

# PENZANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## NEWSLETTER



Issue 56

8 Nov 2011

### Editors Comments.

This newsletter is mainly about Penzance Harbour – both the DfT agreement to fund the Options Review and the public meeting planned for Thurs 17 Nov 2011 in St John's Hall (I can hear you groan).

Those who have read last weeks Cornishman will gather that a number of people in the local community believe they know a lot more about the retail sector in Penzance than the retailers themselves. I would encourage you to write in – there is only so much myself and the Chairman can do without repeating ourselves endlessly. Nobody in the Chamber believes there are not some negative aspects to out-of-town stores like the proposed new Sainsburys but it is hard to identify a successful major retail centre in the South West that does not sport these stores and it difficult to see Penzance remaining a major retail destination without them. The large format stores that inhabit the out-of-town sites are part of the retail offer (a separate retail sub-sector) that retail centres make to their customers – they are not a substitute for the Town Centre. If shoppers go to more distant out-of-town centres then the opportunity for a linked shopping trip with Penzance Town Centre is lost.

You can send letters to the Cornishman by emailing: [Cornishman@c-dm.co.uk](mailto:Cornishman@c-dm.co.uk)

Dick Cliffe

Editor

### Penzance Harbour Options Review – DofT Funding Agreed

The Penzance Harbour Scheme Management Board learnt on 3 November that the Dept for Transport had agreed to fund the Penzance Harbour Options Review. Some ~£69,000 grant funding was approved with a substantial element for community consultation (performed by the Seafront Forum & Hyders Consulting). The Town Council had already agreed a local contribution of £10,000. Also agreed by the DfT was £257,000 of funding for the next stage (detailed design) of the IOS project for St Mary's Harbour.

**Editor's Comment.** There is no hard and fast figure for what the DfT will fund at Penzance but even with matching ERDF funding the project budget is likely to be around 50% of what was planned under the Route Partnership Scheme. Perhaps in recognition of funding constraints the message from the DfT (during a meeting with Penzance Town Council reps) and from our MP following a recent meeting with Norman Baker MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary for Transport) is that the scope of the Penzance project needs to be tightly focussed on essential transport infrastructure and not regeneration aspirations. This has caused a bit of debate because traditionally the ERDF funding component was seen as a way of broadening the scope of projects to include elements that gave important long term benefits but which were otherwise outside of the scope of Central Government funding. The implication is that the DfT see ERDF as a way of diluting the limited DfT budget so that more DfT projects can be delivered, not a separate budget for nice to have additions that Central Government will not fund.

## **Options Review – Public Meeting 17 Nov 2011 (St John Hall)**

The Penzance Harbour Options Review will be launched with a public meeting in St John's Hall on Thursday 17 Nov at 7.30 pm.

There will be presentations to explain the scope of the options review and the process that will deliver it. You will be able to ask questions of the Management Board and the Hyder Consulting.

The flyer for the 17 Nov public meeting should be attached with this newsletter.

There will be a website for the new project at; **[www.pzharbourfutures.org](http://www.pzharbourfutures.org)** (*Live from 12/11/2011*). It is intended that the Consultants Brief for the Options Review will be available on this new website

### **Editors Comment.**

I am aware that many Chamber members consider attendance at a public meeting about Penzance Harbour about as enjoyable as a visit to the dentist for root canal work. However, if the meeting is to be representative of the community we need business well represented. The Chamber will be represented on the panel (your Editor – as a members of the Management Board) and we will be seeking to move on from the wreckage of the Route Partnership Scheme. There will inevitably be off the wall questions from the floor but the event need not be characterised by such behaviour if attendance is representative of the whole community. Please make a point of attending this event and take a friend (perhaps several). We are in the 'Last Chance Saloon' for a DoT /ERDF funded project for Penzance Harbour.

## **Wherry Town Skate Park Funding Bid Successful**

Penzance has been successful in bidding for a share of the £400,000 pot of money targeted to help seaside towns in Cornwall improve their area for visitors and local people. Penzance Town Council formally made a bid with support from Cornwall Council (West Penwith Community Network) and local skate boarding groups to substantially improve the Wherry Town Skate Park, provide more facilities for younger children and landscaping.

The Government and Cornwall Council each contributed £200,000 each to the scheme. Out of the 18 bids some 12 received funding. The exact sum granted to each successful bidder has not yet been decided. For more information go to: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-15619934>

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