

Annual Report from the Saltash Area Road Safety Committee ,March 2023

Saltash Town Council, St Germans and Polbathic PC, Landulph PC, Botus Fleming and Hatt

PC and Landulph PC have attended nearly all meetings. Cornwall Councillors are also usually in attendance where they are able. The police have not been represented at meetings but have when requested sent reports. We have had visits from Cormac to give specialist advice.

The Speedwatch team is not yet up and running so have been unable to give reports. This is because of a change within the parent organisation which is based at Plymouth police, Crownhill. However a new coordinator has been appointed within the police and progress is now anticipated . Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank is organising from this end.

Vice chairman Councillor Martin Worth from Landulph Expressed has his thanks to Saltash Town Council for hosting the area meetings.

A major item, each meeting is the progress on improvements to the A38 between Saltash and Trerulefoot. The situation at the moment is that minor changes to the road are about to be implemented, but the committee has written to National Highways urging that these changes be regarded only as minor tweaks, and that a proper solution to the problems along the road should be incorporated into a proper scheme.

The basic problem with this road remains and the committee requests that the Town Council, when the opportunity arises, makes these points to Cornwall Council and National Highways representatives. These points leading to regular delays and accidents are the combination of very high volumes of traffic, continuing changes in gradient, many changes of direction at the bottom and tops of hills, poor visibility because of the terrain, changes in width, drivers frustration because of these factors and because of the lack of overtaking of slow vehicles of which there are many, a low bridge causing high vehicles to divert through unsuitable country lanes, two split communities, Landrake and Tideford , the latter of which also suffers from severe air pollution as well as inadequate and dangerous pedestrian crossing of the road there. All of these factors combine to make this stretch one of the most dangerous for accidents in the south-west of England.

At each meeting the Chair urges local parishes to continually maintain pressure on National Highways.

The organisation SafeA38 is represented on the committee by Councillor Steve Miller. This organisation also continues to press the government to take a more long term and radical approach to this stretch of road.

There have been a variety of other issues throughout the area including children's safety on St Stephens Road Saltash and the failure to make any real progress with the cycle route between Saltash and Callington following the feasibility study which has been carried out. However the Chair has established a good relationship with the parish council of St Mellion who were championing this cycle route. The committee

has taken an interest also in planning applications that have relevance to Road safety - for example the proposed roadside 20 metre high communication mast at Landrake.

The committee has actively supported the parishes who are seeking to establish or extend their 20mph zones in their villages. Botus Fleming and Landrake are well advanced and there is a huge demand for these from all over Cornwall.

A variety of issues has been discussed and emails and letters have been written, these include some of the highway works that have gone through the Gateway group, speeding issues approaching the Hatt roundabout, and (as usual) comments about the driving behaviour, good and bad of parents collecting school children. At meetings it has been repeated several times that the lack of police presence on the ground has caused a worsening of the situation (in Saltash, and in the other villages, the PCSO's would regularly visit the sites at critical times). Other issues include discussions about the pedestrian crossing on Callington Road by St Annes home.

The committee continues to welcome members of the public who wish to speak on their particular issues and they are also welcome to speak on other issues on the evenings agenda.

In particular, the committee is grateful for the continued and sterling work, especially accurate, recording of heavy goods vehicles by a North Road resident Mr Rod Baker who has now been invited to be a standing representative at meetings. Mr Baker and the committee have a very good relationship with Julian Mitchell from national highways who is organising the average speed cameras in North Road (work is due to start at Easter).

The committee has still failed to establish any real relationship with the road safety areas of interest at Cornwall Council.

The Chair would like to thank the Council for their continued and active support of the committee and in particular the liaison with the local parishes that result.

Derek Holley

Chair