

# Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Maidstone Economic Development Group

Minutes (brief) of Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2015  
at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 1DB

**Present:** John Taylor (JMT, Chair), John Foster (JF), Nick Rowell (NR), Allis Beasley (AB), Mandy Bearne (MB), Chris Blundell (CB), Bill Lash (BW), Roger Leech (RL)

1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> David Ing (DI).	
2.	<b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (None)</b>	
3.	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b> None.	
4.	<b>PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT J8</b>  Waterside Park - It would appear that this is a dead matter. (Update - Gallaghers have now submitted an appeal against the Inspector's decision refusing the application(s) to the High Court.) Woodcut Farm – Outline application in for different part of J8. Being processed The principle development for J8 has been reflected in the Economic Development Strategy, this has been referred up to full Council. (Update - site allocated in the latest Reg 18 document published for public consultation at beginning of October)	
5.	<b>NEWNHAM COURT REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE</b> Removed from Agenda	
6.	<b>LOCAL PLAN – HOUSING ISSUES/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b> Discussed briefly. Awaiting draft amended Reg 18 document with additional sites following Call for Sites exercise earlier this year. (Update - numerous sites included in public consultation document and some deleted)	
7.	<b>TOWN CENTRE FUTURE – GABRIELS HILL UPGRADE</b> Awaiting the full impact study and its resultant recommendations.	
8.	<b>LOCAL ECONOMY UPDATE – NICK ROWELL</b>  Next Chamber survey will be in September. JF asked if we could invite someone from KCC and Tudor Price from the Chamber to attend next meeting to discuss the skills problem. <b><u>Action JMT/JF (from earlier meeting - requires follow up)</u></b>	
9.	<b>ARMED FORCES COVENANT</b> Nothing to report. Meeting now postponed until December.	
10.	<b>BUSINESS INCUBATION CENTRES</b> Following the opening of The Business Terrace and visit by Members JF reported that there had been considerable take up of the facilities particularly the small serviced office suites. As a general comment the facilities offered appear excellent and popular with businesses already utilising the facilities.	

11.	<p><b>CHAMBER UPDATE</b></p> <p>The Chamber has undertaken a survey of Chamber Members the results of which illustrated the considerable cost to local business that Operation Stack had caused, nevertheless most local businesses understood the position and felt that this was a national issue that required a permanent national solution. The Chamber was working with KCC and all other relevant agencies to promote this point. JMT confirmed that the Business Crime Advisory Group (Kent Police Commissioner's Office) of which he is Chair were also meeting in September to consider the various Reports from Police, Immigration, Channel Tunnel, Freight Transport Bodies, Chamber.</p> <p>JT reported that Kent Invicta is one of the key thriving Chambers with a progressively growing membership.</p> <p>Airports – Heathrow back in the limelight. Chamber pleased to see Commission went with the expansion. (Update - Not now necessarily clear as to which way the Government will go with this one although it now seems that the Chancellor is keen on Heathrow)</p>	
12	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>None</p>	
	The meeting closed at 4.50 pm.	

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th November, 2015, 3pm at Maidstone Borough Council's Offices – Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 6JQ**