

# Truro City Council

## PRESS RELEASE



Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### *Truro's new Mayor and the Chair of Truro BID meet on a bench to discuss partnership working and challenges ahead*

With much to discuss the Mayor of Truro, Cllr Bert Biscoe, and Chair of Truro Business Improvement District, Kristian Fleming, have made a good start working together. Kristian represents Truro BID in the temporary absence of Alun Jones, the BID Manager.

Foremost in their thoughts are the challenges of gradually and carefully lifting the lockdown. Whilst resurfacing works in Boscawen Street restart, and Highways grapple with how to help pedestrians to distance, queue and have a pleasant experience in Truro, businesses are preparing to open.

Local business owner Kristian Fleming, of Inhabit gift shop, said:

‘The virus has been a critical blow for business. We must face the fact that there will be casualties, and that the knock-back on earnings will, for those who survive, reduce their ability to invest and drive things forward.

Businesses are full of praise for Cornwall Council’s handling of support grants for small businesses. Quick turnaround and flexibility has seen help provided quickly. So too, the Government’s furlough scheme has helped many.

Bert Biscoe, Mayor of Truro said:

‘It is our aim to offer a safe, accessible and friendly environment in Truro. Immediate challenges are all about managing people to help them distance, and to do their business in town efficiently and happily. We are working together to bring Truro carefully out of the lockdown – it will be a long job. It will not be ‘business as usual, but it will be business’.

Bert and Kristian discussed a range of topics including the risk to the reduction in offices in town, the impact of delay in the reopening of Hall for Cornwall and difficulties it is likely to face in seating people appropriately, and the future of public transport.

The two will be meeting regularly, along with Alun Jones when he returns to his role as BID Manager.

Kristian said:

‘Our partnership is important. We are all committed to working together to navigate the difficulties and opportunities ahead.’

Bert concluded by saying:

‘Truro is a strong community, a vibrant business centre, and a focus for culture, sport and faiths, and business is a key part of that culture. Let us hope that we can go carefully and thoughtfully forward’.



Photo: Mayor of Truro, Bert Biscoe and Chair of Truro BID, Kristian Fleming distantly meeting to discuss the careful unlock.

Editors notes:

Cllr Bert Biscoe is the newly appointed Mayor of Truro (May 2020) who is also a Cornwall Councillor for Boscawen, which includes Truro town centre.

Kristian Fleming is the owner of Inhabit gift shop on Green Street, Truro. Kristian has been on the BID committee for several years & has sat on the BID board for 4 years.

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