

# Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Maidstone Economic Development Group

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2015  
at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 1DB

**Present:** John Taylor (JMT, Chair), John Foster (JF), Nick Rowell (NR), Bill Lash (BL),  
Allis Beasley (AB), Mandy Bearne (MB), Colin Davies (CD), Roger Keech (RK)

1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Jacqui Brown (JB), Chris Blundell (CB), Keith Grimley (KG), Jason Lewis (JL), Dan Maudhub (DM).	
2.	<b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</b> Approved. Roger Keech, Membership Executive from Kent Invicta Chamber and Colin Davies from the Enterprise Foundation both introduced themselves to the groups in their new roles.	
3.	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b> NR asked about skills shortages. JMT confirmed that he is hoping to get Tudor Price, Business Development from Kent Invicta Chamber to come and talk to the group about this in the New Year. <b><u>Action JMT</u></b>	
4.	<b>PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT J8</b> JMT circulated email to the group and asked for observations. He has submitted these and the Chambers response will be circulated to all members shortly.  Update on Gallagher Development – site still not allocated. The promoter of sites has taken legal action against the Secretary of State as the Inspector mis-directed her on evidence given.	
5.	<b>LOCAL PLAN – HOUSING ISSUES/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b> No up-date at present. Amendments to Reg 18 – there are various changes to sites taking place. JF reported that there is no intergrated transport strategy at present, negotiating with KCC on this. Park and ride – 2 sites have been removed. Sittingbourne Road is one of these and no alternative has been brought in. The Policy itself at present states there is no alternative. Chambers view – Will maintain this going forward.	
6.	<b>TOWN CENTRE FUTURE – GABRIEL’S HILL UPGRADE</b> JF reported that the 2 reports have been finished but cannot be circulated until they until they are signed off. This will be done by Christmas. Hoping to start Phase III in the New Year.	
7.	<b>LOCAL ECONOMY UPDATE – NICK ROWELL</b> NR emailed over to everyone the Chamber Survey (copy on file) and this was discussed. JT to email everyone in Group the full Briefing Report from the Bank of England. <b><u>Action JMT</u></b>  Federation of Small Businesses plan to hold a Small Business Festival Week commencing 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2016.	
8.	<b>ARMED FORCES COVENANT</b> No up-date as group hasn’t met. Next Meeting due in December.	

9.	<b>BUSINESS INCUBATION CENTRES</b> JF reported that these were going well.	
10.	<b>KENT POLICE AND BUSINESS CRIME PARTNERSHIP</b> Conference on the 19th November at the Police Training School, Sutton Road. Hoping to hold 2016 Conference on Cyber Crime at Ashford (need confirmation from KICC Directors on this). Modern day slavery – This is a real issue for Police at the moment, taking up a lot of time.	
11.	<b>CHAMBER UPDATE</b> JF reported that changes are happening with the Town Centre Management and Town Team coming together to form a Town Centre Partnership as of April 2016 (subject to agreements). Representative on this Committee?	
12	<b>AOB</b> MB gave update on good year so far. Most of job numbers have been made up of existing companies already here investing and growing. Local survey listed Maidstone as the 10 <sup>th</sup> town most wanted to live in. CD reported that 3 new tenants moved into 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor this week. JT asked the group to think of any work streams that the Group could usefully get involved with in the coming year. Will discuss at Meeting in January. <b><u>Action All</u></b>	
	The meeting closed at 4.29 pm.	

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2016, 3pm at Maidstone Borough Council's Offices  
– Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 6JQ**