

KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
EAST KENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP (EKEDG)
WEDNESDAY 28TH MARCH 2018 AT 10.00AM
The Boardroom, 1st Floor, Innovation House, Discovery Park.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Members Present:

Ray Johnson - Chair
Dan Deed –Woodley Coles
Mike Marsh - Barclays Bank
Mark Minus – MHA
Jo Rossi – Locate in Kent
Daniel Sangiuseppe – Castlewood Hotels
Jonathan Clarke – Morgan Jones
Kimberley Anderson – Discovery Park
Graham Hammond – Shepway District Council
Karen Dean – Brachers LLP

Apologies:

Tim Ingleton – Dover District Council
Philip Clapham – Smith Wooley
Katherine Harvey – Shepway District Council
Ella Brocklebank – Jenner Construction
Steve Wisbey – NIC Instruments Ltd
Lee May – Brachers
Andrew Cruttenden – Martello Building Consultancy
Richard Morsley – Betteshanger
Tamasin Jarrett – Betteshanger
Richard Christian – Port of Dover
Jonathan Smith – East Kent College

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Agreed.

3. Outstanding Action

- RJ reported that Steve Wisbey NIC Instruments Ltd was looking for a new site and if anyone hears of anything to be in touch.
- Ray continues to liaise with Vatefnfall and will report when possible.
- LM to talk on planning

4. Chairman's Comments and Report

- Chambers is busy
- Attended Taylor Wimpey meeting in Sellindge
- Attended Network Rail meeting
- Support given for extra runway at Heathrow Airport
- Judged Companies for Chambers Awards
- Attended couple of events – business services
- Received feedback about the EKEDG – very good, speedy engagement
- Interaction with Port of Dover
- Ongoing liaison with Thanet District Council

5. Update/discussion – Graham Hammond, Shepway District Council

GH reported as follows:

East Kent Growth Framework is made up of five authorities Ashford Borough Council, Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council, Folkestone & Hythe District Council and Thanet District Council bringing investment into the area and a strategy has been put in place. Work will begin on major roads in the area with money being granted from central government. Looking at delivery of business space in the area and also working with Universities/Higher Education and looking at working/living areas.

Otterpool Park - £280m not approved. Homes England have bought 60 hectares of land adjacent to Otterpool.

Community led Local Development Programme. £2.5m European funding secured to support £5m programme. 38 applications have been received which could take 60% of the funding. These were mainly social community projects. DS is on the committee and said they were looking at companies employing or based in the Folkestone area. Some of the applications were quite wishy washy and there was a lot of Charity bidding

KA confirmed she worked with lots of charities in the area and wondered if it was worth collaborating and having a steering group to support each other.

GH mentioned Kent & Medway Charity Team and that any charity could be involved.

KA said that Bright Sparks was launching at DP tomorrow.

RJ asked whether was any scope in getting applications up to speed for small applicants and DS confirmed a workshop was being held on 19th April for this before they had their meeting to decide.

Partnerships – Folkestone & Hythe Tourism Board, a new group had been set up looking at ways to increase tourism. A new website has been created and will be linked to Visit Kent. Has Council funding for next two years and the website will hopefully be going live in May. There will be sponsorship opportunities for companies relevant to tourism. This fell to Folkestone Town Council Steering Group to work with.

Folkestone Harbour /Creative Corner – A lot of interest in enterprise. GH working on initiative.

Romney Marsh Partnership – appointed new co-ordinator. It has been formulated for reasons such as when power stations close and loss of jobs, the impact on the local community. Folkestone is planning to take 5 hectares of land.

RJ said that within Folkestone and Hythe it was nice to see things starting to come to fruition.

6. Update/discussion – Kimberley Anderson Discovery Park

KA confirmed there were now 150+ tenants on site.

The new owners of DP have been taking a look at the historic view of the site and what the previous owners had achieved but were now moving the site forward. They were talking to tenants on site to see what they require. Their aim is to put the site on the map and support local area. Educational institutions on site are to expand.

KA ran through old master plan. A new master plan has now been drawn up. Housing was now at second stage planning. They are working on developing the buildings. The site will have a retail area to include hotel, family restaurant, drive-thru restaurants and supermarket. The plan is to feed the site and bring people to the area.

The hotel and drive-thru were imminent at the site.

KA said they planned to use DP as a park and ride for The Open in 2020. This has not yet been agreed but will be free. KA also confirmed that the Turner Prize is coming to the area.

Discovery Park House is 80% occupied. They are in the process of revamping the ground floor and outside area as well. There will be new educational labs, pay as you go labs and auditorium.

Innovation House. The third floor is being fitted out.

The Gateway. 8000sq ft is to be taken by a tenant.

Building 500. 2 companies are interested in in taking space. It will have a state of the art café.

GMP Village. Images were shown of how it will look.

Vertical Farming. Heat and water would come from the site.

Residential Cluster Pods. These will be for people coming to the site on a temporary basis. Could also be used for educational purposes.

KA confirmed there were 90 apprentices on site.

MM asked whether there were sports facilities and KA confirmed that Baypoint Gym was based in Innovation House and there were negotiations with Sandwich Leisure Centre. KA also confirmed that leisure facilities will be part of the master plan.

JC asked whether enquiries to take space on site were UK or International and KA confirmed they were UK based.

RJ thanked KA for a very informative talk.

7. GDPR – Sarah Hewitt Brachers

RJ apologised to the group on behalf of Sarah who was unable to make the meeting due to work commitments. KD confirmed she would forward information on GDPR to RJ to distribute to the group.

8. Sector Update

Nothing to report

9. Other projects update

Nothing to report

10. Any other business & topics

RJ reported that TDC Economic Development Group were re-evaluating and would ask someone to come along to meetings. RJ confirmed that when Louise Askew returned from maternity leave she would be coming back to the meetings.

RJ said that he sits on an environmental group. He will share more information when he gets it.

JR reported that a new CEO was starting in April and they had a new website going live.

MM said he was trying to do a presentation with the chamber.

DS asked if anyone was attending Grow Kent which was being held in Canterbury tomorrow (business networking).

Date of next meeting

Please see agenda for updated dates:

30/05/2018 – Jenner Construction Ltd