



**MEETING
DATES**

2005

(Second Monday)

12 Sept

10 October

14 November

12 December

2006

9 January

13 February

13 March

REVIEW

**August
2005**

Review of Chamber Meeting + News Update

HARROGATE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

- Harrogate's place in Leeds City Region – both need to work together
- Harrogate scores very well according to Local Futures Group
- Weakest factor is Transport and Communication – surprise, surprise!
- Re-structuring of Departments saves Council £300,000 per annum
- Planning Development Brief for Bus/Rail Interchange published

COUNTY COUNCIL DEVELOPMENTS

- NYCC Executive Group agree to meet the Chamber Management Group
- Transport, Traffic, Roads & Environment are the main topics for discussion
- NYCC Waste Disposal Strategy out for Chamber Members' Consultation
- Small Business Rate Relief – don't be conned by cold-calling Surveyors

CHAMBER MEMBERS' NEWS

- Business Safari No 5 voted a great success – with a record attendance
- NEW Chamber Dinner Parties begin this month – book direct with venue
- Membership Directories updated with many new members included
- St Michaels' Hospice "It's a Knockout" + Bazaar in the Barn – 3rd September
- Hornbeam Park Developments are giving away two bicycles every week

Next Meeting – 12th September 2005

Monday 12th September – White Hart Hotel, Cold Bath Road

"The Trials & Tribulations of Employing People"

Technical Update by Jane Worrell, ACAS Senior Adviser

Monday 10th October – Cedar Court Hotel, Park Parade, York Place

Focus Group "Brainstorming"

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| • <i>Business Development</i> | • <i>Town Centre Improvements</i> |
| • <i>Promoting Harrogate</i> | • <i>Traffic & Transport Issues</i> |

Help to formulate the future policy of Harrogate Chamber by participating in one of the four Focus Groups to exchange ideas. The results will be included in an Action Plan for each Focus Group

– Your Chamber needs YOUR INPUT!!

PROMOTING HARROGATE BUSINESS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Harrogate Business Breakfast

The President, Brian Haines, gave a brief overview of the Harrogate Business Breakfast on 28th June at Pavilions of Harrogate, entitled "Understanding Harrogate's Place in Leeds City Region." This included presentations from the Local Futures Group (Henley) and the Chief Executive of Leeds City Council.

The essence of these two presentations was that Harrogate is a mid-size economy, but still growing, and above national average. The speaker indicated that London has a "stranglehold" and has a major part to play in the UK economy and it is important that cities like Leeds and their outlying regions work together to utilise their regional capability.

To indicate how well a particular region is performing the Local Futures Group measure a number of key factors, where A is the best score and E is the lowest. The scores for Harrogate District are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| • Economic performance | C |
| • Industrial structure | B |
| • Business & enterprise | C |
| • Education & Skills | A |
| • Labour market | A |
| • Occupational profile | B |
| • Prosperity | B |
| • Deprivation [lack of] | A |
| • Health | B |
| • Crime | B |
| • Commercial & Industrial properties | A |
| • Housing [affordability] | D |
| • Transport & communication | E |
| • Natural environment | A |

This shows real evidence of local innovation, entrepreneurs, skilled and flexible workforce – socially inclusive.

One key priority in Leeds City Region's development was additional rolling stock for the Leeds-Harrogate-York Rail line, a Harrogate Interchange and METRO cross-ticketing for bus/rail fare pricing structures.

Joint Chambers Meeting 21 July

The President attended the quarterly Joint Chambers Meeting between the Council and Harrogate, Ripon, Knaresborough and Boroughbridge Chambers in July. He observed that Harrogate Borough Council saw this as a useful opportunity to get points across to the business community and in return receive feedback.

It highlighted the need for a real focus on rural issues, which has a lesser effect on Harrogate businesses.

Brian had asked what savings are expected following the restructuring of Harrogate Council and was told that after re-investment it should be around £300,000 per annum for 2005/6/7.

A warning was given that should the Royal Hall renovations be 10% over budget, that could amount to

an excess of £800,000. Therefore, the project will have to be tightly managed to avoid this.

Brian expressed a personal view that the impending Council Tax revaluation in 2007 would probably see everyone going up at least one band and possibly two.

SAFARI 5 SUCCESS!

The fifth Harrogate Chamber Business Networking Safari on Monday, 8th August was a resounding success, with a record number of 54 members attending to take part.

Fiona Gilbert of Prestige Relocation said, *"I found it an excellent format for meeting a large number of members in such a very short space of time. I also felt that it was a perfect means of sharing information, suggestions and advice. I would sincerely recommend it to all those members who didn't attend. I also feel confident that when I attend the next Chamber of Trade meeting that I will now know a great many of the attendees in the room!"*

Our grateful thanks are conveyed to **Pavilions of Harrogate** for hosting the event and providing a sumptuous buffet for members to enjoy before the Safari and again afterwards!

HARROGATE DISTRICT NEWS

Major Planning Developments

Chief Executive, Brian Dunsby, reminded members that Harrogate Chamber, as the main voice for business in Harrogate, is extensively consulted by Harrogate Council on important developments.

In particular the plans for the development of the Great Yorkshire Showground area were available for all members to view. These plans have been given the Chamber's support in principle, being an important economic driver for the town.

The Chamber is also supporting the final Development Brief for the proposed Bus/Rail Interchange on Station Parade. These were available for members to peruse during the evening. This Development Brief appears to have taken on board all the earlier suggestions made by Harrogate Chamber on the first draft.

Also available for members to see was the latest 'Planning Control' from the Council, who are concerned about the trend for property owners in stone-built parts of Harrogate to paint the facades of their building. The Council say that *"It is felt that the attractive character of Harrogate depends on the homogeneity of its stone buildings and that this is adversely affected by individual owners deciding to paint them. It erodes the overall character of the town, which makes Harrogate an attractive place to live and to work. ... The Council proposes to use its powers to control the painting of the facades of buildings within the area shown on the plan."* Anybody with property in the town may be interested in having sight of these.

New NYCC Executive Member for Environmental Services

County Councillor Claire Wood, has taken over from County Councillor John Fort as North Yorkshire County Council's new Executive Member for Environmental Services. This includes responsibility for Transport, Traffic, Roads and Waste Disposal. We are pleased that she has agreed to meet Harrogate Chamber Management Group for an "off the record" discussion in November.

If you have any business issues you wish to raise with NYCC, please send them to the Secretariat.

North Yorkshire County Council has sent the Chamber their new Waste Disposal Strategy Consultation Document "*Our Waste Management Plans*". Anybody who is concerned about the inadequacy of the Tip on Wetherby Road, please send in your views to the Secretariat so we can include them in our response.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

New Membership Directory

Enclosed with this REVIEW is the latest Harrogate Chamber Membership Directory in two formats – Alphabetical by company and by Business Sector.

Please note that these are NOT to be used for any bulk sales campaigns by telephone, fax or e-mail.

These lists include 8 new members who joined recently. Their full details will be published next month.

Chamber Dinner Parties

Remember to book for your Chamber Dinner Parties which run from August to October as follows:

Courtyard Restaurant	23rd August
White Hart Hotel	29th August
Nidd Hall Hotel	16th September
Ascot House Hotel	28th September
White Hart Hotel	22nd October

Bookings should be made direct with each venue.

Also Pavilions of Harrogate have made a special offer for Chamber Members who book for the **Christmas Party night on 16th December** – for bookings received by 31st October.

We hope you will support this initiative in order for this to continue in 2006. Not only are you supporting a fellow Chamber member by dining at their establishment, but you can also make new business contacts and friends in the process!

Platinum Print Great North Run

Two of the Platinum Print Team, Jane and Marina, are training hard to take part in the Great North Run on 18th September 2005. They are looking for sponsors to support their efforts with all proceeds going to Martin House Hospice.

If you would like to support this good cause, contact **David Wyvil**: sales@platinumrint.com Tel: 881158

'Hornbeam is Green'

Hornbeam Park Developments Ltd in conjunction with the Little Red Bus Company, are running a prize draw every Monday until the end of September for **two free bicycles and helmets**. Anyone who receives a receipt for buying anything on Hornbeam Park in the week leading up to the draw is eligible.

Simply enter the receipt with your name and address written on, into the prize draw box in the foyer outside DriveStyle Convertibles and Brio's in the Lenz Building on Hornbeam Park. The winners are announced on Stray FM and in the Harrogate Advertiser each week.

MEMBERS' FORUM

It's a Hospice Knockout!

Saint Michael's Hospice and Martin House are teaming together in organising this event, to take place on **SATURDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER at the Great Yorkshire Showground**. A professional events company will supervise 24 teams as they battle it out in a series of wet and wild games. As they are hoping to attract hundreds of spectators, there will be an array of refreshment stands plus various side attractions for people of all ages.

In addition **they are seeking traders and stalls for a "Bazaar in the Barn"** which will be placed under cover in the "sheep barns" on the showground.

If you are interested in securing a pitch or taking part in any way please telephone **Saint Michaels Hospice Fundraising on 01423 878192** for details.

SCAM WARNINGS

Still Phishing

We would like to remind members about a long-running 'phishing' scam which consists of an official looking e-mail, complete with logo from banks or building societies, asking you to click on a link to confirm your bank details. **DO NOT CLICK** – this a scam to obtain your personal details and then drain your account!

Small Business Rate Relief scam

A new more devious scam relates to an article in last month's REVIEW about the Small Business Rate Relief. We have received a warning from North Yorkshire Trading Standards (NYTS) that companies are cold calling businesses offering their services to obtain large rebates of up to 40%. This comes at a fixed fee plus a 20% cut of any savings obtained. NYTS warn that these claims are dubious and it is unlikely that this level of savings can be made.

If you wish to make a claim you can do so direct to your District Council using a one page form at no cost whatsoever!

BUSINESS BRIEFINGS

Oil Storage regulations in September

Businesses and other organisations which store more than 200 litres of oil above ground are the target of tough new regulations due to come into force on 1 September. The new laws are expected to affect offices, warehouses, banks and any business that stores oil for reasons such as oil-fired central heating.

More information at:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/1133135

Small Businesses fall behind in BACS

The Bankers Automated Clearing Service (BACS) is warning that thousands of small firms risk problems in the new year if they fail to meet a December deadline for switching to an online version of the BACS payroll system, which allows them to pay salaries direct into bank accounts. The BACS clearing house is switching over to an online system – Bacstel-IP – from 1 January 2006. However, around 35% of small firms have not yet started to prepare for changeover, and risk having to pay staff late by cash or cheque if they miss the deadline.

More information at:

<http://www.bacs.co.uk/bpsl/bacstelip>

Are you prepared??

Large businesses in London are being issued with guidance on practical measures to combat the increased risk of terrorist attack in the capital. The tips include searching staff bags and making sure public areas are kept tidy and well lit. However, recent research suggests that around 50% of firms have not even basic contingency plans in place for coping with a terrorist attack, with small businesses among the worst offenders.

See a 48 page security guide for businesses at:

www.london-first.co.uk/publications/bb_2945.pdf

BT tells mis-sellers to cut it out

Mis-sold business services – particularly telephone services – are a growing menace to small businesses, according to BT. The telecoms giant has urged the small minority of businesses that use sharp practice while selling over the telephone, to stop, citing a survey in which 82% of small firms admitted that mis-selling was a growing problem for their businesses.

BT has launched a new guide explaining the problem of mis-selling and offering advice for small businesses that have been a victim of it. The guide is online at:

www.bt.com/b4b/b4b_campaign.jsp?EditorialName=mis-selling_hub&UserSegment=SME&UserSegment=SME

FSA unveils plan to cut red tape

The regulations affecting finance professionals on money laundering, criminal record checks and mandatory training are all to be simplified under plans to cut red tape by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The FSA has announced it intends to amend important sections of its handbook where the requirements are considered more restrictive than necessary and place unjustifiable costs or burdens on financial businesses.

The FSA has published a summary of the proposed changes at:

www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2005/079.shtml

Helpline for baffled licensees

A new information service has been launched to help traders understand the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003. The helpline and e-mail service will help businesses apply for licences and give information about deadlines and key contact details for local authorities. It has been set up by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS). Licensees that do not apply to transfer their existing licence by 6 August will have to apply for an entirely new one.

The number to call is 020 7072 7447, or e-mail licensing@lga.gov.uk More information is at:

www.lga.gov.uk/PressRelease.asp?lsection=344&id=SX83F3-A7831776&ccat=344

New Venture Capital Scheme

Businesses seeking venture capital funding may be interested in a new scheme announced by the Department of Trade & Industry, under which the Government will match venture capital funding pound for pound. Called the Enterprise Capital Fund, the new scheme aims to boost innovation, jobs and growth by bridging the equity gap that hinders many small businesses from expanding.

Government press release with more details at:

www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/detail.asp?ReleaseID=163678&NewsAreaID=2

Guidance on work in confined spaces

The Health & Safety Executive has revised its leaflet on safe work in confined spaces. The leaflet is aimed at self-employed people and business owners carrying out such work and explains how to comply with the Confined Spaces Regulations 1997.

The leaflet can be accessed at:

www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg258.pdf

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Printed by Enid Taylor Ltd, Harrogate Tel: 01423 567764 Fax: 01423 567765 E-mail: info@enidtaylor.co.uk