

KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
EAST KENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP (EKEDG)
WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY 2018 AT 10.00AM
NIC Instruments, Gladstone Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT195NF

1. Welcome and Apologies

Members Present:

Ray Johnson - Chair

Lee May – Brachers LLP

Dan Deed –Woodley Coles

Mike Marsh - Barclays Bank

Jonathan Smith – East Kent College

Mark Minus – MHA

Jo Rossi – Locate in Kent

Steve Wisbey – NIC Instruments Ltd

Apologies:

Paul Sayers – East Kent College

Philip Clapham – Smith Wooley

Kimberley Anderson – Discovery Park

Katherine Harvey – Shepway District Council

Andrew Cruttenden – Martello Building Consultancy

Richard Christian – Port of Dover

Richard Morsley – Betteshanger Sustainable Parks

Ella Brocklebank – Jenner Construction

Daniel Sangiuseppe – Castlewood Hotels

Jonathan Clarke – Morgan Jones

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Agreed.

3. Outstanding Action

- Cyber Presentation – MM will deliver for the EKEDG as a whole or join event Friday 23rd March in Canterbury.
- GDPR LM to run for EKEDG meeting.
- LM to deliver talk on planning following the CPRE v Dover District Council case in the Supreme Court.

4. Chairman's Comments and Report

- Vattenfall Thanet Wind Farm – request to extend site for an extra 34 turbines. RJ to submit letter of support.
- RJ is the Kent Environmental Rep for the Chamber of Commerce and on KCC Strategy Group.
- Shepway District Council is changing name.
- Manston Project. TDC Local Plan not progressed. Government are renting site again for potential use if Operation Stack is implemented.

5. Update/discussion & tour/Q&A – Steve Wisbey, NIC Instruments

SW gave a presentation on the work of NIC Instruments and provided a highly interesting and informative tour of the factory.

6. Sector Update

DD updated as follows:

There is a lot of construction work ongoing and in the pipeline for Kent.

For example the London Resort development is still going to be forthcoming notwithstanding the withdrawal of Paramount from the project. We are told that development will start within the next few years.

Lower Thames Crossing – adds up to 12,000 construction workers needed

Canterbury Christchurch College has opened a new engineering college on the former prison site.

JS updated as follows:

EKC Construction Summit to consider meeting skills requirements.

Carillion – there will be some fallout for subcontractors.

LM updated as follows:

There are still a large number of Corporate and Commercial Property deals being done which is reflected in the busyness of the firm.

RJ updated as follows:

Financial Services sector buoyant.

SW updated as follows:

SW commended that as an exporter his business is busy. They have not felt benefit of weaker pound. This is perhaps due to the negative impact of a fluctuating currency, which is a problem for bidding for work.

NIC also support on engineering club for Primary School children which produces an electric car for racing.

JR updated as follows:

JR manages partnerships at LIC and work with District Councils and is attending EDG groups in the County.

Current issues include shortage of industrial and over supply of office space.

MM updated as follows:

They are busy – business is buoyant.

There are worries over Brexit from freight forwarding companies.

A current big issue is the forthcoming digitalisation of tax. Supposed to be from April 2019 but hopefully with a slightly softer enforcement regime in the early stages.

JS updated as follows:

With regard to FE/IHE Apprenticeships, it would appear that they are down 30% nationally. However, EK College construction/business admin is bucking trend by increasing by 40%.

There is still misunderstanding over what it is.

EK College in merger with Canterbury College hopefully completing soon.

MM updated as follows:

Had a good 2017. Busy in real estate property development/investment.

Introduction of open banking. Will have impact on retail banking. Can also do easy switch for business banking as well.

There are approximately 40 applications in for challenger banks.

7. Other Project updates

RJ has circulated bus route update for comment.

Manston, there was consensus that there needs to be progress with this site. Either by way of develop it as housing (and some industrial) or use as an airport.

Any other business & topics**Date of next meeting**

28/03/2018 – TBA