

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

**WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 – 10.00am**

**Lydd Airport, Romney Marsh TN29 9QL**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

**Members Present:**

Ray Johnson - Chair

Lee May – Brachers LLP

Ella Brocklebank – Jenner Construction

Daniel Sangiuseppe – Castlewood Hotels

Dan Deed –Woodley Coles

Mike Marsh - Barclays Bank

Jonathan Clarke – Morgan Jones

**Also Present:**

Hani Mutlaq – Executive Manager Lydd Airport

**Apologies:**

Paul Sayers – East Kent College

Mark Minus – MHA

Philip Clapham – Smith Wooley

Steve Wisbey – NIC Instruments Ltd

Kimberley Anderson – Discovery Park

Katherine Harvey – Shepway District Council

Andrew Cruttenden – Martello Building Consultancy

Richard Christian – Port of Dover

Richard Morsley – Betteshanger Sustainable Parks

Karen Dean - Brachers

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Agreed.

## **3. Outstanding Action**

Ray mentioned to Mike of Barclays that there was talk of a cyber presentation, if details could be sent on that would be appreciated.

Likewise, Lee in a previous meeting had mentioned a presentation on GDPR and ray suggested it would be good to share if possible for the future any other forward dates.

## **4. Chairman's Comments and Report**

RJ reported that he had appeared on Radio Kent and Academy FM.

Things appear to remain upbeat although Brexit has been commonly thought of.

Lots still going on within our area, which is positive.

Keith Lee has a new position within Betteshanger Sustainable Parks, and in future Tamasin Jarrett has since been appointed and will come along with perhaps Richard in the future.

## **5. Update/discussion/Q&A – Hani Mutlaq, Lydd Airport**

RJ introduced Hani Mutlaq and thanked him for his hospitality in hosting the meeting today. HM was asked to give a summary of what is happening at the Airport and their plans for the future.

- HM explained that he Executive Manager of Airport since 2003
- The main focus of the business is on the Corporate Jet market. This is a growth area and can provide good returns per flight.
- The bulk passenger market is not so attractive as the big airlines generally do not pay well. They work on the theory that the airport is expected to earn a significant part of its revenue from the passengers. Although ultimately this may be viable.
- The Airport owners are currently in the process of extending the runway from 1500m to 2000m. This will make it capable of taking all forms of corporate jets and some passenger planes. This will result in a £15m investment and the owners are keen to use local suppliers to deliver the project where possible.
- They have gone through 10 years of legal battles to get planning permission including defending High Court challenges. Planning permission has now been secured and they have unlimited time to get development underway. In order to do so they need to buy in 2 x pieces of land have had to do this under compulsory purchase order.

- There are plans to develop a new terminal building to serve increased demand and upgrade facilities. The current planning permission allows for ½ million passengers per annum.
- The Airport has recently secured the contract to host Search and Rescue services. The facilities are currently under construction and the service will be opening in May 2018.
- There is great demand for hangers space and the existing hangers are full. They can build new ones under permitted development rights.
- The owners also own the neighbouring golf course and have planning permission for a hotel.

HM then took the group on a tour of the airport.

## **6. Sector Update**

DS updated as follows:

DS is part of the Shepway Tourism Business Advisory Board. Shepway District Council has not had an official tourism department since 2004. “Discover Folkestone” took it over for a time. Council commissioned a destination marketing plan.

The Board is a collaboration with the Council and local businesses. They are in the process of developing a website to run for at least the next three years. It will be produced by Visit Kent and hosted by Folkestone Town Council.

## **7. AOB**

RJ asking for any comments/topics/issues for discussion

RJ reminded members of the Kent Invicta Chamber Christmas networking lunch to take place at Lympne Castle on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Date of next meeting**

31/01/2019 – NIC Instruments with tour