

## **Saltash Chamber of Commerce Report to Full Council**

The Chamber meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October included the AGM and all officers were re-elected for a further year.

The members were updated on the report regarding the open space project and were positive in their attitude to the outcome. They realised that there was still some way to go before any action could be seen on the ground. Several members were keen to see the detail in the report and, as it is now a public document, it was agreed to circulate to all members.

There was talk of a Tamar Crossing working party and it was agreed that, if possible, the Chamber should be represented thereon, as the impact on businesses in the town was, at times, quite dramatic due to long delays and those delays were becoming more regular. The Chairman said that he had just been on holiday to France and that toll paying on the passages was a far quicker process there than it seemed to be on the Tamar Bridge. Many of the members thought it was toll paying by card that was causing the delays and we should write to the Chairs of the Tamar Crossing to suggest finding a quicker solution for non-tag users.

Members were also updated on the Christmas Festival and that Scrapstore had already committed £2000 for the lantern parade and that they were taking a shop in the Courtyard at the top of the town where the net proceeds for its use as a Christmas shop would also be donated to the Christmas Festival and that last year Scrapstore was able to donate a further £1200 from their pop-up shop in 79 Fore Street and hoped to do better this year. An application had also been made to STC Festival Fund for support.

Discussion also took place as to the switching on of the Christmas lights. It was agreed that the switching on of the lights to tie in with the festival was of benefit but the Chairman was asked to write to the Services Committee to ask if the zigzag lights could be switched on earlier so that there was a feeling of Christmas from mid-November.

Mr. Cotton also raised the matter of the Community Buses which were being awarded contracts by Cornwall Council which were taking away business from the private sector. He explained that it was a national problem but locally the loss of the school's contract had a dramatic impact.

The loss of the last bank (Lloyds) was, it was felt an inevitability and that like many other towns in the country Saltash would be without a bank next year unless a banking hub was opened. It was acknowledged though that members could use the limited resources at the Post Office. The Chairman was asked to research what action is being taken to ensure a banking hub was set up.

**End of report.**