#### Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

**Maidstone Economic Development Group**

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2014

##### The Gatehouse, Archbishops Palace, Mill Street, Maidstone, ME15 6YE

**Present:** John Taylor (JMT, Chair), Mandy Bearne (MB), Colin Davies (CD), David Ing (DI)

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| 1. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Rob Edwards (RE), Jo James(JJ), John Foster (JF), Bill Lash (BL), Nick Rowell (NR), Allis Beasley (AB), Bill Moss (BM), Cllr Malcolm Greer (MG), Chris Blundell (CB), Keith Grimley (KG). Nick Baster (NB). |  |
| 2. | MINUTES OF LAST MEETING Approved. |  |
| 3. | MATTERS ARISING MG was not in attendance – Carry over Action points to next Meeting –  NR stated that he was not aware of this, MG agreed with meet with NR and RR to go through the new concept with them.  **Action MG**  RR will copy site plan and route system to all on Committee. **Action MG**  MG offered to meet with Leeds Castle to discuss access problems.  **Action MG**  MG reported that consultation on Earl Street, Week Street and Gabriels Hill are underway. Want to get these up and ready and then await funds to start.  MG to email the Group the scheme proposed. **Action MG** |  |
| 4. | PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT J8 The Council met the previous evening. JT questioned whether they are actually going to change Regulation 18 document. JT explained this document to the group. |  |
| 5. | **NEWNHAM COURT REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE**  Still waiting to hear if they have lodged an appeal. |  |
| 6. | LOCAL PLAN – HOUSING ISSUES/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Discussed. |  |
| 7. | TOWN CENTRE FUTURE – GABRIEL’S HILL UPGRADE MG was not in attendance to discuss in detail. |  |
| 8. | **LOCAL ECONOMY UPDATE – NICK ROWELL**  NR was not in attendance to discuss. |  |
| 9. | ARMED FORCES COVENANT JT reported that at a recent meeting of the Steering Group a question of skills training was discussed.  Mid-Kent College offer courses but have very little take up from the Army for these. |  |
| 10. | **BUSINESS INCUBATION CENTRES**  CD reported that both Mill House and Kent House have applied for residential permits. The Post Office is a no.  Maidstone Council do not have the money for a development at present but they do have money to put into a business support centre in the Enterprise Hub.  MB will send out the property demand figures for Maidstone to JT. **Action MB** |  |
| 11. | **CHAMBER UPDATE**  CD reported that we have been shortlisted for 2 British Chamber Awards - Chamber of the Year and Customer Service.  Two of our members – Kemet International and Reynolds Group are also up for awards.  We have at present 1217 members, in September we recruited 32 new members, and October 38 new members.  JT reported that we are one of the fastest growing Chambers in the Country – the 16th biggest and 6th fastest growing.  JT will be on the Committee for the Public Speaking Competition for schools across Kent, to be held at Invicta School.  Business Crime Partnership is looking to re-organise to make it into a Working Group. They are currently behind the development of an app (which is being developed and tested by an IT company) for businesses which will hopefully be available in April 2015. This will be free of charge and hopefully we will be able to publicise this to our members. |  |
|  | The meeting closed at 4.40pm |  |
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**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th March, 2015, 3pm**