SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL
WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF SALTASH

PRESS RELEASE

24/11/2026

Saltash Town Council Selects New Partner for Café at Saltash Railway Station

Saltash Town Council is pleased to share that Maku Bakery will soon be operating in the Isambard House café space at Saltash Railway Station.



Image shows Marja Pelto, Maku Bakery owner, at her pop-up bakery.

Maku Bakery is an independent, Nordic-inspired artisan bakery and café. Marja Pelto, owner of Maku Bakery, shared her vision for the Isambard House café space through her application to become the new concessionaire. Marja plans to operate the space as a small, high-quality café, combining excellent coffee, freshly baked products and a concise breakfast and lunch menu with a welcoming space for the local community, railway users and visitors.

Saltash Town Council - Working for the People of Saltash

Trackside Café closed its doors for the last time on 31 October 2026, after over two years operating within Isambard House. Saltash Town Council would like to extend a huge thank you to Dawn Couch, Trackside Café operator, and her team for their contribution, dedication and the positive impact they had within the community.

The Town Council would also like to thank everyone who expressed an interest in operating the café space and took the time to submit an application. The strong response highlighted the enthusiasm for Isambard House and its future.

Visitors of Trackside Café may remember Marja as a member of the team, working at the café every Monday for over a year. This experience allowed Marja to gain an understanding of both the frequent customers, and the possible opportunities for the future of the space.



Maku Bakery's menu will include bread, pastries, cakes, focaccia and more from its off-site bakery, alongside a simple, freshly cooked breakfast menu and a range of high-quality hot and cold drink options, including specialty coffee beans from Cornwall-based company Surface Coffee Roasters. All baked products are handmade, with a strong focus on taste, texture, seasonality and quality of ingredients. Where possible, independent and local produce will be used, with the menu changing seasonally to use fresh ingredients.

The grand opening of Maku Bakery at Isambard House will take place on Saturday 28 November at 11am with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Mayor of Saltash, Cllr Brian Stoyel, will be in attendance on the day, alongside Saltash Town Crier, Andrew Williams.

The café's initial opening hours will be Monday to Friday, from 7am until 2.30pm, and from 8am until 2.30pm on Saturdays. These opening hours come from Marja's understanding of the café's trade patterns, allowing early morning commuters to access the café for hot drinks, breakfast, and to-go food options before they travel. Over time, Maku Bakery would look to expand its hours during the summer, as well as to support events at Isambard House. They also have plans to hold evening events, including supper clubs, pizza nights and collaborations with other local, independent businesses.

The appointment of Maku Bakery supports Saltash Town Council's commitment to creating opportunities for economic growth and prosperity within the town, helping to attract visitors, support local enterprise and strengthen the vitality of the station area. Located at one of Saltash's key transport gateways, the café also enhances the experience of rail passengers and visitors arriving in the town, while providing a welcoming community space for residents to meet, relax and enjoy locally produced food and drink.

Saltash Town Council welcomes the arrival of Maku Bakery and encourages residents, commuters and visitors alike to support local businesses wherever possible.

> **I am delighted to welcome Marja and Maku Bakery to Isambard House. Marja is already a familiar face to many in Saltash and has built an excellent reputation through her baking and community engagement.**
>
> **It is wonderful to see a local independent business taking on this opportunity at our railway station.**
>
> **I would also like to thank Dawn Couch and the Trackside Café team for their dedication over recent years, and I wish Marja every success for the future.**
>
> — Mayor Cllr Brian Stoyel

> **I've spent over a decade working as a professional baker and pastry chef in England, constantly developing my skills, experimenting with flavours and questioning how things can be done better.**
>
> **Maku means 'taste' in Finnish. My philosophy is simple – less sugar, more flavour. I hope to inspire people to become more curious about food, share baking tips and encourage them to experiment in their own kitchens, whilst continuing to learn myself.**
>
> **Through living in Saltash, working at the café for over a year and trading through my pop-ups, I've fallen in love with this kind and welcoming community. The support I've received since starting Maku has meant an enormous amount to me.**
>
> **For me, opening Maku Bakery at Isambard House is not just about growing my business, but about serving the local community and those who commute through Saltash. I want to create a place where everyone feels welcome and where good-quality, handmade food becomes part of people's everyday lives. A little friendly chit-chat can always brighten someone's day, and my wonderful team will make sure there's plenty of that!**
>
> **I'm incredibly excited to share my passion, my knowledge and a little bit of my Finnish heritage with the people of Saltash.**
>
> — Marja Pelto, Maku Bakery owner

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Notes To Editor

Saltash Town Council forms the first 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.
