

### **Saltash Boat Park and Slip**

We are very lucky here in Saltash to have a boat park and slipway; however the park is not cheap when you consider there is no water, no electricity and no security. There have been thefts and vandalism and nobody to answer the phone numbers prominent on the notice boards.

We have been told for many years that there are things in the pipe line to improve the situation, unfortunately we were not told how long the pipe is and I wonder if I will live long enough to see the end.

I have written some suggestions for the Council to perhaps think about but this page is just for the slipway itself.

With a northerly wind and strong current it is impossible to launch a dinghy let alone a bigger boat single handed, even with two people it can be quite dangerous with no protection from the waves sometimes a very large wash caused by the marines whizzing about. There are no securing cleats or rings apart from one high up the slip, the side of the slip has no timber or fenders of any sort which causes considerable damage to boats and nothing to tie a boat to, which is why many of us only use it on occasion.

The answer is quite simple and need not be expensive and also removable if required. A Gabion wall alongside the slip with scaffolding planks secured to the top and side, designed properly with lifting rings, the cages could easily be lifted in or out if required. Boats could tie alongside the wall allowing others to use the slip or whilst trailers are parked. By being removable I doubt if planning permission would be required from Cornwall Council, Prince Charles, RSPB, Fisheries, MOD, Etc. Etc. so it might even be possible before I'm 95.

As I watch people with little experience using the slipway I am surprised there have not been (as far as I know) serious accidents caused by the wash coming in whilst trying to launch.

For those not sure what a Gabion is, it is a steel basket of stone often used on motorways to retain banks and other landscaping uses. They have used some on the river bed at Lostwithiel successfully.

Thoughts by \_\_\_\_\_ This was written over two years ago so the income lost is now more like £50,000 and rising. And now they want us to vote for them Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

Sadly Saltash Council just like many other Councils and in particular this ridiculous government we are saddled with all seem to have a remarkable ability to waste probably 50% of the tax payer's money going down blind alleys before they realise the hidden consequences of their actions, the waterfront is our late example of ghost wardens.

I have lived by the water here for ten years with a boat on the river and one on the Jubilee Green boat park. The Council appointed wardens to look after the area and hopefully gain some income from boats visiting the pontoon apart from the finger moorings. They were expected to keep the boat and car parks tidy but Cornwall Council gets the income, we are told that the responsibility would be transferred to Saltash Council two years ago, for heaven's sake how long does it take to transfer a filing cabinet from Truro to Saltash ?? By my calculations Saltash has been deprived of an income of £37,300 over the last two years. Of course Truro want to hang on as long as possible, money for old rope and no responsibilities. End of rant, now maybe some suggestions:

The water front needs to be policed and cared for, this requires an income. Many jet skiers have proved to be a menace speeding through the moorings and causing a wash at the slipway making it dangerous for other users; my solution to this is that all Jet boats have to be registered displaying a number on the side, this will ensure that the Council and police have contact numbers and addresses and a copy of insurance certificates, this need not cost much to the owners maybe £10; a year two warnings of miss behaviour and they are banned from using Saltash slipways.

What to charge for launching? Deprive local residents from free launching would cause mayhem, I would suggest a card similar to or part of the Saltash discount card, registered to a local address and costs £10 a year which would entitle the owner to free launching, anyone from outside the area has to pay a launching fee just like Salcombe and other towns between £5 and £10.

Most Continental towns have a municipal park for camping and motor caravans but not UK of course despite the huge popularity of these vehicles, tents might be a problem but a few set aside motor caravan spaces with hook-ups could be created on the car park, I think the current charges at camp sites are anything up to £30 a night depending on facilities.

Next, the difficulty of affording someone on site 7 days a week. There has been talk of a two story warden hut. My thoughts are to make it sufficiently large and attractive enough to have a section such as a greasy spoon outlet, in other words bacon butties, sandwiches, coffee and ice cream etc., only outside seating under a canopy. A person to run it would be on a Franchise system to supplement his Council salary; this would be to give the person an incentive for their own business and responsibility; their remit would be to collect the money from the slipway and boats visiting the pontoon, motor caravans etc., and generally police the whole area.

At present I would be very unhappy paying £1000 a year to have my boat on the pontoon with kids climbing all over it, I have witnessed this twice on one occasion I was able to phone a warden but on many other times when people have tried there is no answer. There is vandalism around the boat park my neighbour had his cover slit last week, again for the money we should have some sort of safety.

Lastly dog poo: A lot of dog walkers do not pick up the poo some of which is impossible to pick up due to stomach upset, children are getting covered in it on the green; my suggestion is that a low fence be constructed around the grass opposite the pontoon, NO dogs even on a lead are not allowed in there or face a high fine, so that area at least is clean for children to play or picnic.

Without knowing the exact amount I gather the tin office on the car park costs several hundred pounds a month on lease, so in the thrēe / four years it has been there has cost you and me probably £5,000 to £6,000 and mounting, I know where you can buy and own a better one for under £2000. Councils Grrrrrr.

## A message to all the Gentlemen of Saltash and the Ladies maybe! Regarding the Saltash Station building.

There is a movement gathering pace across the Country called "The Men's Shed Association" from what I can understand men will meet and share experiences that may include a variety of skills ranging from engineering, carpentry, computer technology, photography, fishing tips or cooking. A place to meet and learn new skills from each other, play chess or cards or just chat over coffee. There are a lot of people living on their own in small flats etc., who do not now have the facilities to pursue any of their skills or hobbies. Reading some of the articles about the association these "Men's Sheds" have contributed hugely to their health and well being by being able to meet other men living on their own.

Braving the wrath of .....I don't see why it should be confined to men, I know a lady who is one of the best engineers in the Country who has won countless awards for her work. Please read on :-

A fortune has been spent on buying and restoring the station building. Unfortunately apart from a small area at one end to accommodate rail passengers in comfort, the Council have no idea as to what to do with the rest of it, there is talk of renting it to acquire some income, but who would want it? No parking, not exactly suitable for offices, maybe a warehouse for junk, there are already many empty shops and offices available without providing more.

What about a NEW movement called "The Ladies and Men's Shed". Again I have read that there is ample funding from firms like Dewalt, Makita etc., who would donate tools; I would donate a wood turning lathe myself, I gather not only Lottery grants but even Government is keen to help as they see the health benefits and the savings made to social services. I have a friend who started a cookery school on a credit card, Miele donated a kitchen and now they have six kitchens turning over a million a year; so there are companies willing to help.

So what is my vision for The Station Building? Firstly Saltash bought it so perhaps it would be fair for Saltash to benefit not necessarily in cash. Some of the inside could be partitioned off for workshop / hobbies, wood turning, rug making, welding, all sorts of engineering, pottery, house plants, perhaps creating wonderful gardens outside etc. A kitchen where perhaps the ladies could teach us guys how to cook better. A dance floor where us men could teach the ladies how to dance ho ho ! Tutorials given in computing, mobile phones etc., maybe a band or choir evenings; the possibilities are endless. Snooker, Scottish dancing (unless there is a Cornish equivalent!)

Apart from say a line dancing day or evening or cooking lessons if the Ladies don't want to be associated with us lovely Gentlemen, they could have the facilities one day and we have it the next. A couple of years ago I was involved in helping the elderly to get fitter thus saving the social services so many visits, so perhaps the facility could be used for that, say two hours each morning. Perhaps some gym equipment could be acquired so maybe some showers would be a good idea, don't want smelly men around.

If any anyone else feels that this would be a good use for the Station Building perhaps they would like to Email their Councillor. No doubt funding will become an issue, there are grants available but perhaps a membership system could be incorporated, the facilities hired out on an hour or day basis, lots of options to think about.