

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

WEDNESDAY 31st MAY 2017 AT 10.00AM

Economic Development Group Meeting

The Board Room, Innovation House, Discovery Park, Sandwich Kent, CT13 9ND.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Members Present:

Ray Johnson Chair

Lee May – Brachers LLP

Karen Dean – Brachers LLP

Mark Minus – MacIntyre Hudson

Daniel Sangiuseppe – Castlewood Hotels

Sarah Lane – East Kent College

Kimberley Anderson – Discovery Park

Dan Deed – Woodley Coles

Louise Askew – Thanet District Council

Katherine Harvey – Shepway District Council

Tim Ingleton – Dover District Council

Apologies:

Richard Christian – Dover Harbour Board

Mike Marsh – Barclays Bank

Jonathan Clarke – Morgan Jones

Richard Morsley/Keith Lee – Betteshanger Sustainable Parks

Andrew Cruttenden – Martello Building Consultancy

Steve Wisbey – NIC Instruments Ltd

Philip Clapham – Smith Wooley

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Agreed.

3. Outstanding Action

RJ confirmed David Crump of Folkestone Harbour Development is to join the group and he will be presenting at the next meeting on 26th July 2017.

4. Chairman's Comments and Report

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

- New "Thinking Business" Chamber magazine is out. This features our area.
- Bettshanger – "The Beast" had been a success at the site.
- Arranging a tour for EKEDG of Bettshanger
- Canterbury Christchurch University – Centre of European Studies BREXIT. Government, Trade and the BREXIT bill.
- Talks on Radio Stations
- Linda Marsh has left the Chamber and Jo James CEO is stepping in for the moment.
- Steve Wisby of NIC Instruments would be joining the group.

5. Discovery Park Update – Kimberley Anderson

KA reported as follows:

- The new ownership is going well and the new owners are committed to funding expansion. Discovery Park House is to be developed giving more lab space to new and existing tenants.
- All industrial units on the site are occupied and they are looking to develop new ones.
- The top floor of Innovation house is going to be developed.
- The site now has over 150 tenants and they have had several new enquires. 10 companies have expanded at the site recently and 9 new tenants have come in.
- Housing on the site will be commenced in due course.
- Forging links with science community in London
- Sandwich Chamber of Commerce has been re-launched and would like to get involved with Chambers
- Project Group Sandwich
- Open Golf – looking at transportation, platform extension at Sandwich station, improve pedestrian ways.
- Canterbury Christchurch University held an event at DP showcasing students and what has been achieved, working with businesses on site. This was a great event for everyone that took part.
- Toby Hunter the new CEO of Discovery Park may attend a future EKEDG event.
- Enterprise status – they hope to get an extension but expansion will carry on regardless.
- Stonehill Park is a completely separate entity now to Discovery Park. Paul Barber is currently working with both companies through the transition period.

6. Draft East Kent Growth Framework – Katharine Harvey (SDC) Louise Askin (TDC) Tim Ingleton (DDC)

An in-depth talk was given on the East Kent Growth Framework. Slides from the talk will be distributed to members.

7. Sector Update

Sarah Lane – East Kent College reported:

- Apprenticeship Levy – The trend has been for upskill existing staff rather than taking on new ones as businesses get used to the new regime.
- The college is offering Digital Skills Training – larger employers
- Delivered to over 2000 learners

Daniel Sangiuseppe – Castlewood Hotels reported:

- Summer Season – hopefully had turned a corner with local businesses looking forward.
- Parking issues in the Shepway area – Folkestone regeneration.

Ray Johnson reported:

- Clients generally feeling upbeat. Businesses doing well. A couple of contractors had doubled their business over the last year.

Dan Deed – Woodley Coles reported:

- Delivery of plans – frustration with problems getting planning.
- Consultancy very cut throat.

Tim Ingleton – Dover District Council reported:

- Planning process – local plan they had two weeks into June to get proposition very busy.

Katharine Harvey – Shepway District Council reported as follows:

- Reviewing growth option
- Regulation consultation draft.
- Otterpool - ongoing
- European funding proving to be difficult look for approval September time.

Louise Askew – Thanet District Council reported:

- They have just closed consultation for local plan.
- Grown their team – different members of the team to attend future EKEDG meetings.
- Dreamland re-opened 26/05/2017 with 20,000 people going into the park each day over the Bank Holiday weekend.

8. AOB

RJ confirmed David Crump from Folkestone Harbour Development would be speaking at next meeting on 26/07/2017, at Shepway District Council Boulogne Room. The meeting 27/09/2017 would also be held at Shepway District Council, Chamber Room and would talk about Otterpool. Meeting 29/11/2017 would be at Lydd Airport and include a tour. Ray also confirmed on 31st January 2018 our new member Steve Wisbey will be hosting us at his site in Folkestone – NIC Instruments, which will also be followed by a tour.

Ray mentioned that he's put quite a lot of input to organising tours and speakers, and this was appreciated and agreed to carry on in the same vein.

The Chairman thanked Kimberley once again for hosting us.

Date of next meeting

26/07/2017 – Shepway District Council, Boulogne Room.