

Report c/o Cllr R Drayton

Ilminster Chamber of Commerce Report meeting held 09.03.16

The monthly meeting was preceded by the annual general meeting.

A committee was elected and Phillip Wyatt (Ilminster Hardware) was later re-elected as president with Clinton Bonner (Bonners butcher) as secretary.

Chamber members reported a fall in trade of around 30 per cent for some shops and businesses while the roadworks are taking place in Station Road. the Chamber said it was important they are given as early notice as possible when future roadworks are taking place to try and consult and mitigate for the disruption and damage caused.

The chamber is to canvass businesses in the town to join, getting a diversity of members involved rather than mainly traders as at present.

Disappointment was expressed over the question of a street light in the southeast of Swan Precinct where there is an unlit area and where SSDC has stated it was not a condition of planning permission for the flats development. The chamber asked the town council to pursue this matter with SSDC or the relevant authority.

Members expressed fears over the rapid growth of the town if the Shudrick Valley planning application is agreed on top of the direction of growth in the Local Plan at Canal Way.

There was concern over some motorists ignoring the road closure signs in East Street during the Victorian Evening last Christmas. Some motorists drove through the crowds in the town centre, before the road had been re-opened, while one road sign was destroyed by a vehicle driving over it. The chamber is looking into how they can arrange marshals in time for this year's event.

The First Tuesday promotion has been successfully revamped and is available on social media.