

SALTASH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

REPORT OF THE APRIL MONTHLY MEETING

We were short on members attending, due to other commitments and school holidays, but were quorate.

The minutes of the March meeting were confirmed for their accuracy, and the only matter arising was with reference to St. Piran's Day which Hilary Frank reported on and said had gone well and gave a sound base to be built on for future years.

With May Fair to be in a couple of weeks Hilary also reported on the preparations for that and said that a recent Dinner/Dance at the China fleet Club had raised £800 towards the cost of the event.

The Chairman then introduced a new member being Tom Langrishe of Thompson and Jackson who explained that their law practice had taken over Roper James, who had been in Saltash for several years and that they would have additional legal services available through the Saltash branch. M/s Frank then explained that the Festivals in Saltash were always looking for help to which Tom responded saying that they may be able to sponsor something.

I then mentioned the Town Traders meeting which was to take place on the 13th of April to which all town centre traders had been invited. The idea behind the meeting was to try and see if there was support for a Business Investment District (BID) for the town centre and to ascertain whether traders were willing to be part of the decision making process on what the town needed to enable footfall to be improved and to encourage people to stay in the town longer i.e. increase the dwell factor.

Brenda Samuels then reported on the situation with the Saltash Monthly Saturday market and that there was no grant funding and that stallholders did not appear to be willing to pay a sufficient fee to make it a financially viable proposition. Discussion then took place as to the fact that some of the stallholders had relocated to Saltash Studios and this seemed to reduce the attraction for people to visit the town rather than just the market. However, Mrs Samuels said that alternatives were still being evolved.

I mentioned the Town Brochure and M/s Frank produced some copies. Members congratulated those that had been responsible for its production and asked for our thanks to be passed on.

The remainder of the meeting centred around the impact of Business rates/Minimum Wage/Fuel Cost rises. All members seemed to be impacted in some way or other but acknowledged that there was little that could be done individually although many did not pay business rates because their rateable value was below the threshold etc

I was asked about the Chamber window stickers and confirmed that they had been ordered.

Peter Ryland
Chairman