

To: S.T.C. Councillors
From: member of the public

A REPRESENTATION TO S.T.C. WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED SALTASH TOWN MARKET & A DEFENCE OF OUR BENCH

Please could Council take note of the latest evidence available with regard to your decision to relocate the bench for a trial market:

Minutes of F.T.C. 9th January state the potential impact on those who use the bench and its significance to families of the fallen was overlooked.. apologised for this oversight (a lack of consultation) and confirmed that, following feedback, the Town Team reviewed the decision. We know that around 20 letters defending the bench were sent to S.T.C. but not mentioned. (This appears to show a lack of efficiency and transparency.)

The Town Team report states that following representations we have reconsidered the need to relocate the above.. we have been able to realign the market stall positioning... we are able to still have the same number of stalls in this location for the trial period, but this will be reviewed during the 6 month period of the trial.

However, after the meeting the Town Team Chairman told two of us that there was now no intention to relocate the bench, presumably because the same number of stalls can still be accommodated. If the market fails, it should therefore not be because of the bench.

There is surely no competent reason why Council cannot now invoke your Standing Orders, which state that if six Councillors wish it, a resolution can be rescinded within the six month time frame. To do so would not only save many members of the community distress, but also show that you have listened, learned, and can recover a situation where failure was of your own making by not ensuring that the matter of the bench had been properly researched with due diligence. This would have revealed that the bench is a blessed and cherished item of which many consider to be an insult to the families and community it commemorates rather than moving it for a commercial venture. Those whose loved ones are honoured by the bench regard it as sacred. i.e. held dear and hallowed, and that it would be sacrilege i.e. an outrage to violate its original position. Surely, the best way forward, and to show that you are a caring and compassionate Council, if not an efficient and effective one, and to avoid a dereliction of duty, would be for you to take the appropriate action over your Standing Orders and rescind the resolution now, as it has been flawed by the lack of competent research, consultation and communication with the community. It would also mean that this Council takes responsibility, has respect and sympathy for our request, is accountable for the resolution, and will not pass it on to a new Council after May. This matter does appear to have brought S.T.C. into disrepute by not acting in a reasonable and competent way on behalf of the community, particularly those who revere remembrance. Saltash deserves better.