

KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
EAST KENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP (EKEDG)

WEDNESDAY 26th JULY 2017 AT 10.00AM

Economic Development Group Meeting

Boulogne Room, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue,
Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY

1. Welcome and Apologies

Members Present:

Ray Johnson Chair

Lee May – Brachers LLP

Karen Dean – Brachers LLP

Sarah Lane – East Kent College

Kimberley Anderson – Discovery Park

Katherine Harvey – Shepway District Council

David Crump – Folkestone harbour Development

Philip Clapham – Smith Wooley

Steve Wisbey – NIC Instruments Ltd

Andrew Cruttenden – Martello Building Consultancy

Keith Lee - Betteshanger

Apologies:

Mike Marsh – Barclays Bank

Jonathan Clarke – Morgan Jones

Mark Minus – MacIntyre Hudson

Daniel Sangiuseppe – Castlewood Hotels

Richard Morsley - Betteshanger

RJ welcomed Steve Wisbey from NIC Instruments Ltd to the group & Keith Lee who is subbing for Richard Morsley from Betteshanger. He explained that EKEDG was part of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce and there were 5 other groups each with approximately 10-15 members. Meetings were held bi-monthly and information and opportunities relating to

Shepway, Dover and Thanet were shared. Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce is accredited to the British Chamber of Commerce.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Agreed.

3. Outstanding Action

Awaiting hearing from Mike Marsh at Barclays Bank relating to cyber talks.

4. Chairman's Comments and Report

RJ reported as follows things he has attended been party to:

- Nothing major to report as been away
- Sent links to members when he had received them
- Business was good and lots happening
- One of the busiest regions in Kent
- Richard Miller new contact at KICC for new members, but just liaise with Ray if you have anyone interested
- Been liaising with the Port of Dover for a special Chamber event regarding the new developments
- Do look at the Growth Hub, may be good for members of the group or other contacts

5. Update Folkestone Harbour – David Crump

DC introduced himself to the group. He had a set of slides to run through outlining the Folkestone Sea Front development, these included:

- Masterplan
- Phase O
- Car Park
- Plots A & B
- Harbour Link
- Programme

The masterplan showed outline consent edged in red. DC had been invited by the sponsor Sir Roger DeHaan. It was felt that this would lead to the regeneration of Folkestone as a whole and good in Folkestone's triennial year.

He confirmed that:

- Every dwelling would have a sea view, they were giving beach back. There would be terraces, exclusive beach houses and it was a significant mixed use scheme.
- Plot B is where it starts. Creating extra public squares.
- Phase 1 – lot of work had happened since January to the beach and harbour link. They had modelled the land and moved shingle, improved the harbour. He spoke about ground

conditions and it is a challenge with beach construction but shingle goes along way down. A detailed soil analysis was taking place and they had been advised it was utterly stable.

- The boardwalk was being used and they had taken into account flood protection measures.
- Parking – they were working on ways to deal with it and resident parking would be underneath a garden roof.
- Plots A & B - The Leas lift was part of phase 1. He showed how elevation might look at how the town houses could be built with a staggering effect. Each house would have its own roof terrace.

AC commented about White Sands and that it had been marketed for London so became a ghost town during the week and asked if there was a risk of that happening. DC said it was a mixed product and they were trying to attract a community that was economically and socially active but could also be lifetime homes for older people being their last home.

AC asked whether there would be affordable housing and DC confirmed 8%.

DC said that the south eastern housing market was likely to be flat for 2 years but then rising 19% over the next 3 years.

PC commented that the occupancy of the residential dwellings was likely to be due to lifestyle choice. He felt that it would be good for commercial as well as residential with Folkestone being very good for travel links to London.

DC spoke about the harbour link. He said that the viaduct was listed but that the station was not. The station would be a significant part of the scheme and the restoration of it. People will be able to walk through harbour and down to the harbour arm. He envisaged in 10 years plus restaurants, shops and possibly offices and hotels.

AC confirmed that Martello were advising on architectural and planning applications.

DC said that Phase 1 would be completed by 2019/20. Housing would comprise from 1 bedroom flats to 3 bedroom houses and was 12% of the overall scheme.

KH asked whether housing would have electric connections for cars.

RJ thanked DC for presentation and looked forward to seeing it come to fruition.

6. Sector Update

Keith Lee – Bettshanger reported:

- They had had problems with the new visitor centre as it was being built on marshland but that they were back on track for opening.
- He said that it was one of the longest buildings in the UK and would have a shop and restaurant.
- They want to educate people on the history of the site.
- The site was 250 acres with a cycleway and also off roading.
- Phase 2 will be light industrial and should be starting next year.

Kimberly Anderson – Discovery Park reported:

- 3000 people now on site.
- Fit outs were underway for new labs on the site.
- 3rd floor of Innovation House was being opened up.
- Still very much education/science collaboration.
- New café in Innovation House.

Katherine Harvey – Shepway District Council reported:

- New business support contract, free face to face in Shepway.
- Start up workshops being held every two months.
- Relationship Pro Actions Group with free three hour workshops for people in Shepway every two months.
- Economic Development Newsletter will be issued soon.
- Otterpool Park continuing with a presentation on it at the next EKEDG meeting in September.
- Local Planning Authority – employment study being undertaken, what sectors can be attracted to maximise opportunities Otterpool can bring in – achieve higher salaries.
- Bigginwood Site off Caesars Way – 77 houses, 5000 sq metres of employment place they are being advised on how to take forward.

Andrew Cruttenden – Martello Building Supplies reported:

- Industry was buoyant
- High area of work in London, Surrey and Essex.

Sarah Lane – East Kent College reported:

- It's a quiet period now College wise.
- Employment/apprenticeship very busy.
- 250 enrolments for September.
- Merger with Canterbury College set for December.

KH said apprenticeship grant drop off is due to lack of students

SL said the levy was responsible. More money can be offered, Canterbury are especially so now trying to get data together.

Philip Clapham – Smith Wooley reported:

- Very busy – trying to recruit because so much work
- Interest projects working on
- Commercial rents had gone up – people wanted better quality

Lee May – Brachers reported:

- Very busy times.
- Brachers are acting for Canterbury College in the East Kent College merger.

Steve Wisbey – NIC Instruments Limited reported:

- They trade internationally so local area has no impact on them as a company.
- They had recently received a grant. He said it was obtained very easily.
- Got funding for apprenticeships. He said that he wanted staff to have A Level maths and was struggling to find a provider.
- Struggling to find commercial premises.

RJ mentioned a Kent Manufacturing Group to SW that he might be interested in joining.

Ray Johnson reported:

- Clients in London - Very buoyant and positive all round.
- Port of Dover event 18/09/2017. He would send details in due course.

7. AOB

RJ said that TDC had a new team and were in a transition period but someone from the team will be attending in future.

He had been approached by Ella Brocklebank becoming a member of the group and asked if this was ok with everyone subject to approval by Dan Deeds of Woodley Coles.

RJ confirmed that at the next meeting KH will be giving a presentation on Otterpool.

Date of next meeting

27/09/2017 – Shepway District Council