

CHAMBER REPORT

At its monthly meeting on the 6th January, members welcomed Pete Robinson from the Ribbon Company to his first meeting. He explained that he had recently moved the business back to Saltash having previously been in Plymouth as the Landlord at Burley Court was able to provide premises to fully suit their requirements.

After the minutes were approved with a slight amendment, the members then discussed the Christmas Festival and Hilary Frank was able to give a report on why last year's festival had to be reformatted due to the insurers requirements due to the weather. Members then went on to discuss whether the lights switch on and the festival should be merged and decided that as the lights switch on was the start of the build up to Christmas that November was best for this and that the Festival gave a footfall boost during the festive shopping period. Hilary Frank pointed out that the date for the festival was not a random choice but was to tie in with the Santas on Bikes Charity Run and the availability of Diverse Events who are the organisers of the event on the Chamber's behalf.

The Chairman reported that he had been asked to attend a meeting with Town Councillors to consider whether anything should change and he felt he had enough opinion and would report back at the next meeting.

Members then went on to discuss whether Saltash should celebrate St. Piran in March with not only something on St. Piran's Day but also tie in the Totally Locally Magic Tenner initiative (replacement for Fiver Fest) and the first street market run by Town Team. Ideas that were raised included having some street entertainment and a possible Cornish pasty event. It was explained that we still have some money in our festivals account and this could be used to part fund some entertainment. The Chairman was asked to contact STC to ask if they would assist with some financial help.

The matter of the congestion around Gilston Road and the Waitrose/Carkeel roundabouts was then raised. The issues were highlighted over the Christmas period with long delays. It was explained that there is shortly to be a 6-month initiative for left turn only traffic from Gilston Road. Members were concerned that this would put a strain on Pillmere roundabout and there could then be issues in Burraton Road along which Westbound traffic would be directed to join the A38 at Latchbrook. It was agreed that members with businesses on the industrial estates would monitor the situation and report back all on-going issues.

Other matters raised included instigating an initiative re. car parking charges to assist customers in Fore Street and whether the Saltash Card could be brought back to life. The Chairman undertook to put thought to this. Members were also asked if we should organise anything around VE80 day and agreed to come back to this next month for discussion.

End of report
Chairman of Saltash Chamber of Commerce