

To receive a report from Saltash Chamber of Commerce and consider any actions or associated expenditure.

The Chamber met on 2nd December and one of the main topics of discussion related to the Christmas Festival due to be staged this coming Saturday. It was reported that, having separated the lights switch on from the Christmas Festival had resulted in many people in the town centre and the hospitality business reported a bumper evening. It was hoped that this could be used as an example and enhanced upon in further years whether by way of separated events or with re-integration of the lights switch on with the Christmas Festival. The Chairman agreed to discuss this with STC early in the New Year.

Sam Hammond of Westcountry Fabrications reported on her work re. planters on Gilston Road and the positive response forthcoming from other businesses on the estate. It will take time to evaluate the full impact re. parking and mounting the verge but it was a good start.

The Chairman asked for an update on the news re. Newquay Airport. He reported that he had asked for a public debate on the issue but to date nothing was forthcoming but undertook to liaise with the Chief Executive of Cornwall Chamber so that he was fully aware of the business feelings re. the proposals in the South East of the county.

Bill Cotton also raised the issue of the news of the closures of various theme parks and leisure attractions in Cornwall and the impact this would have on the county as a tourist destination. This, along with the potential for traffic restrictions next summer with works to the tunnel could, in the opinion of some of the members, have a detrimental effect.

Two new members, The Ribbon Company and Veg Box Fresh were both approved and will be welcomed to the next meeting. As the Chairman pointed out these new members increase the Chamber's representation away from the town centre.

The Chairman updated members on the progress of the work of Town Team and reported that a full report is being presented to STC detailing proposals for street markets, signage, greening and promotion. Pete Samuels questioned the need to relocate the town council notice board for the trial of the street markets and the Chairman said that this would enable two extra market stalls to be included which would give a better trial.

The Chairman also raised the fact that during various walkabouts of Fore Street the state of the pavement in various locations and of road signs was highlighted and that as Chairman of Town Team he was proposing to write to Cornwall Council regarding these problems and asking for remedial action. Members voted unanimously in support of this action.

The Treasurer in reporting the finances of the Chamber highlighted the funding for the Christmas Festival. Hilary Frank assured members that with the grants received and the sale of raffle tickets and other monies to be forthcoming we would break even but that the weather forecast was worrying with high winds predicted. Members were asked to keep their fingers crossed that the winds did not prevail.

Members were wished a Merry Christmas.