

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Ashford Economic Development Group

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the AEDG held at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Ashford on 15th February 2024 at 8.30am.

PRESENT	NAME	POSITION
	Nettie Buss (AB)	Chair
	Maria Callow (MC)	
	Lee Collette (LC)	
	Steve Garnett (SG)	
	Tracey Kerly (TK)	Chief Executive ABC
	Richard Lavender (RL)	
	Andrew Osborne (AO)	
	Cllr Noel Ovenden (NO)	Leader of ABC
	Tudor Price (TP)	
	Tim Sheppard (TS)	
	Richard Stafford (RS)	
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM	Susan Bonett (SB) Lucy Drusene (LD) Peter Heritage (PH) Sharon Norman (SN) Jason Rainbird (JR) Dan Sherlock (DS)	

1. NOTICE AND QUORUM

The chair reported that enough notice of the meeting had been duly given and that a quorum was present. The chair declared that the meeting was open at 8.30am.

2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Minutes of the board meeting held on 18th January 2024 had already been approved. The chair had been authorised to sign them as a complete record of the relevant meeting.

3. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Welcome

AB welcomed guests Tracey Kerly (Chief Executive ABC) and Cllr Noel Ovenden (Leader of ABC).

Key issues for Ashford Borough Council

Topics of discussion were:

Nutrient Neutrality

A key priority to find a viable solution to mitigate the impact on the economy.

Homelessness

A consequence of the Nutrient Neutrality issue. Currently around 200 people are in temporary accommodation costing £1m a year. A focus on the need to bring forward affordable housing.

Continuity

Focus on infrastructure, financial stability, affordable housing and moving projects forward.

Brownfield housing development

- Park Mall
- Civic Centre
- Kent Woolgrowers
- Former B&Q site
- Swanton House, Elwick Road
- Elwick 3 (next to Travelodge)

Ashford Port Health Authority

Circa 1,000 checks a year 24/7, job creation up to 120 skilled staff.

Newtown Works

Progressing with the process of levelling up funding.

Picture House

ABC will own and operate the venue with an industry specialist.

Brompton

Progressing with the planning process.

Entry-Exit System (EES).

Post-Brexit biometric checks are due to be implemented in October 2024. ABC is working with KiCC and BCC to elevate the issues surrounding the implementation.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None reported

5. CLOSE

AB thanked everyone for their continued support.

Date of next meeting - 8.30am, 21st March 2024 at Ashford College

There was no further business and therefore the chair declared that the meeting was closed at 10.05am.

.....Chair – Nettie Buss - Date