

**KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**MINUTES OF ASHFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

**HELD AT ASHFORD BUSINESS POINT**

**ON**  
**THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

<b>Present:</b>	Richard Lavender (Chairman) Kate North (KN) Paul Rickards (PR) Richard Lloyd (RLL)	David Maddison (DM) Graham Galpin (GG) Terry Botfield (TB) Sezen Zeki (SZ)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Christopher Calcutt (CC) Sezen Zeki (SZ) Jo James (JJ) Richard Stafford (RS)	Viv Kenny (VK) Andrew Osborne (AO) Hugh Summerfield (HS) Heather Grigson (HG)
<b>Guests</b>	Graham Harris Shepway District Council Glyn Phillips Shepway District Council	

RL Introduced Richard Lloyd from TW Services who has offered his services to the group and will be joining us for future minutes.

Also RL welcomed Graham Harris and Glyn Phillips from Shepway District Council

- 1.1 Minutes of last meeting:-  
The minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012 were passed with the following amendments  
**Para 5.2 Lines 8/9 should read:-** A Town Team Management Team is being sought with Resource Manager and Town Manager.  
Town Centre Business Forum which will possibly be integrated with Town Centre Partnership.  
**Para5.4** Paul Carter should read Philip Carter.
- 1.2 Matters Arising:-  
There were no matters arising from previous minutes
2. Actions:-  
There were no outstanding Actions
3. Chairman's Report:-  
As there had not been a Board meeting since the last AEDG there was no news from the top.  
RL said that he had passed the Lord Heseltine Report to all group members and would maybe discuss any relevant issues at the next meeting.  
As Richard Stafford and Christopher Calcutt were not available to advise regarding the Government's decision to delay the Rates Review until 2015 the implications of this will be picked up at the next meeting.
4. A presentation was given on The Romney Marsh Nuclear Research and Disposal Facility, (NRDF), by Graham Harris and Glyn Phillips from Shepway District Council.  
A very interesting presentation, that brought many questions and reactions from the group. As most businesses are aware Shepway District Council decided not to pursue further interest in the Government programme after consulting local opinion.  
Group members felt this may have been a wasted opportunity to withdraw at such an early stage without seeking what further benefits could be brought to the area.  
RL thanked both Graham and Glyn for their excellent presentation and stated that the Chamber was always here should Shepway need a sounding board for future business projects.
5. AOB  
It was decided that the December meeting should be cancelled as many businesses are very busy on the lead up to Christmas. The January meeting will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 with a normal agenda to catch up on local issues. RL will arrange a guest speaker for the February meeting.

Message from Viv Kenny

The TC Weekly breakfast meeting will now be held on first Thursday of the month, (6<sup>th</sup> December the next one), so if any of the members feel they would like to come and be a guest speaker, we would welcome a monthly topic relative to the town Centre of course

**Congratulations to Andrew Osborne and his Wife for the safe arrival of a baby son.**

Happy Christmas to everyone and all you wish for the New Year.

6. Next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 4pm at Chamber Offices.