

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

Ashford Economic Development Group Meeting

16th July 2015 at 4.00pm
Ashford Business Point
Sevington.

Guest – Debbie Trewerne Chives Catering

New AEDG Members

Michael Koelnberger McArthur Glen
Joanne Fowler Hadlow Group

Short Note - Minutes

Many members of the AEDG were unable to attend the meeting; therefore a number of topics were discussed as follows:

- Town Centre team – recommended that Jo Wynn Carter attend the group to update on activities
- Update on Lydd Airport development and outline milestones discussed, general support for expansion remains.
- Barclays Insight Q1 Ashford data discussed, agreed this was useful information and should be covered as an item in future meetings. Link available if members wish to register.
- Skills gaps discussed and the need for a coordinated planning approach reinforced.
- Operation Stack impact discussed, everyone had felt the impact on turnover, costs, efficiency, service and felt the situation needed urgent action. Chamber survey supported.
- Jo Fowler gave an overview of issues and development in the FE sector and impact on Colleges. There area number of funding issues around ESF and JCP contracts –timing and expectations of College providers.
- Michael Kolnberger gave an overview of development and activities at McArthur Glen and examples of the impact of Stack – which had reduced growth levels at the Centre.
- Linda Marsh outlined activities at KICC, with membership growing, event numbers and management growing, and the development of the “Young Chamber” project.
- Debbie Trewerene who has moved her business base from Canterbury to Ashford, reported an greater confidence from Clients in Ashford than Canterbury driven by local expansion.
- Broadband will be the major topic at the September AEDG and Ashford Economic growth plans at the October meeting.
- Agreed that due to holidays, August meeting would be cancelled.

Terry Botfield