

PENZANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



NEWSLETTER



Issue 2

16th July 2010

Thank you for the kind comments about this new initiative, I am delighted that you are pleased with having a newsletter rather than seemingly dozens of emails during the week. I also appreciate the comments received about my paper about parking charges, I mentioned this to businesses in Helston on Monday and they concurred that this is an issue which needs to be sorted out.

Mike Waters, Chairman

Some good news about Penzance for a change!!

Back in the fall of 2007, a friend of mine and I had the good sense to visit Cornwall as part of a quick tour of England. I have been to Britain many times, but my visit to Penzance was one of highlights of all my travels. Besides the grandeur of the coast and the warmth of the people and pubs, Penzance clearly has a lot to teach us about community planning.

I am an educator and writer living in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, and have a column in a local monthly paper that is distributed throughout the Okanagan and interior of the province. After returning, I devoted a column to some of what I learned from Penzance.

For some reason, it's taken me two years to send it back to Cornwall, but, tardy as it is, I do hope you enjoy my comments. *(He sent a 2 page article about Penzance and its virtues, if you would like a copy please email the Chairman)*

Don Sawyer, Box 2653, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4R5, Canada

Convergence programme

There will be a Penzance and Newlyn Framework Plan exhibition at St John's Hall on 20 July, some of you may be aware of the announcement that the making of grants under the Convergence European funding programme has been temporarily suspended by government. A staffed exhibition will be available from 1.00pm with short presentations taking place at 4.00pm and again at 7.30pm

It would appear that this has been done so that the government can review delivery and match-funding arrangements since it was announced that the South West Regional Development Agency, which manages Convergence, is to be abolished.

This announcement **does not affect** the completion of the Framework Plan and work on this important strategy will continue.

The Framework Plan will guide regeneration in Penzance and Newlyn for the next 15-20 years, well beyond the life of the Convergence programme which comes to an end in 2013.

It has been evident as work on the Framework Plan has progressed that due to the tight timescale of the Convergence programme, Convergence is likely to have a limited role in financing the regeneration of the area in the short-term. The Council and its partners will be pursuing developments over the next 15-20 years with the private sector and establishing close working relationships in the area.

High speed broadband

The project of most concern to members following the announcement of halting the Convergence Programme seems to be the high-speed broadband initiative. The Chairman has discovered that the project has been held up by private-sector machinations and was delayed starting anyway! He has sent a strongly worded letter to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills urging the project to proceed.

Penzance Harbour Regeneration

Mr Maggs spoke to the European Parliament about the plans for the harbour on behalf of the "Friends" on Thursday, his argument was countered by the Commission. Steps were taken by the supporters of the scheme to ensure that our local MEP supports the scheme. The debate was shown live through the internet and apparently, from those who watched it, Mr Maggs' speech contained the usual half-truths and falsehoods without batting an eyelid. The following is an extract:

- He claimed the whole of Penzance was "overwhelmingly against" the project (he knows this to be untrue).
- He claimed the proposals created the traffic problems when we know it will reduce peak traffic follows and not change actual numbers of vehicles.
- He referred to the creation of an industrial freight facility when of course it's the same freight tidied away into a secluded part of the harbour.
- He suggested that EU funds would be mis-spent on this proposal (the harbours) – a treacherous statement to make from somebody who would claim to be Cornish and supporting the community.
- He claimed the project would damage the Promenade and Jubilee Pool which is false.
- There was no reference to the needs of the Islanders whatsoever.

It was confirmed by the Commission, however, that Cornwall Council and the UK Government legislation has been followed as has the EU funding requirements.

What have we been up to this week?

In this column the Chairman will be summarising what he (and others) has been up to during the past week on behalf of the Chamber:

Helston Shoppers Loyalty Card

Mike was guest speaker at the launch of the Helston Shoppers Loyalty Card on Monday and the event made the front page of the Helston Packet on Wednesday!!

Harbour

Will Perrin attended a meeting of local businesses and Councillors from the Isles of Scilly and mainland about the developments of the Harbour. The "Friends" are continuing to muddy the waters and demand that the application be recalled by the Government. By the way, apparently Mr Cartwright was ordered to pay £8,000 costs due to the failure of his claiming that a Judicial Review be held over the way that the harbour plans were developed.

Parking Charges

Mike had a chat with Cllr Andrew Wallace, Chair of the Cornwall Council Parking Panel on Monday whilst attending the Helston event. Cllr Wallace stated that my suggestion of compulsorily purchasing the car parks of out of town retailers and charging fees to off-set in town car parks would require an Act of Parliament and that reductions of parking fees of the order suggested would not happen. He did state that he was promoting the reduction of the fee for the first hour of parking in Penzance to £1 whilst it would be 50p in other towns. I stated that this was unfair and did not go anyway towards helping town centres. I reiterated the comment in my paper which stated that by charging to park in-town and not out of town the Council was positively discriminating against in-town retailers.

News from the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Summary of the Feed In Tariff

On the 1st February 2010 the Government announced the final tariff details for the proposed Feed In Tariff. This is fantastic news for domestic solar PV installations.

The key points are:

- All accredited installs from July 2009 onwards will be eligible
- Subsidised tariff is for all generated electricity, whether consumed or exported.
- Tariff for 10-100kW PV installs is 31.4p/unit
- Tariff for >100kW-5MW PV installs is 29.3p/unit
- Tariff for off-grid PV installs is 29.3p/unit
- Guaranteed 25 year tariff lifetime with annual raises indexed to inflation
- Tariff fixed for first two years (The tariff for an install will be fixed for 25 years based on the year it's installed).

Please use our Feed In Tariff Calculator to give an indication of the anticipated income from your proposed system size. www.plugintothesun.co.uk

Pirates Touch Rugby Tournament

The Cornish Pirates are hosting a summer Touch Rugby Tournament on Friday 6th August and would like to invite you to sponsor a team.

Enter a team of 4 and you will be matched up with 5 Cornish Pirates Players. Two of the four will start play, and the other two will be on the bench – ready to be used as replacements. Training and guidance will be given by your Pirates team-mates, and the entry fee is £100 per team - to include a pasty and a pint per person! The winning team will win a Match Day Sponsor package (including hospitality for 10) at a match during the new 2010/11 season (date to be agreed and is subject to availability).

The number of teams will be limited so please book your place now to avoid disappointment.

Entry will be open to spectators for just £5 (includes a free pasty) so why not bring along your colleagues, friends and family and kick off your weekend with this “meet the players” summer social event. An opportunity for players, supporters and sponsors to get to know each other and have some fun in anticipation of the new Rugby year.

When: Friday 6th August, from 4pm (Gates and Bar open from 3pm)

Where: Mennaye Field, Penzance

Book your place – call Amy now on 01736 335314 or email amy.smith@cornish-pirates.com

Perranporth Surf Challenge Triathlon

Winter Rule are (small) sponsors of the Perranporth Surf Challenge Triathlon on 12 September 2010 and the children's Aquathon on the previous day.

For those of you who are not aware, the triathlon is the highest profile triathlon in Cornwall (maybe the SW) and has been recently featured as 'event to do' in 220 magazine and also featured in the Independent on Sunday. The Aquathon is a recent addition to the programme: to encourage the younger generation to partake in (existing) sport.

We are aware through our involvement this year that the organizing Committee are looking for volunteers to sign up and help marshal at the event and this year they are including a Marshal's 'goody bag' as an inducement! This 'goody bag' will include t-shirt, meal voucher, drinks - and hopefully a bit extra. To secure a 'goody bag', they need your names by the end of July as the bags will be made up in advance and we want to allocate Marshalling locations in August.

If you can help, please email Karen Longstaff at admin@perranporthslsc.org.uk or call her on 01872 571560.

Potential sponsors should also contact Karen.

Potential participants in the Perranporth Surf Challenge Triathlon can check out the Perranporth Surf Life Savings Club's website www.perranporthslsc.org.uk

Business Survey results about the Budget

More than three quarters of smaller businesses in the South West support rapid moves to pay off the national debt, new research has found.

In a survey carried out by the Forum of Private Business, 79% of the region's small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) said reducing the deficit should be one of the new Government's main priorities. By comparison, 41% said that introducing fairer taxes should be a priority and just 12% called for public procurement to be made more accessible.

Tax simplification emerged as the second most popular choice, finding favour with 63% of business owners polled from Gloucestershire to Cornwall. Meanwhile, stronger regulation of the banks and utility companies was the third most popular priority for the new Government, on 61%.

Forum spokesman Phil McCabe said: "This research shows that most small business owners in the South West appreciate the need to tackle the UK's record public debt and are behind the new Government's efforts to do so.

"Like everyone else, the region's business owners will undoubtedly suffer some pain from big spending cuts, but they are used to managing budgets and know how crippling large debts can be if left to fester. However, it's important that crucial small business support services aren't sacrificed in the drive to cut costs as SMEs, in the South West and elsewhere, will be crucial to Britain's economic recovery."

Mr McCabe added: "Business owners in the South West also seem particularly keen to see Britain's convoluted tax system simplified. The UK has one of the most complicated tax regimes in the world but the new Government has said simplifying tax will be one of its priorities, so hopefully businesses in the South West will see action on this issue soon."

When asked how business support could be improved locally, reducing local taxation emerged as the most popular choice among small firms in the South West, finding favour with 56% of those surveyed. The next most popular choice for business owners in the region was addressing parking and transport issues – 35% of respondents to the Forum's survey listed this as a problem.

The third biggest concern for South West firms was crime prevention after 28% of those surveyed listed it as a problem.

The figures emerged through the Forum's quarterly Referendum ballot, which was sent out to Forum members just before the general election.

The survey also asked owners of small firms which political party they felt best understood their businesses.

As elsewhere, the Conservative Party was the most popular choice among small business owners in the South West, attracting the backing of 64% of respondents. The Liberal Democrats emerged as the second most popular choice, finding favour with 6% of those surveyed, while UKIP were in third, on 5%. Encouragingly, only 18% of Forum members in the South West said they felt no political parties at all understood their businesses. This figure was as high as 38% in other regions of the UK.

Cornwall Council's Licensing Committee have a night out – we paid!!

Cornwall Council's Miscellaneous Licensing Committee, which is responsible for drawing up a policy to implement new legislation to license lap dancing and similar premises as 'sexual entertainment' venues, has conducted a fact finding visit to a lap dancing premises.

The Committee decided that organising a visit to an appropriate establishment would help them gain a fuller understanding of the operation of Sexual Entertainment Venues; the implications of such venues in the locality that they are situated and to identify potential issues that may be raised in future representations regarding applications under new legislation.

The Committee members visited a premises outside Cornwall to avoid opinions being formed about any venue that could be the subject of future applications that the Committee may have to consider. The visit took place on Tuesday 29 June 2010 at T2 (Temptations 2) in Union Street, Plymouth. 10 of the 12 Miscellaneous Committee Members attended the visit in two groups of 5 to minimise disruption to the premises and its clientele. Members of the Committee shared transport where possible; kept expenses to a minimum and carried out the fact finding mission in a strictly professional manner. Committee Members were accompanied by a Plymouth Police licensing officer, who was able to respond to questions regarding any policing issues.

The visit took place during routine operation of the premises and each group were able to ask questions of both management and performers and, accompanied by the manageress, were given complete access to view the whole the premises.

Cllr Jim Flashman, Chair of the Miscellaneous Committee said "This has been an extremely worthwhile visit. It has clarified many questions for the Committee and will enable us to make fully informed decisions in the future. Members who attended the visit appreciated the frank and open discussions with both the manageress and staff as without this honesty, we would have left the premises less well informed."

Lisa Dolley Vice Chair of the Miscellaneous Licensing Committee said "I found it particularly beneficial to be able to have a full and frank question and answer session with both the manageress and the staff. As a woman I have never had the opportunity or reason to visit such clubs and without this visit I would be completely uninformed. We have seen what appears to be an extremely well run club and we now have a model to work to with our policy and decision making."

STOP PRESS (RECEIVED JUST AT THE LAST MINUTE!)

Nothing received at the last minute!

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The Green Bean Coffee Co provide a welcoming and relaxed environment to enjoy a delicious coffee and a light bite with friends.

Every coffee taste is catered for. Espresso, Cappuccino, latte, macchiato & iced coffee's are all freshly made. For those with a sweet tooth, a range of syrups are available to add to your coffee, for that extra special taste. The Green Bean is also serving TeaPigs whole leaf tea – so now you can enjoy both the best cup of coffee and tea available in Penzance! If you fancy the ultimate in hot chocolate, grab yourself a Green Bean Ciccolatta. A dairy milk or white chocolate drink served with lashings of cream, marshmallows and chocolate sauce. Truly Yummy!

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