

Saltash Area Road Safety Committee (SARSC) report February 2022

The committee represents road safety concerns from Saltash Town Council, Botus Fleming and Hatt PC, Landulph PC, St Germans and Polbathic PC and Landrake PC.

The membership of the committee comprises councillors from the above bodies and from Cornwall Council, the police, members of the SpeedWatch team, a representative from Saltash Comprehensive School, members from the Safer A38 group and most importantly, members of the public who have specific issues.

The committee has expressed its continuing gratefulness to Saltash Town Council for its ongoing support for road safety initiatives which has never varied over the years, and particularly for providing a venue for the quarterly meetings.

The committee makes representations on behalf of these bodies to Cornwall Highways and Highways England. Occasionally it makes representations and liaises with Plymouth City Council and the Tamar Bridge management committee.

After the cuts in police staffing which resulted eventually in the cutting of PCSO officers completely in Saltash, and across much of the Devon and Cornwall force, the local inspectors despite being otherwise very supportive have had great difficulty in scheduling an officer to attend SARSC. Essentially the cuts have resulted in much less foot policing in the town and SARSC is concerned with the eventual consequences of this in road safety terms, especially on bad and anti-social driving. The lack of police attendance at SARSC has seriously hampered the collating of general safety information, obtaining up to date specific information, informing the police of issues and acquiring police views on a range of topics.

Two factors have hindered the work carried out by the SpeedWatch team: these are the sad death of the co-ordinator and the impact of Covid. Thankfully a new coordinator, Councillor Hilary Frank has been appointed and is bringing a new team together. This is very important work that is highly valued by the local councils involved.

The committee remains concerned about the progress of any meaningful work to improve road safety on the A38 between Saltash and Trerulefoot. The committee considers that the interim small scale works do not address properly the overall problem and remains very supportive of the great work being done by the Safer A38 group.

A range of local issues have been brought before the committee and these include the A374 through Polbathic, Vollards Lane in Hatt, Tideford Road in Landrake, the Landulph Cross to the A388 road, North Road Saltash, the Tamar Bridge, Higher Port View Saltash, Gilston Road, Carkeel missing footpaths, Tamar Street Saltash amongst others.

Of ongoing interest has been the "20 is Plenty" campaign to limit speeds in villages and towns and the committee has supported this in each case. Fortunately this now has government backing.

The committee through the chair has been liaising with St Mellion Parish Council to encourage them to resurrect the Saltash to Callington cycleway scheme. Botus and Hatt now have a scheme of their own.

The committee also considers and fully supports the CNA panel Highways Scheme and the efforts of the CNA Liaison Officer, Mrs Catherine Thompson who had officer-led and championed this initiative.

Derek Holley

Chair , SARSC