

KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Canterbury Economic Development Group (CEDG)

Tuesday, 17th April 2012
Canterbury Innovation Centre

MINUTES

Present:

Andy Davies (AD)	Handelsbanken
Peter Hawkes (PH) (Chair)	Furley Page
Pat Mills (PM)	Clague
Paul Wood (PW)	Reeves
Jo James (JJ)	Kent Invicta Chamber
Kerry Hickmott (KH) (Secretary)	University of Kent

1) Welcome and apologies

- PH chaired the meeting in CB's absence.

Apologies were received:

Carole Barron (CB)	University of Kent
Paul Gardiner (PG)	BSF Consulting Engineers
Michael Stannard (MS)	Cardy Construction
Dawn Hudd	Canterbury City Council
Nicholas Churchill	Canterbury City Council
Martin Tanner	ADM Computing Ltd
Malcombe Pollett (MP)	

2) Minutes of previous meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were agreed without amendment.
- It was queried whether CB had any feedback following on from an action from the last meeting to contact Richard Moore over the road markings at the junction with the Police Station in the City Centre. **CB**

3) Document for note or comment: Canterbury District Transport Steering Group Minutes of meeting held on 21st March 2012

- This item was deferred as the minutes from the above meeting had not been issued.
- Post Meeting Note: Richard Moore (CCC) confirmed that no minutes were available as there was no minute taker available at this meeting.

4) Parking Regulation Review 2012

- Several changes to on-street parking restrictions in the Canterbury District are proposed and public consultation is now under way. Full details can be viewed on the Council's website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/transportation. Comments on any of the proposals should be made to transportation@canterbury.gov.uk, stating the reasons for your objection. Alternatively you can write to the Transportation Manager, Canterbury City

Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW by 9am on Thursday 3rd May 2012.

- Members felt that this mainly affected residential parking however it was agreed that members should check the proposal thoroughly and feed any comments through to CB ahead of 3rd May, so that comments can be collated and sent on behalf of this group.

All

5) EDGs- Update on Economic Development Groups (Jo James)

- JJ led a discussion regarding the make-up of Economic Development Groups throughout the County. It was noted that Canterbury is very different to other areas due to C4B.
- Feedback is currently being sought from EDG's across the County on an idea to broaden the areas and for Canterbury to merge with other EDGs to form an East Kent EDG which would cover economic areas rather than District boundaries. The East Kent EDG would include both the Ashford and Canterbury EDG's and look at issues that affect East Kent. There would also be Mid-Kent; North Kent and West Kent areas.
- The group agreed that they would favour to stay as the Canterbury Economic Development Group. However they agreed an action to try to strengthen and widen the group with more members.
- PH requested that in order to ensure the Board was representative of the whole of its territory, there should be a constitutional requirement that each EDG have at least two directors on the Board. At present Canterbury is underrepresented and another Director from Canterbury should sit on the Chamber Board in addition to CB to strengthen our voice.
- JJ agreed to send the C4B remit to this group to demonstrate what their focus is, so that we can look at how this group can work more closely with C4B and CCC.
- JJ agreed to forward an agenda and a set of minutes to this group, from the Ashford and Maidstone EDGs as a comparison to the topics they discuss.

JJ

JJ

6) Chamber Update (Jo James)

- There have been a lot of changes over the last 16 months. They have increased from 12 to 18 members of staff and the trading area has grown through the County.
- A Board Strategy Day was held in February which focused on the Structure of the Chamber. The idea of a 2 tier board was explored.
- The Chamber will continue to focus on International Trade and are in the process of planning events for the year to encourage exporters.
- The Chamber plan to focus on credited and non-accredited training and are looking at the possibility of setting up a separate Training arm to the Chamber setting up a subsidiary group with K-College. They are also exploring the Employer Ownership of Skills scheme and plan to put a bid in the September round. The idea behind this is that training can then be tailored to meet company needs. JJ to follow up with PM regarding their potential interest in this scheme.
- The Chamber will be reviewing the services they currently offer, and will make changes where services are not being used. They are looking to introduce a free associate membership to get more people involved. They are also planning a £99 service for start-up companies.
- Kent Construction Focus Group now has 91 members and is going very well, with a calander of events organised for the year with some very good speakers.
- The Chamber is working with KCC with the RGF2 East Kent Expansion project and are running clinics to assist people with their applications. However it was noted that this is now a loan rather than a grant.
- It was noted at the last meeting that a few members of the group did not receive regular updates from the Chamber and it was felt that their e-mail contacts may be out

of date. Although this may be a resourcing issue it was felt that this should be addressed. It was suggested they take on a summer student/apprentice to update their IT system. JJ responded to these comments and suggested a contact sheet is added to each membership renewal pack for companies to update. JJ informed the group that the Chamber has purposely decided not to bombard members with lots of e-mail, but to produce a weekly newsletter. JJ will e-mail this group as a poll-straw to check whether they are receive the weekly newsletter and to ensure all the contact details for their respective companies is correct.

JJ

JJ

7) Group Member Updates

- PM reported that an outline planning application had been submitted for a Church and activity centre on the Thanet Way. PM to look closer at this application and feedback further detail to the group.

PM

8) Any other business

- None

Date of next meeting: Thursday 17th May at 5.00 pm - Canterbury Innovation Centre

Abbreviations:

CCC Canterbury City Council

CIC Canterbury Innovation Centre

UoK University of Kent

C4B Canterbury for Business