



Saltash and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry



CHAIRMAN PETER RYLAND

At its meeting on the 3rd July the Chamber welcomed Dr. Mel Priston and Scott Slavin who are Chair and Vice Chair of Tamar Tag Action Group. Members have been concerned for some time as to the cost of crossing the bridge on their businesses. It was therefore useful to hear the action being taken to try and persuade the government to take over the running of the bridge and thereby allow it to become toll free.

For many businesses in South East Cornwall the cost of the toll makes their businesses uncompetitive with similar businesses in Plymouth/Devon when competing for business across the Tamar. Other businesses are able to charge direct to the customer and so, even if the toll is by way of the tag, this is having an impact on the local community. It was agreed that the Chamber would write a letter of support and ask all members to give their views on the tolls.

The Chairman, who is also the Acting Chairman of Town Team reported on the consultation to identify the best space within the town centre for an event/market space. He reminded members that the consultation had been extended to the 14th July and that now was the time to get their views heard. One member said that she understood that Sunday markets were being considered and asked the point of that if shops were closed. It was pointed out that some local traders already close on other days of the week and therefore Sunday trading could become the norm for local traders as most of the national retailers in the town were open 7 days a week.

The Chamber members also considered the future of the Christmas Festival. The Chairman explained that the organisation/running of the festival had for the last several years been carried out by the Chamber. This had put a strain on our limited resources both in terms of the financial cost and the human resource of those members prepared to help. It was agreed that the festival was an important event for the town and that we should continue with it but we needed to have more funding and that we would look at further opportunities for sponsorship, grant funding etc.

Although the Chamber is usually inactive in August, it was recognised that there would need to be some discussion within the committee to decide on a way forward for the Chamber and how to fund the Christmas Festival.