



REVIEW

November
2006

**MEETING
DATES**

Review of Chamber Meetings + News Update

2006

BANK OF ENGLAND PRESENTATION

11 December

- By Paul Fullerton, the new Agent for the Bank of England in the Y&H region
- The Monetary Policy Committee – who and why - with what target and mission?
- The World Economy – major events in recent years and possible future trends
- The UK Economy – what are the factors that affect UK inflation forecasts?
- Yorkshire Region Economy – what are the recent trends and current issues?

2007

HARROGATE DISTRICT NEWS

8 January

- Business Continuity Planning – are you aware of the consequences of disaster?
- Economic Development Unit – comprehensive meeting on many key topics
- Business Waste Action Plan – local Councils are blocked by Government
- Leeds Bradford International Airport to be put up for sale by the W.Y. Councils
- Northern Rail confirm longer better trains on Harrogate Line from December

12 February

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

12 March

- Harrogate District Business Market – now open for members' priority bookings
- Shared District-wide Business-to-Business Mailing – a low cost route to market
- How to make an exhibition of yourself – ways to maximise returns from displays
- Ackrill Media Group Business Awards – don't miss the closing date - 31/12/06
- Business Networking Safari – with FREE Buffet at new Venue. (Members only)

2 April

**Business
Market 2007
30 April**

Future Meetings (NB. No REVIEW in December)

14 May

Monday, 11th December - Business Networking Safari + Buffet

11 June

Chamber members only - limited capacity – pre-booking essential

At Holiday Inn, Kings Road, Harrogate HG1 1XX (Tel: 849988)

9 July

Monday, 8th January 2007 - Improving your Business Performance

*Action plans from two experienced Chamber Members + open debate
led by Simon Pease, DSC and Mark Hunter, Bentley Jennison*

at The Old Swan Hotel, Swan Road, Harrogate HG1 2SR (Tel: 500055)

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

Bank of England Agent

The Chamber was honoured to welcome Paul Fullerton, Agent for the Bank of England in Yorkshire & Humber. His primary role is to assess and report to the Monetary Policy Committee on UK economic conditions as seen from the Region. He is the Bank's senior representative in Y&H for banking and public relations matters.

Paul has held several senior management roles for National Australia Bank and Yorkshire Bank, including Head of Marketing and Head of Retail Banking for the latter. He has also consulted for Eirecom Plc and helped set up a golf supply chain business in South Africa and the US. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers.

He spoke to Chamber members on the outlook for UK growth and inflation and sought feedback on member's views of the current state of trade in North Yorkshire. His very interesting presentation covered all these topics:

Agenda - five issues for me and one for you:

- Introduction/The Monetary Policy Committee
- World Economy
- UK Economic growth
- UK Inflation/interest rates
- Y&H Economy
- Q & A + state of trade feedback

The Monetary Policy Committee: on a Mission to be Boring

- Who? Governor
- + 4 "insiders"
- + 4 "outsiders"
- & support team
- Why? De-politicise monetary policy, use experts
- What? Meet inflation target of CPI = 2%
- Mission? Be Boring

The World Economy: Anything but boring – many major events in recent years:

- US accounts scandals
- Iraq/ terrorism
- US twin deficits
- \$ fluctuations
- German stagnation
- Trade wars
- Oil crisis
- China overheating?

Yet GDP in major economies is benign in 2006 although slowing in 2007? There is substantial monetary tightening in the world and more is expected.

China's future growth prospects are strong, but the UK currently exports only 1% there.

UK Economy: recent growth has slowed, but is now recovering. Points to discuss:-

- Government spend
- Labour market
- Manufacturing & Services
- Consumer spend
- Housing & Construction.
- GDP forecasts

Government spending: remains a key driver of growth (despite fears of cutbacks).

Business investment and net rate of return on capital are positive

Labour market has some signs of softening as we rely more on immigrants. There are a rising number of older, especially female, workers in the labour force.

Consumer spending: slowed but now showing some recovery. Consumers still borrowing on a secured basis, but less appetite for unsecured.

Housing Market: improving, perhaps helping consumer confidence? House price inflation has returned with Y&H above UK average

Net trade: some signs of improvement, but £/\$ concerns; Survey evidence strong: Euro growth helping exports

Current GDP forecast: shows growth above trend 2006 and easing 2007-08, with growth in consumer spending; recovery in investment; small boost from net trade; but slower growth in public spend from 2008?

OUTLOOK for INFLATION: ONS update goods and services annually in CPI basket.

Oil: hike in spot prices expected to ease over next two years. Services inflation stronger than CPI average. Goods prices, at last, seeing inflation.

Pay Growth: in check, despite some skill shortages, but 2007 pay round?

Inflation: expectations a concern - the percentage of people who understand what the CPI target is has not improved in the last three years.

Current CPI inflation graph shows rate rises needed to restore inflation to target.

SUMMARY: Growth and inflation prospects are reasonable, subject to the uncertainties of world/US growth; consumers; energy and input prices; pay/migration; spare capacity.

CURRENT ISSUES - for feedback to the MPC

- Interest rate hike
- State of trade
- Govt slowdown
- Input and output prices/margins
- Employment
- Investment
- Confidence

Subsequent comments from Chamber members are reported on the next page. Further comments are welcome by e-mail to the Secretariat.

For further information on the Bank of England and to request a copy of the Bank's Quarterly Newsletters look at their comprehensive web site: www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/agentssummary/index.htm E-mail: paul.fullerton@bankofengland.co.uk

Members' Comments

Phillip Broadbank commented on the large growth in the numbers **employed in the public sector**. These figures presumably included nurses, teachers, police, etc, all funded by taxpayers.

Brian Haines complimented Paul on his excellent and very helpful presentation and then commented on the apparent lower significance of the national **balance of payments**. There is now a very high level of personal debt and record Government spending, but as exchange rates can float, international capital flows counter the deficit in the balance of payments. Personal borrowing is higher as patterns of behaviour have changed, but the level of bad debt is quite low.

Simon Cotton commented on the **impact of the rising minimum wage** on total wage bills, particularly in the relatively low waged hospitality, nursing and security sectors. It was felt that that the increases in statutory minimum wages have caused some claims from higher paid staff wishing to maintain differentials. The minimum wage was also believed to have reduced the numbers of staff employed in retail stores

Brian Dunsby commented on the **difference between the North and South of England** and said that from our perspective the biggest difference of all is Government investment in infrastructure. Harrogate is pretty well placed as a midway point in England, but as you go further north the infrastructure gets worse.

Brian added that the Leeds Chamber is making this point for Leeds City Region and we want to send the message back that **investment in roads, rail, bus, air** - anything to do with moving goods, services and people - is far better in the south than the north, which is a reflection of political investment over the last few years. Stopping the Leeds Supertram is a typical example.

If you look at the east/west axis we need another M62, we need the equivalent of the A1 through the region. Rail investment is negligible; air investment is all private sectors. Brian asked Paul to send the message back that Harrogate's business in particular depends primarily upon visitors. There is a massive flow of people in and out of Harrogate every day and **the infrastructure is just not adequate**.

Paul said he regularly provides **feedback to the Governor**, but felt it might come better from the local Chambers, maybe joining as one voice from Yorkshire, rather than an individual initiative. Brian said that was opportune as a representative from Leeds Chamber is attending the next Management Group meeting.

In a postscript, Past President Brian Haines commented *"this was a **very good presentation and lively response from members**. It was slightly disappointing that even more people didn't attend."* (There were in fact about 40 members and guests present this time. Ed.)

In closing, the President thanked Simon Cotton, General Manager of the **Cedar Court Hotel** for providing the excellent facilities for this meeting. Further details from: www.cedarcourthotels.co.uk/hotel.asp?hotel_code=HG

HARROGATE DISTRICT NEWS

Business Continuity Plan

Alan Sandy of Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) addressed the meeting on HBC's new responsibility to raise awareness amongst local businesses of the need for a Business Continuity Plan. (See enclosed leaflet.)

This not only covers strategies for continuing to trade in the face of a major disaster, but also after losing key staff or suppliers. Information is also available via the Council's website: www.harrogate.gov.uk/business

If there is sufficient interest from Chamber member businesses and other businesses in the town, HBC will provide a seminar with appropriate experts to help businesses plan for any eventuality.

Economic Development Unit

President John Hart, Vice President Granville Simpson and Chief Executive Brian Dunsby recently had a full and frank meeting with Nigel Avison and Alan Sandy of Harrogate Borough Council's Economic Development Unit covering many key topics including the following:

1. HDSP balance: not-for-profit vs. business sectors
2. EDF - how can we ensure its voice is heard?
3. Leeds City Region - transport infrastructure prospects
4. Town Centre Development Action Plan
5. Local Business Growth Fund - projects supported?
6. Harrogate District Business Market – EDU support
7. Business Waste Disposal Action Plan – response?
8. District Chamber/Council Meetings - future?
- 9.. Current Development Activity – enquiries/applications
10. Yorkshire Forward Business Support Review
11. Future EDU/Harrogate Chamber Meetings

Unfortunately, most of the discussions have to remain off the record, but we can report that Tesco have acquired the old gasworks land at New Park and are planning to build a new large Supermarket on the site.

Business Waste Action Plan

The Chamber's Business Waste Action Plan has now been circulated to all members of the Cabinet of Harrogate Borough Council and to all members of the North Yorkshire County Council Area Committee. A copy is available free for members on request.

Any members who have a working business recycling scheme where a commercial organisation collects waste either free of charge, or on a reasonably priced basis, please tell us, so we can advise other members.

Alternatively, if you are having a problem disposing your business waste, please let us know.

President, John Hart, highlighted the fact that the main problem is that it has been written in British Law since 1987 that Councils are not allowed to collect business waste. Unless the law is changed, these organisations are not authorised to release their funds for this purpose

There is therefore no connection between the business rate and waste collection like there is between

household rates and rubbish collection. The argument is that the Government should change the law which is now causing businesses, especially smaller ones, a greater problem than hitherto.

Harrogate District Chambers

The above fact was learnt by John at a recent Harrogate District Chambers meeting, which is useful for finding out the background on why certain things cannot or will not be done by Councils, because they have their hands tied by the legal system. The HDSP is supposed to have not only the Fire Service, but the Care Services, the Health Service and all the other Government Agencies that spend money in the region, discussing how all these groups and the non-profit-making groups and businesses should actually improve the district. However, those big institutions are not allowed to spend their money on the improvements that we all might like to have in the District. Unless the law is changed, those organisations are unable to release their funds.

Harrogate Borough Council would very much like Joint District Chamber meetings to continue as it is helpful for the Council to pass on information to businesses through this forum. The current Chair, Joy Allan (Past President of Harrogate Chamber), is standing down. It has been agreed that in future the Chair will be held by the Chambers on rotation.

Unitary Status – again?

The latest Local Government White Paper from National level, offers another opportunity for Councils who wish to go for Unitary Status. About 18 months ago there were discussions to stop NYCC and HBC operating at two separate levels. The Government is now inviting Councils involved in City Regions to make a bid for Unitary Status.

Past President, Brian Haines, said that this makes sense and Sharon Philips contrasted Harrogate with the coastal towns of Whitby and Scarborough. Phillip Broadbank said that the matter would be coming before Council in December, but he understood that agreement would have to be County-wide. Alan Sandy thought that our relationship with Leeds City Region was important.

Members agreed that the present two-tier system was over-bureaucratic and inefficient for Harrogate District.

www.councillor.gov.uk

If you have an issue that you wish to take up with your local Councillor, a new Government website makes it simple to find out who to contact. The website: www.councillor.gov.uk provides this information once you input your postcode.

Leeds City Region Transport Vision

Chief Executive, Brian Dunsby, attended a presentation by Nigel Foster of ARUP on the Transport Vision for the Leeds City Region on 10th October. The aims and objectives of the project demonstrated the importance of Harrogate's links to Leeds, Bradford and York as being crucial to the economic development of the town and region.

Most of the debate centered around how to convince the Treasury to allocate more funding to the North of England, relative to that invested in London, given our proportion of the population and the economic contribution to the UK.

Brian endorsed the scheme, with the support of Harrogate Borough Council, but stressed the importance of a Bus/Rail interchange in Harrogate and urged them to look at the connectivity of bus and rail, and also, more than has been stressed so far, between car and rail, in the detailed study.

Nigel Foster responded that schemes like the Harrogate Interchange are under consideration. In fact, all of those corridors for rail and buses have got some assumptions in them that Park & Ride will be investigated in the most appropriate locations.

The ARUP presentation certainly demonstrated there were more prospects of funding for Harrogate via the City Region, than we will ever get through the North Yorkshire County Council LAA. Therefore, the Chamber endorses Harrogate Council's policy of collaborating with the City Region Partnership.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

BOOK NOW for the Christmas Safari !!

Monday, 11th December will see the 9th Business Networking Safari taking place at a new venue - the **Holiday Inn** on Kings Road (by the Conference Centre).

This Business Safari is the most effective way we have found to enable members to network with other members and find new sales opportunities and ideas. By the end of the evening everyone else in the room will know what you do – and you will know what they do!

All Chamber Members are offered a FREE Christmas Buffet from 17.30 before the Safari begins at 18.00. See enclosed information sheet for more details of the format and complete and return the Booking Form or e-mail your booking to secretariat@harrogatechamber.org

Following the initial round of introductions at each table, the topics for discussion are based around the promotion of the 2007 Harrogate District Business Market as follows:

1. **Benefits** - what are the benefits of attending - messages for the Brochure?
2. **Exhibitors** - how and when should we aim to attract members to book spaces?
3. **Visitors** - what should the Chamber do to attract more business visitors?
4. **Visitors** - what should Exhibitors be asked to do to attract more visitors?
5. **Displays** - what catches your eye when looking around the stands?
6. **Frustrations** - what frustrates you when looking around the stands?
7. **Advertising** - how should we maximise the impact of the Press Feature?

**Places are already being taken as this is always a popular event, so early booking is recommended!
Limit 50 places - maximum 2 per Member Company.**

Harrogate District Business Market 2007

Brian Dunsby drew attention to the biggest benefit for members, which is the chance to promote your business at Harrogate's District Business Market on **30th April 2007** at Pavilions of Harrogate. A copy of last year's brochure is enclosed with a sticker giving the new date PLUS an advance booking form for Chamber members.

Display spaces of various sizes will be available at very low prices from as little as £100, with our members having priority – **provided you book now!**

Promoting your business locally?

Could you supply products or services to other local businesses in and around the Harrogate District?

If so, we can offer an ideal opportunity to send your business promotion leaflets very economically to about 4,000 businesses of all types on our validated database covering all of Harrogate and District - for as little as one quarter of the cost of the postage alone – and with no labour cost! See the enclosed leaflet on our next Business-to-Business Shared Mailing Opportunity 2007.

How to make an exhibition of yourself

Preceding the Harrogate District Business Market, the Chamber's 12th March meeting will have the timely topic of **"How to make an exhibition of yourself"**, including practical hints, products and services to help you make the most of the Business Market and other trade shows.

Chamber members offering relevant products and services are invited to submit proposals for presentation

Networking Dinners - your view?

Following the series of Networking Dinners which were held in the Spring of 2006, Members are asked to let the Secretariat know if they would like this to be repeated in Spring 2007. Any suggestions and offers from our restaurant members would also be much appreciated.

Women in Rural Enterprise

The 3rd meeting of recently established local networking group of Women in Rural Enterprise (WiRE) will take place on Tuesday, 28th November at Evans Easyspace in Harrogate. Places must be booked in advance.

For more information or to book contact Fiona Gilbert on 01423 360011 or e-mail to: feg@prestigerelocation.com

NEW MEMBERS

Eddie Brown Tours Group (Coach Operator)

Deirdre Brown, Tours Director
Bar Lane, Roecliffe, Boroughbridge, York, YO51 9LS
Tel: 01423 321240 **Fax:** 01423 326213
E-mail: deidre.brown@eddiebrowntours.com
Web site: www.eddiebrowntours.com

Est Est Est (Restaurant/Bar)

Philip Smith, General Manager
16 Cheltenham Crescent, Harrogate, HG1 1DH
Tel: 01423 566453
E-mail: philsmith@estestest.co.uk
Web site: www.estestest.co.uk

MEMBERS' FORUM & NEWS

Ackrill Media Group Business Awards

Harrogate Chamber is again sponsoring and judging the Small Business Category in the Ackrill Media Group Business Awards 2006. These Awards are an excellent opportunity for any local companies to publicise their achievements in terms of business growth. All members are urged to enter – and to book a table at the Awards.

The closing date for nominations is 31st December 2006 which can be done online via www.harrogatetoday.co.uk e-mail ackrill.news@ypn.co.uk to ask for an Entry Form

The Awards Dinner and presentations will take place on 29th March at the Majestic Hotel. For tickets call Ginny Long on H: 707402 or e-mail Virginia.long@ypn.co.uk

Fire Regulations from 1st October

Rod Pallister of FireServe reminded members about the new Fire Regulations, which came into force from 1st October. If you are not sure how these will affect your company, Rod can advise you. Give him a call on 01243 815129, e-mail rod@fireserve.co.uk or visit his website: www.fireserve.co.uk

Warehousing & Distribution

Fishers have announced a new warehousing and distribution facility located in Harrogate and delivering throughout the UK and Europe. They offer both long term and seasonal storage plus a complete range of fulfilment services, picking, packing and palletising, etc.

For details see www.fishers-harrogate.co.uk or e-mail: fishers@fishers-harrogate.co.uk Tel: 0800 197 0296

Blazefield CEO appointed President of Omnibus Society

Giles Fearnley, Chief Executive of Blazefield, has been appointed President of the Omnibus Society for 2007. Chamber members, Harrogate & District Travel, are a subsidiary of Blazefield Holdings Ltd based in Starbeck.

Giles, who is a leading figure in the industry, has been credited with taking bold decisions to enhance bus travel and increase usage. This was demonstrated with the introduction of leather-seated luxury twin deck vehicles on the 36 route between Ripon, Harrogate and Leeds.

Pre-Christmas Events at Harewood House

Leaflets were available at the meeting for special Preparing for Christmas events every weekend at Harewood House including a Craft, Food & Wine Festival on 24-26th November; Traditional Country House Cooking demonstrations; Christmas Wreath making and Christmas Food Weekend 16-17 December.

Visit their website www.harewood.org for full details.

"STOP PRESS" – new design?

Congratulations to Chamber Management Group Member Jo Olnier on the safe arrival of baby George!

Tel: 01423 540489 Email: mail@joolner.co.uk

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS' NEWS

Important Police Notice

North Yorkshire Police have asked us to advise members of an incident recently when a deliberate fire was started in a commercial 'wheeled' dustbin in Harrogate Town Centre. The bin was pushed against a back door of shop premises, causing considerable damage to the shop. A further two have been set fire to in a nearby town centre location and school grounds in Starbeck with further fires on the periphery of Harrogate.

Due to the mobility of these containers they are a serious fire risk to premises of any type as well as being a useful and movable climbing aid. This risk can be minimised by ensuring that container tops are locked overnight or when not in use and that they are secured by chain and padlock to secure mounting points and not plastic drain pipes. Heavy duty motorcycle padlocks and chains are ideal for this purpose.

If you have any information, or had your bins targeted in this manner please contact the Police on 084560 60247.

Community & Police Group

The Minutes of the October Harrogate Tier One Community & Police Group showed a reduction in most types of crimes in the area, including a 19% reduction in Burglary not related to dwellings and a 25% reduction in Vehicle Crime, compared with last year. The major focus for the rest of the year is on Theft and Criminal Damage in the Harrogate District.

Financial Support for Training

Learning & Skills Council and Business Link York and North Yorkshire are offering financial support for training, particularly in the food & drink, tourism, hospitality, engineering, manufacturing, child care and social care sectors.

It provides sector specific qualifications at NVQ Level 2 and 3 to staff over 25 years of age that may already hold qualifications, but not appropriate to the occupational area in which they are currently working.

For more information call 01904 686000 or e-mail info.centre@blyny.co.uk

LSC Strategic Briefing Event 06/12/06

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Area Team for North Yorkshire is pleased to invite you to its annual strategic briefing event at The Pavilions, Harrogate on Wednesday 6th December 2006. This is the first of its kind with the new LSC Area Team for North Yorkshire.

The event includes briefings on LSC national, regional and local priorities for 2007/08, with the opportunity to question a panel including LSC staff and to attend workshop sessions and participate in locality focused discussions with one of the Partnership Teams.

To reserve your place contact Melissa Taylor on 01904 385501 or e-mail melissa.taylor2@lsc.gov.uk by **Monday 27 November**. Places are limited and will be confirmed on a first come first served basis.

SCAMS & SPAMS

Don't get caught by Phishing!

Brian Dunsby again warned members of the 'Phishing' Scams sent by e-mail purporting to be from Banks, Building Societies and other financial bodies.

REMEMBER - NO financial organisation will e-mail you asking to check your details, including bank account number and passwords. NEVER give these details out by e-mail or by phone.

European City Guide

This old favourite is returning by post, this time originating from Spain. The official looking document includes a reply paid envelope for you to confirm your details and sign away 937 Euros to be included in the CD-ROM Directory. This is a Scam - don't be tempted to reply and always read the small print.

Ad-Platz TV Ltd

Have you been approached by a company called Ad-PlatzTV Ltd, which offers advertising on a plasma screen in the local hospital? We have been alerted to this company which is an alleged scam where the company asks for money in advance of the advertisement appearing.

FOCUS GROUPS

Promoting Harrogate

The Chamber's 12th February Meeting will be emphasising the new Promoting Harrogate & Yorkshire Dales Campaign, with Alison Griffin, the new Head of Marketing at the Harrogate International Centre, David Thompson, Tourism Promotions Manager HIC, and Martin Wilks., Focus Group Leader on Promoting Harrogate. Members with any contributions to this topic please send them to the Secretariat in advance.

Traffic & Transport

BIG NEWS: Leeds Bradford International Airport has been put up for sale by the five district councils of West Yorkshire, who have all approved the proposal to dispose of 100% of their airport shares. The sale process is expected to be complete in Spring 2007. The likely implications for the future will be watched carefully!

GOOD NEWS: New Trains on 11th December - Northern Rail confirmed that improved longer rolling stock should be in service from 11th December along with the new timetable. They will significantly improve the quality and quantity of seats on most services between Harrogate, Leeds and York. The platforms at Hornbeam Park, Knaresborough and Weeton are being lengthened to accommodate the longer trains.

BAD NEWS: Harrogate Borough Council's Traffic Engineers will be installing further traffic calming measures in Beech Avenue, Claro Road, Grange Avenue and Queens Road - even though only about 30% of residents voted in favour - and nearby businesses in the affected areas were not consulted.

Data on relocated business

Royal Mail launched a new service providing information about businesses that have recently relocated within the UK. The 'Business Movers File' is updated monthly with the aim of providing sales leads for business marketers. Research shows that recently relocated firms spend more in the first few months than over the next five years on items such as stationery and office equipment. The file can be searched by date of relocation, geographic area and distance moved.

More in Royal Mail press release at: www.news.royalmailgroup.com/news/article.asp?id=1812&brand=royal_mail

Pensions advice for self-employed

Small business owners and sole traders are being offered pension advice via a hotline set up by The Pensions Advisory Service. It is concerned about the shortfall in pension provision among sole traders and other small enterprises. In addition, Office for National Statistics figures show that more than half of self-employed women do not have a private pension plan. Business owners are also eligible for less help from the state when they retire. The helpline number is 0845 602 7021. More at:

www.pensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk/self-employed/

Equality tools launched by Acas

Arbitration and conciliation body Acas has launched a series of new e-learning tools covering equality and diversity in the workplace. The launch follows research indicating that within seven years, only a fifth of the UK's workforce will comprise white, able-bodied males under 45. Acas believes the new tools will help businesses deal with diversity issues effectively. The first tool covers how to deal with issues surrounding sexual orientation and gender reassignment. Tools for tackling discrimination relating to religious belief and age are also being developed. More at:

www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=239259&NewsAreaID=2

Aid with ageism law

The British Chambers of Commerce is advising small businesses on how to deal with the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations via two websites. Information on this and other employment laws are on a dedicated human resources website, and together with the Employers Forum on Age, a fact sheet, available at its usual website. Visit: www.chamberhr.co.uk Fact sheet at: www.chamberonline.co.uk/policy/EFA_BCC.pdf

How to use Fairtrade in the workplace

The Fairtrade Foundation has launched a micro-site dedicated to providing information for business owners about how they can adopt Fairtrade products in the workplace. The site includes practical tips about switching to Fairtrade, as well as case studies about

enterprises that have successfully adopted a Fairtrade ethos. Visit: www.fairtradeatwork.org.uk

Campaign to save small, local shops

A businessman is championing local shops in the battle against the dominance of the supermarkets. David Croissant set up a website to help independent retailers after his local butcher shut, as it could no longer compete against Tesco. Shops can add themselves to a searchable online directory on The Shoppers Bible site. The site aims to be a one-stop service for people looking for local alternatives to supermarkets. The first 999 retailers to register with the site will be listed for free for the first year. Access at: www.theshoppersbible.com

A will essential for business owners

Legal experts are urging business owners to create a will for the benefit of their partners and family. Law firm Mace & Jones says that many businesses are eligible for exemption from inheritance tax, and that making a will can smooth the process of selling a business for surviving relatives. Wills and probate partner Peter Houghton said that the tax savings can typically be 40% of the proceeds of the sale of a business. More at: www.shout99.com/contractors/showarticle.pl?id=40200&n=250

Wi-Fi security warning

Businesses that use Wi-Fi technology are being urged to secure their systems against snoopers and hackers. Thousands of enterprises are thought to be at risk, according to the 'Watch out - there's a Wi-Fi thief about' report by the Wi-Fi Education Bureau. It said people do not realise that they need to secure their Wi-Fi broadband connections, and urged users to look at their router manuals to find out how to protect their systems from outside access. More at:

www.wifieducationbureau.org/press.html

Authentic Business website

This website is dedicated to "doing business with purpose as well as profit". Authentic Business is the brainchild of Neil Crofts, who has written extensively on the subject. The website includes a detailed explanation of what authenticity in business really means, a directory of 'authentic suppliers', and the opportunity to submit articles about authentic business. Visit the website at: www.authenticbusiness.co.uk and click on 'discover authenticity' to view the definition.

Free IT health check for businesses

Check your IT health with a free tool that looks at technology spending. The average owner-manager can spend up to £17,000 annually on IT and communications and then spend up to 80% of their time updating and maintaining those systems. The online tool assesses whether businesses are getting the best value from their equipment and whether they have the right balance of technology.

Visit: www.itcalculator.bt.com/index.asp

MEETINGS PLANNER 2007

Below for your advance information is the 2007 Meetings Planner. Most meetings in 2007 will be held on the second Monday of each month at varying locations. All evening meetings will begin with networking at the slightly earlier time of 17.30 and the formal business will start at 18.00.

| Month | Date | Proposed Theme or Format | Location |
|-------|------|--|---|
| Jan | 8 | Improving your Business Performance – action plans from two Chamber Members + open debate | Old Swan Hotel , Swan Road. Tel: 500055 Fax: 501154 |
| Feb | 12 | Promoting Harrogate & Yorkshire Dales – an update from the new Tourism Partnership & the HIC | Swallow St George Hotel , Ripon Road Tel: 561431 Fax: 530037 |
| Mar | 12 | How to make an exhibition of yourself – practical hints, products and services to help you make the most of the Business Market and other Trade Shows | Cedar Court , Park Parade, York Place. Tel: 858585 Fax: 504950 |
| Apr | 2 # | Business Safari 10 – intensive business-to-business networking + FREE Buffet – Chamber Members only (Limit of 2 per Company who must stay together) | White Hart Hotel , Cold Bath Road. Tel: 505681 Fax: 568354 |
| Apr | 30 | Harrogate District Business Market - Exhibition & Open Networking Event - FREE admission 14.00-19.00 | Pavilions of Harrogate , Great Yorkshire Showground Tel: 544544 Fax: 546288 |
| May | 14 # | Annual General Meeting 2006 + informal business networking opportunity – Chamber Members only | Hotel du Vin & Bistro , Prospect Place. Tel: 856800 Fax: 856801 |
| June | 11 | Establishing and Growing a New Business – action plans from two Chamber Members + open debate | Kimberley Hotel , Kings Road. Tel: 505613 Fax: 530278 |
| July | 9 | Staff Training Opportunities & Funding – an update from the Learning & Skills Council + relevant members | Grants Hotel , Swan Road Tel: 560666 Fax: 502550 |
| Aug | 13 | Business Safari 11 – intensive business-to-business networking + FREE Buffet – Chamber Members only (Limit of 2 per Company who must stay together) | Pavilions of Harrogate , Great Yorkshire Showground Tel: 544544 Fax: 546288 |
| Sep | 10 | Employment Law – protecting your business – an update on recent changes by two Chamber Members | Cairn Hotel # , Ripon Road (<i>New Venue</i>) (To be confirmed) Tel: 504005 Fax: 500056 |
| Oct | 8 | Finance for Business Growth – and how to get it – presentations by two Chamber Members | Cedar Court , Park Parade, York Place. Tel: 858585 Fax: 504950 |
| Nov | 12 | Coaching & Mentoring – growing your business with the benefit of experience – by two Chamber Members: | Crown Hotel , Crown Place (<i>New Venue</i>) Tel: 567755 Fax: 502284 |
| Dec | 10 | Business Safari 12 – business-to-business networking opportunity + FREE Buffet – Chamber Members only (Limit of 2 per Company who must stay together) | Holiday Inn , Kings Road. Tel: 0870 4431 761 Fax: 524435 |

New dates and other changes for this edition are marked with hash sign #

Any feedback on past meetings or suggestions for future meeting topics, speakers and venues are welcome.

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