

## **STC - Update from Saltash Chamber of Commerce October 2021**

Our AGM went ahead as planned on 4th October at China Fleet - once again as a hybrid meeting which is a great option for people to join us from wherever they are.

I was unanimously voted in once again as Chair to serve for another year. Peter Ryland agreed to stay on as Vice Chair, and Hilary Frank and Steve Miller were voted in as Secretary and Membership Secretary. Thanks go to Ayesha Slader for her time as Secretary, Tracey Hayton of The Bookshelf for being Membership Secretary, and Doug Bond of Saphira Jewellers who has been the Chamber Treasurer for many years now and will continue until we find a replacement.

### **Bridge Roadworks**

The specialist contractors Volkerlaser were due to finish on 15th October and the works which are set to finish by the end of October finished two weeks early - in time for the 60th anniversary celebrations of the bridge. I know we will be glad to see a return to normal operation on the bridge after such a difficult period for the town.

### **Threat to Saltash Leisure Centre**

When it comes to business, financial viability is paramount, and our Leisure Centre in Saltash has struggled to retain membership and build it back up post lockdowns. Now the ongoing operation of the centre is in jeopardy. For me, our Leisure Centre is where my children learned to swim and it was a vital social hub - it's way more than a leisure centre and more of a community asset. Staff and residents alike would be affected by its closure, and the detrimental impact it would have on the well-being of so many not just in Saltash but further away is easy to appreciate. 14 schools now use the centre for swimming lessons - and there are over 500 swimming memberships. For many, the presence of a Leisure Centre in the town was a good reason to move to Saltash in the first place. The economic loss to the area if it were to close cannot be underestimated - and the need then to travel elsewhere to get access to pool and leisure services is moving investment away from the town. The consultation is now closed but comments can still be emailed to: [leisure.consultation@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:leisure.consultation@cornwall.gov.uk)

### **Want your say on what our roads need?**

National Highways, formerly Highways England, use public consultation to inform conversations on which roads around the country need investment. We can directly feed into decisions being made about our roads in SE Cornwall by engaging in the route strategies consultation. The power of this tool cannot be underestimated - it will be used to influence road strategies in the next Road Improvement Scheme so please do make your views known at: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/our-route-strategies/>. This ends on 30th November so please do go in and comment soon.

### **Come along and see what we do**

As a Chamber we look to encourage more members to join us - especially from our retail centre. In order to do that, we now plan to hold alternate meetings in Fore Street starting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 5.30pm at The Cockleshell Micropub. We will be holding alternate monthly meetings on Fore Street and at China Fleet.

Sarah Martin  
Chair of Saltash Chamber of Commerce