

CHAMBER REPORT

At our last meeting, Hilary Frank, a member of the Chamber re. her translation business, led the discussion with respect to the work of the Town Team, of which the Chamber is a member, re. the appointment of consultants who will be looking at how 'a new green realm to form the retail heart of the town' can be achieved. Members were pleased that work can start on the initiative. She explained that the consultants have been chosen, as a result of a lengthy process, with initially 9 companies expressing interest. This was whittled down to 4 who were interviewed and the successful candidate appointed. 6 months of work is now involved all funded by Cornwall Council's Vitality Fund and will necessitate public consultation.

Positive comments were made with respect to the Brunel Bench installed in Fore Street. This again was a Town Team project. It was reported by the Chairman that many members of the public had expressed their pleasure with the bench.

Chamber members were worried about the impact of the uplift in car parking charges that Cornwall Council were proposing to introduce. It was acknowledged that Cornwall Council had to meet a budget shortfall but increases above, an already high inflation rate, was not acceptable to members. The Chairman was asked to ensure the Chamber's voice was heard when public consultation takes place in early March and to liaise with other local chambers to ascertain their view.

There was a wide-ranging discussion re. the possibility of CCTV being installed in Fore Street. Chamber members were unenthusiastic due to the cost of installation and its effectiveness with respect to shoplifting and robbery (where access was usually gained from the rear. It was noted that systems are far more advanced than they were previously. The Chairman was asked to report to the S.106 Panel that the Chamber was unenthusiastic.

The matter of unauthorised car parking on the Industrial Estates was raised and Councillor Lennox-Boyd agreed to inform the Enforcement Officer of Cornwall Council that the problems persist.

Finally, it was decided not to participate in the nationwide Fiverfest Campaign in March but would consider whether June would be more appropriate.