



**MEETING
DATES**

2005

(Second
Monday)

14 November

12 December

2006

9 January

13 February

13 March

10 April

8 May
Business
Market

12 June

REVIEW

**October
2005**

Review of Chamber Meeting + News Update

CHAMBER SUPPORTS BUSINESS AWARDS

- Ackrill launches new Business Awards to recognise successful local Companies
- Chamber welcomes the Ackrill's initiative in devising this Awards Programme
- Chamber is sponsoring the Best Small Company of the Year Category
- All members are urged to nominate successful Companies and Entrepreneurs

HARROGATE DISTRICT PLAN

- Harrogate District Council's Planning Policy Manager explains the objectives
- Key decisions need to be taken on the location of future development areas
- Is Harrogate to be the focus of growth or should it be spread into rural areas?
- Is the Transport infrastructure adequate to cater for the proposed growth?
- The Council needs the opinions of all local businesses on this consultation.

CHAMBER FOCUS GROUP REPORTS

- The September meeting sub-divided into Focus Groups on the four key topics:
- Promoting Harrogate – new Forum; Town Centre identity; general marketing.
- Town Centre Improvements – helping visitors; parking; street cleaning; etc.
- Traffic & Transport – short, medium and long-term action on roads, rail, bus, air.
- Chamber Developments – brainstorming around future activities and benefits

CHAMBER MEETINGS PLANNER 2006

- Complete programme of new topics and some new venues on the back cover
- Harrogate's 2nd Business Market will be on Monday 8th May 2006 at the Pavilions

Next Meeting – 14th November 2005

Monday 14th November – Old Swan Hotel, Swan Road

Transforming the College - educating to meet the needs of business

By Julie Hudson, Principal, Harrogate College

Monday 12th December – The Harrogate Club, Victoria Avenue

Business Networking Safari + Christmas Buffet

Members and invited guests only

PROMOTING HARROGATE BUSINESS

Harrogate Chamber of Trade & Commerce, PO Box 8, Harrogate, HG2 8XB

Tel: 01423 879208 Fax: 01423 870025 E-mail: info@harrogatechamber.org Website: harrogatechamber.org

PLANNING FOR HARROGATE

Dave Sykes, Planning Policy Manager at Harrogate Borough Council told members about the consultation document putting forward alternatives for future housing and economic growth of the District up to 2021. Last month's REVIEW carried an insert from the Council entitled "Plan Your Future" giving dates of the various workshops in which the public could take part.

The Council are now looking towards 2021 regarding what needs to be protected in the environment; what needs to be promoted in development, economic needs and housing, also what can be done better in terms of equal opportunities and social inclusion.

We distributed copies of the Consultation Newspaper for members at the meeting. This is intended to be a simplified document explaining future options for Harrogate. **Copies of the Consultation Newspaper are available from the Chamber Secretariat on request for members unable to attend the meeting.** It contains a comprehensive questionnaire that is easy to complete and return to the Council – by 11/11/05.

Dave explained that the document shows alternative locations for housing growth that needs to be decided in terms of the district settlements and the countryside. It also had some controversial options to extend urban areas of Harrogate and Knaresborough and proposals for an extension of Ripon.

One of the key priorities is building homes for local people at affordable prices; various ways this can be done are explored in the Consultation Newspaper.

With respect to Jobs and Businesses, proposals from consultants identified that Harrogate needs some increased retailing space to maintain its role as a sub-regional centre. The possibilities of two areas just outside the present town centre have been identified.

Chamber President, Brian Haines, commended Dave Sykes and his team on the production of such an easily digested document, which will spread confidence amongst residents that feedback will be listened to as far as possible.

Brian Dunsby said in the light of Chamber Officers' past experience with various Harrogate Borough Council committees, it had become a recurring concern that the value and importance of local business was not adequately recognised by these consultation processes. Some committees and surveys attract a disproportionate response from minority groups promoting their own particular interest and benefiting from funding that is provided by local businesses who are paying all the Wages, Council Tax, Income Tax, Corporation Tax and VAT, etc.

Brian asked Dave to recognise the importance of the business contribution; otherwise it will be outweighed by other special interest groups who do not understand the economic balance that the town needs to thrive.

Dave Sykes replied that if business felt that its voice was not being heard or was not given the opportunity

before, he hoped that now things were improving as far as having their views heard on the future options. Brian said to that extent the Council's initiative was applauded, but he wanted to reiterate that the local business voice was still not 'loud' enough. All our members should complete the consultation response.

Gillian Martin of Paperworks referred to the proposed increase of jobs and business at St James Retail Park in Knaresborough and pointed out that there is a lack of public transport to the site. As the Council are looking to reduce greenhouse gases and be environment friendly, then retail sites with massive car parks are not required. We require an improvement to the infrastructure of public transport. Gillian pointed out the marked difference between transport to St James Retail Park and what has been achieved with the public transport services to Hornbeam Park.

Dave Sykes said discussions were taking place with the Highways Department over routes that could be improved. As far as new sites are concerned there are rigorous tests to show how accessible the sites are to existing transport and how likely they are to be served by new public transport.

Granville Simpson of The Rocking Horse, said we are very fortunate in Harrogate that we have good food and fashion retailing in the centre of town, but a lot needs to be done to get the town centre right before looking to increase out of town retail developments.

Peter Jesper of The Jespers Office, agreed and said he would appreciate Harrogate Borough Council concentrating more on town centre issues and making it a vibrant and attractive shopping centre, otherwise the heart will be cut out of Harrogate.

Brian Dunsby expressed concern at the drive for affordable housing that is resulting in commercial property being converted for residential purposes. He said that Harrogate will never be able to produce enough affordable housing for the employees that work here. Harrogate will have to be a net importer of staff – that is why traffic and transport need more investment. It is necessary for the County Council to invest in buses and trains as well as roads.

Brian Haines said he believed Harrogate Borough Council now appeared to have an impetus in putting things right. Including affordable housing in the future plan is key, with traffic and transport close behind. Brian also said improvements in consultation with local business were being made by re-structuring the Economic Development Forum. The last meeting he attended had a much higher business representation.

Dave Sykes ended by emphasising that the Council needs to receive as much feedback as possible to the consultation to ensure all viewpoints can be taken into consideration. Please look at the Planning Web site: www.harrogate.gov.uk/localdevelopmentframework

Copies of the Consultation Newspaper are also available from the Chamber Secretariat on request for members unable to attend the last meeting. All responses are needed by 11th November 2005.

HARROGATE DISTRICT NEWS

New Business Awards 2005

Ackrill Media Group has just launched a Business Awards scheme to mark the achievements of the many very successful companies in the Harrogate District.

Harrogate Chamber of Trade & Commerce is sponsoring the "Best Small Company of the Year" Category and they will also be promoting the Awards to the local business community. Chief Executive Brian Dunsby said *"the Chamber warmly welcomed Ackrill's initiative in devising the Awards Programme to recognise many successful companies in this area"*.

As the main voice of business in Harrogate, the Chamber now has a membership of over 200 local businesses and it focuses on promoting Harrogate businesses to other businesses in the area. Brian added *"the Chamber is particularly keen to support the Awards Scheme because it covers the whole of the Harrogate District, together with the adjoining business centres in Wetherby and Tadcaster served by the Ackrill Media Group Newspapers. The Chamber's 2nd Harrogate Business Market in May 2006 will serve the same area."*

Our President Brian Haines added *"it is good news that this is going forward and I strongly support this initiative and also wish to build even closer ties with Ackrill's including regular coverage and newsworthy articles featured in the Business Pages/On Location"*.

See www.harrogatetoday.co.uk or Tel: 01423 707504

LibDem Constituency Dinner

Members of Harrogate Chamber of Trade & Commerce are invited to attend the LibDem Constituency Dinner to be held on Friday, 4th November at the Swallow St George Hotel at 7pm for 7.30pm.

The Guest Speaker is Vince Cable, LibDem Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer; formerly Chief Economist for Shell.

Tickets are £22.50 each. If you would like to attend, please contact the Constituency Office on Harrogate 528888 before Wednesday, 2nd November.

A Business Briefing will be held beforehand at 6pm, with Vince Cable speaking for 15-20 minutes followed by questions for 30 minutes. All Members welcome.

Having problems with Royal Mail?

We have recently received a complaint from a member that they are again having problems with their postal services deteriorating.

If you are experiencing any problems with mail not getting through on time or deliveries not being received, please let us know. We can pass this on to Royal Mail. And also advise Postwatch who will then check that Royal Mail respond to the complaint.

Royal Mail Postage Changes

On 21st August 2006 the way postage is priced will change. Instead of it being by weight it will primarily be based on size. This will make it cheaper to send a medium-sized C5 envelope than a large C4 envelope of similar weight. Full details are available at: www.royalmail.com/pricinginproportion

Town Centre Parking Charge Increase

There has been a lot of coverage in the local press recently about the increase in parking charges in Harrogate town centre and the Jubilee car park.

In answer to criticism of the increases, Councillor Julian Sturdy was reported in the Harrogate Advertiser as saying, *"This is a balanced review of car parking charges, with some charges actually going down, a few will be going up but the majority are staying unchanged."*

Brian Dunsby asked the Town Centre group to consider this and whether the Chamber should make any official comment on how this could affect town centre business.

Granville Simpson said it appeared these new charges were approved without the public being given time to comment on the proposals, which had taken many members of the public by surprise. In particular where 3 hour parking areas have been reduced to 2 hour waiting with just a change to the small notices in the area, that many regular visitors would not give a second glance. Granville felt this creates a bad feeling for regular visitors to the town centre.

Brian drew attention to a website that members may find useful, as publicised by Which? Magazine – www.parking-appeals.gov.uk – which explains how to challenge your local Council if you feel you have unjustly been given a parking ticket!

Police Re-structuring

The North Yorkshire Police Authority is seeking public opinion on the proposals for re-structuring of policing. For example, they are suggesting Yorkshire is merged with Humberside, which would make a larger region. Anyone with experience and views on how the Police service operates should visit these websites: www.nypa.org.uk or www.northyorkshire.police.uk

North Yorkshire Waste Disposal

The whole issue of Waste Disposal in North Yorkshire is up for consultation. Brian Dunsby recently spoke at the Area Committee Meeting from the small business point of view, who are penalised for taking in waste that could be recycled, whereas residents are encouraged to take in waste for free. Small businesses need a proper business waste disposal service and waste should be recycled, not just tipped.

Anyone with personal experience or evidence of waste disposal problems or suggestions for better recycling, please contact the Secretariat so it can be included in the Chamber's response to NYCC.

FOCUS GROUPS

Chamber Development

Focus Group Aims: To ensure that members receive best value; react to and influence effectively economic or political issues and proactively manage the ability to grow membership and increase members' participation. To be seen as the No.1 Voice for business in Harrogate.

The following are the bullet points from the discussions and brainstorming on the Chamber Development table:

- Chamber to be No. 1 voice for Business
- Pricing is right – good value
- Good newsletter
- Different objectives to the BNI, different organisation
- More encouragement to e-mail Secretariat and interaction with focus groups, for people who can't make meetings.
- Regular slot in the Business page of the Advertiser promoting meetings to get people to join.
- Need to know outcome of focus groups
- Regular meetings with Council and EDF
- Current and prospective MP's have spoken
- Funding is available for marketing/promotion
- Safari nights work well
- Much more diverse range of people now
- Survey members again
- Focus Group feedback
- Closer ties with other business forums, IOD, etc
- Reciprocal mailings?
- Coalition of Chambers (West Yorkshire?)
- Remind people of informal forum of other chambers
- Good admin team
- Need to let people in other chambers know they are welcome to meetings
- Website – needs to be more promoted
- More proactive
- E-mail updates, scans sent to businesses
- Gives a taster for non-members which might encourage them to join
- Full package/Half package
- Meet new customers/stay in touch
- Discounted group mailings
- Business Market very popular and effective
- Regular networking meetings
- Meeting local suppliers
- A-Z Businesses
- Online Directory
- Developing awareness of your business
- Raise lobbying strength
- Take active role in Harrogate

- Complimentary businesses – partnerships
- Best practice sharing
- Legislation updates
- Social events
- Discount card/Privilege card?
- Pros: Incentive to join
- Cons: Might put people off
- Hotel & Restaurant initiative
- Incentives for businesses in first year
- Mentoring through Banks
- Banks to recommend Chamber to start-ups
- Ask guest speakers for article to advertise talks
- Editorial into 'On Location'

The above bullet points will now be classified and prioritised for action. Any comments please to the Focus Group Leader: Brian Haines (Tel: H.709092)

Promoting Harrogate

Focus Group Aims: To help HIC promote Harrogate and thereby attract more business and leisure visitors, particularly in the quiet periods between major events.

New Forum for promoting Harrogate.

Established by Martin Wilks (Restaurateur and V.P Harrogate Chamber) and Hayley Gray (Tourism Promotion Manager, Harrogate International Centre) it held its inaugural meeting in September, attended by 12 representatives from a cross section of the District's tourism related businesses and organisations.

All those who attended felt there was great value to such a forum and hoped that its membership could be broadened further.

- Coordination is key.
- Good to have all providers talking together but must not become just a talking shop.
- Forum must be seen to be having effect.
- Enthusiasm for idea of having "ambassadors" for Harrogate amongst front line staff in hotels / shops and other venues
- Focus of action should be on leisure rather than business tourists.

Town centre identity

Jo Olnier gave the group some information about the problem of town centres becoming clones. See www.keplouisvilleweird.com www.neweconomics.org/gen .

Granville Simpson in particular has put a lot of effort into identifying how the town centre could be improved.

- Very important that Harrogate maintains what is left of it's individuality
- It would be nice to see some of the Town Centre Focus Groups suggestions being taken up.
- Enthusiasm for street markets / festivals as means to attract tourists (and locals) into town.
- Is there a greater role for The Stray? (Sensitive?)

General Marketing

- All responsible organisations need to blow Harrogate's trumpet more
- Awards / accolades need to be publicised widely and often (Awards in the last week for HIC, Harrogate & Ripon TIC's, RHS Harlow Carr, Pavilions of Harrogate, General Tarleton, Gallon House, Boar's Head Ripley, Ripley Castle.)
- Europe in Bloom award signs at entrance to town were slow to go up and can barely be seen.
- Harrogate voted 3rd best place to live in UK. Is there reference to this on HBC website?
- Nearly all businesses have an interest. Get them to buy in. Newcastle on Tyne model of having competition to create promotional image recognition for city.
- Current monthly "What's On in Harrogate" guide needs major rethink.

Comments and suggestions for action please to Focus Group Leader: Martin Wilks (Tel: H.530708)

Town Centre Improvements

Focus Group Aims: To identify ways in which the Town Centre can be improved for both visitors and local residents. Currently the Group are identifying improvements needed in Town Centre signposting.

Helping Visitors

- Need someone to fight the town centre corner.
- What is the Tourist Information Centre remit?
- Improve town centre signage
- More public conveniences
- Information packs for hotel guests
- Daytime entertainment in town centre to draw in tourists and shoppers.
- Remove "drunks" from Library Gardens

Parking

- Are we driving people out of town?
- Promotional parking (free)
- Park & Ride dropping shoppers at bus station
- Parking for motor bikes and cycles

Street Cleaning

- Especially at weekends and around the cenotaph and bus station area, often strewn with litter.

Visitors

- Day trippers
- Locals
- Conference/Trade Show visitors
- Tourists staying overnight (2 days+)

ACTION:

- Focus on daytime visitors
- Ease of parking
- Where is it? (signage)
- What's on HG1
- Link Civic Society/Soroptomists
- Present a united and strong front to Council
- Get Council to recognise their responsibility to support the heart of Harrogate

How do we sell it?

1. Report
2. Chamber

Town Centre Focus vs Promoting Harrogate

Get together with Focus Group Promoting Harrogate?

Where are we coming from?

1. Daytime visitors
2. Erosion of HG1 traditional retailers?
3. HBC possible out of town retail expansion would be detrimental to HG1 shops.

Comments and suggestions for action please to Focus Group Leader: Granville Simpson(H.566718)

Traffic & Transport

Focus Group Aims: To identify and lobby for essential improvements to the road network and the public bus, rail and air services to and from Harrogate for visitors, local businesses and residents alike.

Their updated Action Plan, issue 6, is enclosed.

Comments and suggestions for action please to Focus Group Leader: Brian L Dunsby (H. 879208)

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Business to Business Shared Mailing

Enclosed with this REVIEW is an advance notice of the next shared business mailing that is scheduled for March 2006. This provides a very economical way for companies doing business in the Harrogate District to promote themselves for as little as **£300 to reach over 3,500 businesses** across the whole of the district.

Brian Haines emphasised the success this mailing has had for members in the past, resulting in some members actually receiving their first customers through this route.

The mailing will also carry the flyer for the **second Harrogate Business Market** to be held on 8th May.

Membership Directory Misuse

Members are reminded that the Membership Directory is NOT to be used for bulk e-mailing, fax or telesales campaigns. The contact information is provided **solely for one-to-one contact with other members.**

This policy was agreed some time ago, but if you feel it is time to review this 'rule' please send in suggestions for consideration by the Chamber Management Group.

Berwins/Bentley Jennison Seminar

A joint presentation by two Chamber members on the subject of **'Selling your business – making the most of it'** will take place on 3rd November from 4.30pm at the Cedar Court Hotel. Looking at the steps you should consider in preparing your business for sale and the sale process.

More information from: ElaineMalkin@berwin.co.uk

MEMBERS' FORUM

White Rose Awards Finalists

Following last year's success in the *Conference Centre of the Year* category in the prestigious Yorkshire Tourist Board White Rose Awards, **Pavilions of Harrogate** is delighted to have been a finalist in this year's awards in the Business Tourism category, held at the National Railway Museum. It is recognition of the excellent facilities, hard work and dedication of the Pavilions of Harrogate team, who were all able to attend the awards.

Harrogate in Bloom Gold Award

The **Victoria Shopping Centre** recently scooped gold in their Harrogate in Bloom class. The arcade was awarded first place in the commercial premises for its fantastic floral displays and hanging baskets, etc..

Staff at the Victoria Shopping Centre played a hands on role in looking after the plants while Harrogate Borough Council gardeners help maintain the baskets.

Allens trading again

Past Vice President of the Chamber, Diana Wright, formerly of Allens of Harrogate, has now set up her own business called '**Allens at Home**'. Diana is providing ladies' professional outfits with a personal service, drawing on her many years' experience at Allens of Harrogate. If you wish to make contact Tel: 01423 330841 or e-mail diana@allensathome.co.uk

Meeting Room to Hire

Paperworks, at Hammerain House on Hookstone Avenue, Harrogate, have a large room that can be hired from £8.50 per hour for a meeting or training event, etc. Please contact Gillian Martin on 01423 816999 or e-mail admin@paperworks.org.uk

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Tier One Community & Police Group

Barbara Coultas of Languages International represented Harrogate Chamber at the Harrogate Tier One Community and Police (CAP) Group meeting on 3rd October 2005 and provided the following report:

The new Chief Inspector, Aubrey Smith, was introduced. He replaces Chief Inspector Richard Speeding, who has been moved to Newby Wiske as part of the National Policing Re-Structuring team.

He gave an update on current performance in the district, indicating that Harrogate is the only force in the area which is on target. However, there are some areas causing concern: non-domestic burglaries are up from 271 to 312 from April to August (commercial and other properties, including sheds), theft from vehicles, serious road accidents and violent crime are up by 8% from 872 to 940 incidents.

Chief Inspector Smith mentioned Operation Impact, which was successfully targeting hot spots, and Polish immigrant criminals coming in from West Yorkshire.

Regarding the **longer licensing hours**, he said that in the short term they could cope, although it was not the best time for these longer hours to be introduced, just before Christmas. **Longer term may need monitoring.** Planning decisions often ignore Police recommendations.

Police Community Support Officer funding : Total 75 recruited across North Yorkshire, 10 in Harrogate.

Tier 2 CAP groups: Meetings held pointed out local concerns, including a lot of vandalism at Hornbeam Park station. Town centre activity takes police attention away from suburban hot spots.

National Policing Plan:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
- Neighbourhood policing and reassurance
- Violent crime
- Narrowing "justice gap", support for victims of crime.
- Amalgamation of forces
- Anti-terrorism business is a day-to-day matter. A Superintendent is in charge of this currently.

National Policing Re-structuring plan: The initial review and consultation are to be completed by October 21st and the decision at national government level will be taken on December 23rd 2005. After a heated discussion, this timescale was found to be wholly inadequate. The plan might be detrimental to local policing. A vote was taken to express our disapproval of the speed required and of the implications for the district; it was carried *nem con*.

NEW MEMBERS

Evans Easyspace Ltd (*Business Centre*)
Davinder Pabial, Business Centre Manager
Evans Business Centre, Hartwith Way,
Harrogate, HG3 2XA
Tel: 01423 534600
E-mail: davinderpabial@evanseasyspace.com
Web site: www.evanseasyspace.com

Harrogate Car Share
(*Community Transport Organisation*)
Angela Cleary, Car Share Project Officer
Community House, 46 East Parade,
Harrogate, HG1 5LT
Tel: 01423 724555 **Fax:** 01423 528219
E-mail: angela@harrogatecarshare.co.uk
Web site: www.harrogatecarshare.com

Thomas Grant & Co Ltd (*Stockbrokers*)
Scott Goddard, Stockbroker
2nd Floor, Harrogate House, 33-35 Parliament Street,
Harrogate, HG1 2RE
Tel: 01423 817777 **Fax:** 01423 507448
E-mail: scottgoddard@hotmail.co.uk
Web site: no website

Legislative Changes from 1st October

Members are being reminded to prepare for the raft of legislative changes that came into force on 1st October.

The changes include the introduction of the Employment Equality (Sex Discrimination) Regulations 2005, which will tighten rules in England, Wales and Scotland on how businesses deal with incidences of discrimination or harassment on the grounds of gender.

The General Product Safety (GPS) Regulations 2005 were also introduced, placing new obligations on manufacturers and suppliers of goods to consumers.

A guide to the changes to equality regulations is at: www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk/publications/sda_changes_explanation_2005.doc

Guidance on the GPS Regulations 2005 is at: www.dti.gov.uk/ccp/topics1/safety.htm

Guide to avoiding security breaches

Highlighting the Department of Trade & Industry's finding that the average UK business suffers one breach of electronic security a month, the Independent Fraud Advisory Panel has issued a guide to protecting computer systems. The guide is aimed at small businesses in particular, and consists of a checklist of threats and measures firms can take to counter them.

A summary of the contents is at: www.fraudadvisorypanel.org/newsite/PDFs/pressreleases/New%20Guide%20to%20System%20Protection%20160905.pdf

You can download the 'Protecting your IT System: A guide for SMEs' from: www.fraudadvisorypanel.org/newsite/Publications/Publications_advice.htm

Changes to Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme

The Government has confirmed a series of significant changes to its Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG) Scheme, which will take effect from 1st December.

The changes follow the Graham Review, carried out last year, which compared the scheme to other similar programmes internationally and made 38 recommendations for changes.

The amendments will include raising the turnover limit for eligible businesses and expanding the lending limits so that a single £250,000 limit applies to all eligible firms.

A press release summarising the changes is at: www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/detail.asp?ReleaseID=172143&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False

The scheme is explained in detail at: www.dti.gov.uk/sflg

Directors' disqualifications online

The Insolvency Service has launched a new online database providing an overview of the reasons for the disqualification of company directors. The tool can be searched by company name, director's name or region and provides information about the length and type of disqualification, plus details of reasons behind the case.

Access the database at: www.insolvency.gov.uk/doitonline/ddbase.htm

Small firms missing trick on networking

Research from British Gas Business has revealed that over 50% of the UK's small businesses do not do any networking, demonstrating a widespread lack of understanding about the benefits it can bring.

69% of the business owners polled said that networking is not relevant to their enterprise, while 45% said they do not need more customers, so do not need to network. However, the research shows that 86% of firms that do network win more business because of it, and 70% benefit from discussing key issues with other entrepreneurs.

The result of the poll are summarised at: www.britishgasbusiness.co.uk/bgb_website/doc/Networking%20national%20release.DOC

Computer usage poses eyestrain risk

New findings from the Eyecare Trust reveal that UK workers are risking their eyesight by spending too long staring at computer screens without a break. The study found that the average Briton spends 130,000 hours in their working life staring at a screen, but only one in ten said they had ever visited an optician, despite suffering headaches or problems with vision. The Eyecare Trust is offering tips on minimising the risk of eyestrain, and urges computer users to visit their opticians for regular check-ups to avoid problems.

Tips and further comment on this issue are at: www.eye-care.org.uk/item_view.php?item_id=258&content_id=1

Businesses need to protect their names

Many businesses run the risk of trade mark claims being made against them, having failed to register their business names, according to the UK Patent Office. A mere 20% of businesses have registered their names, but 44% of those surveyed were aware of the potential for problems and think they don't have enough protection. The reminder was issued as part of the Patent Office's campaign to raise awareness of intellectual property issues, called 'What is the Key?'

More information at: www.patent.gov.uk/media/pressrelease/2005/2208.htm

Month	Date	Proposed Theme or Format	Location
Jan	9	Pricing & Profit – a practical workshop on how to improve the performance of your own business – by Simon Pease, DSC Accountants .	Old Swan Hotel , Swan Road. Tel: 500055 Fax: 501154
Feb	13	Promoting Harrogate – for business and leisure – a debate led by Stuart Quin , the new Director of Harrogate international Centre	Hotel du Vin & Bistro , Prospect Place. Tel: 856800 Fax: 856801
Mar	13	Business Safari 7 – intensive business-to-business networking opportunity – Chamber Members only (<i>Limit of 2 per Company who must stay together</i>)	White Hart Hotel , Cold Bath Road. Tel: 505681 Fax: 568354
Apr	10	Harrogate Integrated Traffic & Transport Study – presentation of report by Atkins Consultants (<i>Speaker to be confirmed</i>)	Cedar Court , Park Parade, York Place. Tel: 858585 Fax: 504950
May	8	Harrogate's 2nd Business Market - Exhibition & Open Networking Event - FREE admittance (+ AGM and free Buffet for Members Only)	Pavilions of Harrogate , Great Yorkshire Showground Tel: 544544 Fax: 546288
June	12	Public Relations on a small budget – an interactive workshop led by Victoria Tomlinson , Northern Lights PR.	Kimberley Hotel , Kings Road. Tel: 505613 Fax: 530278
July	10	Health & Safety update for smaller businesses – latest regulations and enforcement policies that affect Harrogate businesses – by several members	Grants Hotel , Swan Road Tel: 560666 Fax: 502550
Aug	14	Business Safari 8 – intensive business-to-business networking opportunity – Chamber Members only (<i>Limit of 2 per Company who must stay together</i>)	Pavilions of Harrogate , Great Yorkshire Showground Tel: 544544 Fax: 546288
Sep	11	Digital marketing made easy - a presentation on the latest web site design, e-marketing, SMS & MMS campaigns by a Chamber Member (<i>TBC</i>)	Old Swan Hotel , Swan Road. Tel: 500055 Fax: 501154
Oct	9	Coaching & Mentoring – growing your business with the benefit of experience – a joint presentation by several Chamber Members. (<i>TBC</i>)	Swallow Hotel , Ripon Road Tel: 561431 Fax: 530037
Nov	13	Impact of Crime on Harrogate Business – and how to reduce it – by N.Yorks Police Western Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Bernie Mitchell	Cedar Court , Park Parade, York Place. Tel: 858585 Fax: 504950
Dec	11	Business Safari 9 + FREE Xmas Buffet – business-to-business networking opportunity – Chamber Members only (<i>Limit of 2 per Company</i>)	The Harrogate Club , 36 Victoria Avenue. Tel: 502344