[redacted]

Submission of Questions, Representation and Evidence Form

Questions, **representations and evidence** must be submitted in writing using the form provided **three working days before the meeting** either by email to enquiries@saltash.gov.uk or sent to The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX.

Name: Lt. Cdr. B.A. Brooking M.B.E., J.P., B.A., M.A., R.N. (Rtd) **Address:** 17 Taylor Road, Saltash, Cornwall. PL12 4LR **Contact details:** 01752 844050	**Date of submission:** 2nd November 2026
Do you give consent for your personal details to be published and made available in the public domain, please circle below: (Yes) or No	
Are you attending the meeting in person to ask your question, please circle below: Yes or No — I hope to attend but if I am unable can the Chair please read my question on my behalf	
If your question relates to a Planning or Licensing Application, please confirm the application number, name, address and whether you support or object. No member of the public may speak for longer than three minutes: N/A	
Question, Representations and Evidence: A question must be submitted in a clear and concise manner and may include representations and supporting evidence. Each person may submit only one question. No member of the public may speak for longer than three minutes. Please see Attached	

Could Council be more 'user-friendly' to the public over how it manages our questions?

I was grateful to be able to ask a question at the recent Aldi consultation. It was tightly chaired, and mostly disciplined, but very many felt it could have been done better and more fairly.

Aldi appeared to have had unlimited time to prepare and present their presentation, including adding to their presentation 'bullet points' from a lectern. Councillors were then able to ask their questions sitting at tables and using a microphone. The public were then invited to speak. This proved difficult.

It would have been fairer for us to put our questions first, as we had to submit them before the meeting, and keep to the words. Councillors could apparently see our submissions before the meeting, so technically this should and could have reduced repetition. The onus should not have been upon the public for this. Given the timings involved, both in preparing our questions and trying to reduce repetition after hearing the Councillors input, we were at a considerable disadvantage.

Indeed, some who spoke told me that they wished that their letter had been read out by the Chair – as some of those took longer than three minutes and were not inhibited by trying to avoid repetition.

I led the public questions, and out of respect for Council, I stood. Others followed. It was really difficult, especially for those with longer questions, to hold our paperwork and a microphone. You might consider when using a large room providing a lectern/stand for support – and even a fixed microphone for the public.

I do hope that you will accept that these criticisms/comments are constructive and made in the spirit of goodwill. However, I have to say that many of us have noticed over the last few years that Council has

demonstrated a strong over-protection and defensiveness, and even hostility by some individuals to criticism from members of the public. I can testify to this from a personal perspective, particularly over Remembrance, and can cite a case where a letter to Council from me was partially censored/redacted, contravening free speech, both in its verbal delivery and published as original without my permission. This must be unacceptable and not consistent with respect for the public. The Council was not always like this. I am prepared to share more details if required. This includes a comment from a Councillor that I must be careful about expressing strong feelings about my passion and concern over the location of the Civic Service of Remembrance and fairness – as Councillors could take out a Code of Conduct against me. Somewhat ironic! My communication has certainly not been vexatious. At least one Councillor is now not even speaking to me and has apparently told this to a member of the public, when they wanted to comment on my health. They were not impressed at the lack of respect.

I am not allowed to make much use of a computer or electronic media because of failing eyesight, but many who can have complained to me about the difficulty of putting questions to Council in the latest format. Many apparently give up and did so over putting in their Aldi questions. I have done some comparative research. Other Councils, including local ones, appear to have a much more 'user-friendly' approach to their public.



1 Nov 2026