

Minutes of meeting held by the
East Kent Economic Development Group (EKEDG)

23/09/2015

Hosted by Discovery Park

- Ray Johnson Chair of the EKEDG introduced himself.
- Thanks was given to Kimberly Anderson from Discovery Park for hosting the meeting.
- Apologies will be said shortly.
- **Overview:** The Board covers and wishes to help Shepway, Dover and Thanet. The items that will be covered are business and community, the public sector and assisting those as much as we can.

Words from Ray Johnson:

There will be a joint economic meeting in Dartford on the 27th 10am until 12.

Introductions of attendee's

1. Andy Cruttenden from Martello building consultancy
2. Jane Hughes from East Kent College
3. Katherine Harvey Shepway Council
4. Daniel Saniuseppe Castlewood Hotels
5. Jonathan Clarke from Morgan Jones Recruitment
6. Kim Anderson from Discovery Park
7. Dan Deed Woodly Coles LLP (construction)
8. Roy Atack Ernest Roberts Health & Safety Ltd (local directory/quote system, H&S services and supply of subcontractors to development Companies).
9. Richard Lavender of Kent Invicta Chamber
10. Richard Christian Dover Harbour Board

- **Apologies**

1. Tim Waggott Dover Harbour Board
2. Lee May from Brachers
3. Paul Sayers from EKC
4. Jo James KICC

Shepway Council representative

- There are many schemes made available from Shepway Council to help businesses.
- Apprenticeship scheme funding for businesses up to £1500. There is certain criterion, but if you do not fully meet these criteria's there still may be £1000 available to you. £500 is paid upfront and the remaining monies paid 6 months later. 25 apprenticeships have been created so far this financial year.
- There is discretionary business rate relief which decreases over 3 years to help businesses stay in their premises. £250,000 was granted by KCC.
- Business support, more aimed at start-ups offers workshops and one to one advice. There are up and coming events covering subjects like marketing and growth.
- Shepway is working jointly with Ashford, Dover and Canterbury and are applying for a part of a £40,000 fund which will be used to look at putting out tenders, retail, leader programs and support local producers.

New discussion

Ray Johnson: "Shepway are very active and it is refreshing to see".

Jonathan Clarke: "Do you link with training providers?"

Shepway Council: "Yes we do, we work very closely with EKC"

Kimberley Anderson: A discussion was raised about apprenticeships and whether or not the funding of which was spoken would be available at Discovery Park. Unfortunately Discovery Park is within the Dover District although under Thanet's enterprise zone. Ray to forward details. **RAY**

New discussion

Operation stack was discussed and the Chamber is heavily involved. The Government is looking for new areas.

New discussion

Andy Cruttenden: There has been a major impact on Housing associations.

Ray Johnson: Advised to get a report from the KCFG. **RAY**

New discussion

Brought forward from the first meeting:

- Living wage increase.
- Shepway development.

Daniel Saniuseppe is concerned that this living wage increase will have a detrimental effect on all businesses including his own. Prices will have to be raised and jobs could be lost. Ray Johnson agrees with the living wage increase although appreciates it will be difficult for certain sector. He will forward details.

RAY

New discussion

Richard from the Dover Board wishes to gain support in the Dover Docks regeneration.

- The western docks are being regenerated. This will provide expansion space for cargo out of the eastern docks.
- There will be a dedicated ferry terminal.
- Traffic development project in place.
- Water front development.
- 600 new jobs created.
- UK Government approval.
- Pier closure which will be temporary.

There are 343 objections about the project as a whole. Please show your support for this development.

Ray suggested letters of support, and will follow up.

RAY/ALL

End of meeting

Next meeting 28/10/2015

Ray Johnson: Thank you all for attending