

Report to Saltash Town Council

1. Safer Saltash 8th Feb Update

ASB Behaviour

ASB lead Katherine James reported five under 18s in Saltash with Asbos. Also Anti-social behaviour at Hodge Close which has been dealt with.

Saltash Secondary School

Nicholas Evans, the new Safeguarding lead attended his first meeting to introduce himself.

His report from the school included fighting in the school which seems to be influenced by community fighting external to school. Children have been excluded. Low-key fighting has been dealt with internally but parents have been contacted with the more serious altercations looking for support.

PC Lewis has been in the school and talked about county lines but would like external help from the community where possible along the lines of the Teignbridge Headstart programme. There was a suggestion to deliver early interventions in primary schools.

Wise Up - Youth Theatre are to be invited in to school again to show the impact of drugs.

20 percent of attendance comes from Plymouth of 1300 children in school. Trying to work together with Plymouth schools to address the issues by public health teams working with DSLs - Designated Safeguarding leads.

Cllr Peggs fed back to the meeting how fantastic the production of *Oliver* was at the school and to congratulate all the young people and teachers involved.

Drugs

Drugs have been reported on the boat in front of Livewire. Just seems to be an adult issue with no children involved. The police have been involved. A drug house has been closed down after it was raised as a county lines concern.

Parking Enforcement Hours

There has been an increase in the hours allocated to Saltash. They are only able to ticket cars parked on double yellows - not necessarily just those blocking pavements. There has been more enforcement too on Gilston Road with 17 tickets issued on one Sunday alone. Permit parking was discussed too and is to be investigated, however it can be expensive to run without guaranteeing parking spaces.

Groundworks Chris Barber

Salt Mill

Salt Mill skate park is being refurbished. It's not complete yet. He's noticed a drop in ASB and less drug paraphernalia. Looking to install a mobile graffiti wall that can be moved around the site. There is a graffiti artist from Helston who could help deliver learning around graffiti.

Pilot of Alternative Education Provision

A new programme has been launched in February as a collaboration between Groundworks and The Core.

Students who have been excluded from mainstream education, have not been able to be integrated sufficiently into mainstream education or have opted for elected home learning can take part in a new programme delivered by Groundwork South.

The programme started in February and there is already a waiting list for places.

5-6 young people can take part in each cohort which gives them a timetable of learning over 3 days a week (2.5 days compulsory and an optional .5 days). The course initially runs for 6 weeks, by at the end of which they will gain certification in training such as Level 2 Food Hygiene and First Aid. In addition, they partake in workshops in Sports, Cookery, Art, and Employability skills involving CV writing. There is an option to extend beyond the 6 week course should they wish to study for accredited learning such as Functional skills Maths, English & ICT.

The current cohort are aged 14-17 and travel from as far away as Liskeard and Landake.

Funding is from Good Growth Fund and is available until March 2025.

Chris delivers the project alongside Maxine Naismith and they are looking to find additional funding to continue the provision beyond that deadline. The only other outlet delivering this programme is Picquet Barracks in Plymouth and they have a substantial waiting list.

Homelessness in Saltash

There have been reports of various people sleeping rough in the town including a man in a car on Longstone Road, and also someone in the shelter at the railway station as well as in a tent on Jubilee Green. Any referrals should be directed to the Baptist Church.

Dog Poo Issues

Enforcement cards and signage are needed. 80 percent of complaints to the council are about dog poo. Need more waste bins in Salt Mill for dog waste.

2. Accessibility of local shops in Fore Street

A Saltash resident who uses a wheelchair has reported accessibility issues in shops in Saltash and was disappointed to see that he couldn't enter certain premises for a hair cut and to get some shopping.

I organised a morning on Monday 26 February with the resident Scott and his carer - we were also very grateful for the Mayor's attendance, and his consort.

Scott produced a letter which we were able to distribute to shopkeepers outlining the issues he has and the measures he has to put in place to get out and about. His wish is to be able to access premises easily to give him more independence in his life was central. I can circulate that letter to councillors who are interested.

We spoke to many businesses on Fore Street and many of them have ramps that they can bring out to allow access - such as the pet shop. All those we spoke to were happy to help and discussed the issues that people with mobility issues have.

There is also no disabled access to the trains from Saltash - Scott needs to get a taxi to Plymouth to pick up the train.

I will go back around to all the shops to see what can be done to ensure access for people with mobility issues. I'd like this to be a council-led initiative where we work to ensure that all premises offer access easily and look into funding opportunities to provide ramps and stickers to identify accessible shops and venues.

The Government has started a new initiative this year called the New Disability Action Plan which incorporates measures to enhance accessibility in the UK ahead of us hosting the Special Olympics World Summer Games in 2031. It offers 32 practical measures to improve lives for disabled people. This could be a route to push this accessibility pledge forward.

