the Town Council's wider ambitions, from promoting wellbeing and social connection to strengthening opportunities for local businesses and encouraging greater use of community facilities.

The café's success demonstrates what can be achieved when local businesses, community organisations and public bodies work together with a shared purpose, and we wish Dawn and her team every success for the future.

— Mayor Cllr Brian Stoyel

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Looking Ahead

Following the end of the current partnership, Saltash Town Council will seek a new concessionaire to operate the café space within Isambard House, ensuring this valued facility continues to serve rail passengers, residents and visitors.

The appointment will be made through a procurement process, details of which will be advertised shortly.

The Town Council welcomes expressions of interest from prospective operators and encourages anyone interested in this opportunity to keep an eye on the Town Council's website and social media channels for further information about the application process and viewing arrangements.

ENDS



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Notes To Editor

Saltash Town Council forms the third tier of local government and works with Cornwall Council who are our Unitary Authority. We are the largest Town Council in the south-east area of Cornwall.

The Town Council is committed to providing excellence in the Services and Facilities which it delivers. We aim to be responsive, accessible, and transparent in our approach and in the work delivered.

There are sixteen Councillors representing three Wards – Essa, Tamar and Trematon. Councillors are elected from the community every four years. Spaces are filled via by-elections, or by means of the Town Council choosing new Councillors via co-option.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman are elected by Members of the Town Council annually at the Annual Town Council meeting held in May. The Chairman also undertakes the role of Mayor representing the Town Council and community at official engagements, with their consort.