

### **Car Parking on Fore Street**

Parking on Fore Street changed from half an hour to one hour during Covid to accommodate the changes in guidance from the Government. Now those changes are being reversed, parking spots on Fore Street itself will revert to just a half an hour waiting time. Our car parking redemption scheme will help mitigate those changes offering two hours free of charge in the four fee-paying car parks in Saltash. Just need to take your parking ticket (up to £1.60) to any participating independent retailer on Fore Street and spend £5 to redeem the cost of the ticket. Then independent shops have signed up so far and we are looking to expand this over time.

### **Public Consultation to raise Bridge tolls**

Valentine's Day was the last day to send back thoughts on the proposed changes to the Tamar Bridge tolls. Chamber's position on this was clear. We wrote to joint Chair of the Tamar Crossings committee Cllr Martin Worth the following: We feel that, if there is to be an increase in the toll then that increase should be wholesale and across the board including tag users and cash tolls on the bridge and ferry equally. To lower the discount for tag users only not only places the burden on the funding at the feet of the local user and resident but also all those businesses in the Saltash area who use the bridge daily - and on numerous occasions per day.

Hauliers, taxi companies, white van services to name but a few rely on the bridge. Choosing to lower the discount on the tag and thereby increasing the cost just to the tag user alone who are essentially the captive audience is unjust, and penalises locals who already endured a painful (to say the very least!) six months last year as the bridge was resurfaced.

Our letter addressed to Cllr Martin Worth, also asked him to lobby for the wholesale revision of the Act of Parliament which burdens SE Cornwall as a region going forward indefinitely with shouldering the costs of maintaining a bridge that connects the strategic network from Devon to Cornwall. This has always been unsatisfactory and unfair but in these times of inflation and rising energy and food costs it's a complete travesty.

And on a happier note...

### **The Fiver Fest is back!**

March 12th - 26th brings the return of the great national shop local event, the Totally Locally Fiver Fest. Independent retailers nationwide put on special £5 offers to show the diversity and value of what they sell and encourage people to shop locally. It comes from the Totally Locally £5 message that if every adult in Saltash spent just £5 per week in their local independent shops and businesses it would mean £3.2 million per year going directly into our local economy. Saltash took part in two Fiver Fest campaigns last year, and they proved to be such a success that retailers will be offering £5 deals again this March. Participating shops will display Fiver Fest posters in their windows, the Totally Locally Saltash team will be uploading the offers on the Totally Locally Saltash Facebook page and there will be a dedicated page on the aforementioned Carbon Pixel Shop Saltash website. So keep an eye out and remember that when you shop locally you make our town an even better place.

Sarah Martin