

CHAMBER REPORT

The Chamber last met on the 6th July and, as usual for the last meeting before the summer recess (we don't meet in August) it was a relatively quiet affair.

The minutes of our previous meeting (11th May) were approved and following the increase in delivery costs earlier in the year, due to fuel price rises, members reported no decrease from their suppliers as a result of the 20/30p reduction at the pumps.

The Chairman reported the likelihood of the Saturday markets starting this year as being minimal due to not only the lack of volunteers to organise and run them but also the lack of good quality stallholders. It was agreed that there was little point in having markets with poorer quality stallholders and the Chairman said he hoped, as they were so popular last year, that a long-term solution could be achieved so that they could start again in 2027.

Unfortunately, M/s Frank could not be present at the meeting so the item of funding the Christmas Festival was deferred to the next meeting, although it was noted that an events CIC had been set up.

Members were pleased that the Tamar Bridge/Torpoint Ferry Committee, after public consultation, were not now going to raise the monthly charge for have a Tag but were concerned that there would be other ideas to offset the shortfall. The Chairman then said that, as a saving on the Tag Fee was part of the thoughts for the resident's card, he would have to go back to the drawing board for his proposals relating thereto.

The Chairman then told members that the Chamber had been asked to be represented on the Spacial Settlement Plan which is part of the new Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that Steve Miller would represent the Chamber but the Chairman has also asked to take part.

The Chairman also reported that he had had a conversation with the Mayor, Brian Stoyel, with a view to having more engagement with businesses on the industrial estates. It was noted that there were approximately 300 businesses on the estates and have little voice in the town other than a handful who are Chamber members. It was agreed to co-ordinate an approach to ascertain their concerns. It was, however noted that on road parking lack of expansion potential and rush hour congestion had already been raised.

End of report – Chairman P Ryland