



**FUTURE
MEETINGS**

17.30 for
18.00 start

14 April

Business
Networking
Safari

Cairn Hotel

28 April

Yorkshire
Business Market
12.00-19.00

*Pavilions of
Harrogate*

12 May

AGM

Hotel Du Vin

9 June

Majestic Hotel

14 July

White Hart Hotel

11 August

Queen's Suite

*Harrogate
International
Centre*

REVIEW

March
2008

Review of Chamber Meeting + News Update

PROMOTING HARROGATE & YORKSHIRE DALES

- Chair of the Area Tourism Partnership explains what they aim to do for Y&H.
- HIC Head of Marketing explains unique benefits for Conferences & Exhibitions.
- A new video "Experience Harrogate" demonstrates many local attractions.
- Chair of Destination Harrogate explains how the major hotels work together.

HARROGATE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

- Harrogate Council's EDU offers FREE listing in their on-line business directory.
- North Yorkshire Police now refuse to control traffic for important public events.
- Royal Mail service deteriorates again – major press campaign is initiated.
- New Express Bus Service between Harrogate and York starts on 25th April.

MEMBERS' NEWS & BENEFITS

- Menwith Hill Mystery – another opportunity to see what is in those golf balls!
- Ackrill Media Group Business Awards won by several Chamber members.
- Yorkshire Business Market is filling up fast. Discounted advertising is offered.

Future Meetings

Monday, 14th April at Cairn Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate

Business Networking Safari + Buffet

Chamber members only - limited capacity – pre-booking essential

Monday, 28th April, 12.00-19.00

at Pavilions of Harrogate, Great Yorkshire Showground

Yorkshire Business Market

FREE online registration for visitors at www.yorkshirebusinessmarket.org/visit.htm

Don't forget to tell all your business contacts about it!!

Monday, 12th May at Hotel du Vin, Prospect Place, Harrogate

Making best use of local media + AGM

with presentations by Jean MacQuarrie, Ackrill Media Group, et al

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

PROMOTING HARROGATE and the YORKSHIRE DALES

Chamber Vice President, Robert Whiteley, who is General Manager of the Yorkshire Event Centre (YEC), (the company which runs the Great Yorkshire Showground on behalf of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society) chaired this part of the meeting.

YEC and Pavilions of Harrogate is an important venue for both business and leisure tourism which generates in the region of £40 million for the local economy. Together with the contributions from Harrogate International Centre and the many Harrogate hotels, tourism generates a vast amount of wealth for the local economy and provides a lot of the employment.

Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate Tourism Partnership

The Tourism Partnership presentation began with a superb DVD showing the Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate at their best and which has been successfully used to generate further tourism to the area.

The Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate Tourism Partnership is one of six Tourism Partnerships whose role is to lead co-ordination and delivery of tourism services including:

- Business Engagement
- Research and Data Intelligence
- Marketing
- Information Provision
- Product Development
- Visitor Management

Their functions are to:

- Lead and coordinate promotion of their area
- Facilitate and encourage product development
- Encourage high standards of visitor management
- Promote innovation and collaboration
- Work within the tourism industry to enhance visitors' experience of the area

The aim of the Tourism Partnerships is to:

- Increase overnight stays
- Increase visitor spend
- Raise quality standards
- Improve understanding of visitor needs
- More unified promotion linked to local marketing
- Increase number of businesses adopting more sustainable practices

All the Tourism Partnerships take their lead from Yorkshire Forward who decides on the strategic development of tourism in the region. The Yorkshire Tourist Board's role is to lead delivery of the Regional Marketing Strategy; regional-wide research and intelligence visitor information and e-business strategy.

The key factors which have made the partnership approach work are:

- Commitment of partners
- Actions for the greater good
- Close liaison/confidence in colleagues
- Mutual support
- Skill sharing

- Confidence of the trade

One aspect members may benefit from is the **Business Registration Scheme**. Benefits of joining are:

- Networking opportunities
- Free web page on www.yorkshiredales.org
- Access to the latest statistics
- Signposting to other relevant organisations

For further information contact

Sarah Howsen – Partnership Coordinator

showsens@cravendc.gov.uk Tel: 01729 825470

www.yorkshiredales.org

Harrogate International Centre

Robert introduced Alison Griffin, Head of Marketing at the Harrogate International Centre (HIC), who in her relatively short time in the post (since June 2006) has greatly improved the entertainments programme, branding and new website at the centre.

He also welcomed Robert Penfold, Head of Client Services at HIC who is responsible for ensuring the highest standards are maintained.

Harrogate International Centre is one of the largest integrated venues in the UK. The venue portfolio includes a 2000 seat auditorium, 8 exhibition halls, the Sun Pavilion and the Royal Hall. In 2007 over 300 events were hosted across the HIC venues including conferences, exhibitions and entertainments, etc.

Clients include associations, political parties, unions, corporates, entertainment promoters etc. The national competitors are NEC & ICC Birmingham, Manchester Central (G-mex), Liverpool ACC, Edinburgh EICC, Glasgow SECC, Bournemouth and Brighton.

HIC retain business year after year and to achieve that aim they strive to excellence in customer service, working towards Hospitality Assured and ensure the venue is fit for purpose and meets the needs of event organisers.

HIC use positive PR in consumer and trade press and work closely with all their partners including the Tourism Partnership, Harrogate Chamber and Destination Harrogate to promote all that is good about the Harrogate and District experience.

Some significant facts and figures include:

- Business and holiday tourism attracted 6.4m visitor days to the district in 2006
- Our six TIC's handled over a quarter of a million enquiries in 2006
- Direct visitor spend in 2006 was £331m
- The district has higher employment in hotels and restaurants at 10% versus national average of 7%
- Business tourism creates around 5,000 jobs locally
- HIC are re-investing in the area's economy with a £45m redevelopment scheme

To find out more about What's On go to:

www.harrogateinternationalcentre.co.uk

For conference and exhibition enquiries contact:

Robert Penfold, Head of Client Services,

Harrogate International Centre

Tel: 01423 537213 robert.penfold@harrogate.gov.uk

Destination Harrogate

Simon Cotton, General Manager of the Cedar Court Hotel, recently took over from Vince Johnson as Chair of Destination Harrogate, formerly known as the A Group.

Destination Harrogate are an Association of Harrogate's leading hotels comprising:

Cedar Court	Majestic	Hotel du Vin
Holiday Inn	Old Swan	Cairn Hotel
Crown Hotel	Grants	Studley
The Yorkshire St George	Kimberly	White Hart

The Association is a democratic & non political group whose members have a collective turnover of some £40million per annum and employ around 1000 people with a payroll of over £12 million. The group of hotels host approx 400,000 sleepers annually.

Destination Harrogate's objectives are:

- To collectively promote Harrogate as a tourist and conference destination
- To provide a single point of contact for all media activities
- To promote high standards within the hotel industry
- To exchange trade & operational ideas
- To promote the business interests of our members
- To freely exchange information but with encouragement of competition
- To ensure a clear communication between the HIC and the hotels as a supporting partner to their activities
- To manage a professional representation of the town to our worldwide client audience
- To build relationships with local businesses in the support of our aims, and as a platform for companies wishing to offer benefits to our 1000 staff

Members meet every 6 weeks and the Association is a key partner with Harrogate International Centre in a range of marketing activities and promotions; eg ConfEx

Members entertain key clients to Harrogate and contribute financially to the operation of Destination Harrogate through commissions. All decisions are reached by a democratic vote. The group has planned various sales and marketing activities promoting additional leisure business.

Some of the current projects the Association is working on include a new town map incorporating leisure attractions on the outskirts like Harewood House, Ripley Castle, and many others. The research for this has been assisted by Year 7 students at St Aidan's School.

A major coup for the association is securing the 'Golden Oldies' World Cricket Festival which will be coming to Harrogate in August 2010 and bringing 800 cricketers, their partners and families to the town. This is an immensely important achievement for Harrogate.

Visit www.destinationharrogate.co.uk to find out more about the Association and its members, or e-mail Simon Cotton: sc@cedarcourtharrogate.co.uk

HARROGATE DISTRICT NEWS

Royal Mail Service Deterioration

Brian Dunsby reported on recent meetings with senior Royal Mail staff who all blame Europe for the deterioration in postal delivery services. European Legislation has been imposed on Royal Mail delivery vehicles which can now only drive at a maximum of 56mph, which they say is slowing down overnight delivery, meaning mail arrives at the depot later in the morning, so the postmen have to start later and deliveries to premises throughout the town are later.

The local Delivery Office has also revised the postal delivery walks, causing serious overload in many cases.

Members reported delays of three or four hours in the delivery of their post and some members with PO Box numbers are not receiving their mail at all. Coupled with the reduction of opening hours of the counter at Claro Road for collecting 'signed for' mail and dropping off bulk mail and the more complicated and expensive arrangements for ad hoc collections of bulk mail, this makes it impossible for businesses to function properly.

To top this postage prices are increasing again 7th April!

Post Office Closures

As if things aren't bad enough with the Royal Mail delivery service deterioration, their Associated Company Post Office Counters appears to be determined to close their allotted 31 Post Offices in the North Yorkshire area.

We were pleased to report that Cold Bath Rd Post Office had been saved from closure last month, but we now hear that this is at the expense of Aspin Lane Post Office in Knaresborough, which had been designated as the Post Office to replace Stockwell Lane Post Office.

This could leave just one Post Office for the whole of Knaresborough, which is in the High Street with difficult parking facilities and no disabled access. We ask why?

Harrogate Advertiser campaign

"This is an unacceptable situation" wrote Brian Dunsby in a long letter to the Harrogate Advertiser outlining all the above complaints which was published on 7th March,

The Harrogate Advertiser is shortly arranging a meeting with local businesses to plan a campaign against late postal deliveries and how to tackle Royal Mail.

In support of this, Brian Dunsby asked members to supply evidence of the damage this deterioration in service is causing to their businesses. For example, we have heard from Estate Agents for whom this delayed arrival of the post puts back business by a whole day meaning contract exchanges, etc. are delayed.

The people at the top, Chairman Allan Leighton and Chief Executive Adam Crozier, plus the Minister for Postal Affairs, Pat McFadden MP will be approached, together with the Chair of PostWatch and our local MP. Members present all agreed with a strong approach and that this was an unacceptable situation for businesses.

Please send your own postal horror stories to Brian Dunsby by e-mail chiefexec@harrogatechamber.org

Local Development Framework

The consultation for the Local Development Framework closed on 29th February with the Chamber sending in comments on behalf of members. Brian Dunsby undertook to keep a close watch on the position and keep members advised.

Kirk Deighton proposed development

Estate Agents, Lister Haigh of Knaresborough have sent details of a new parcel of land available for development at Deighton Grange, just north of Wetherby in between the current A1 and the new A1(M), immediately north of the proposed Kirk Deighton Motorway service area.

The notification states that the site could fulfil a need for the substantial allocation of employment land and employment opportunity, but could also include housing, leisure facilities and care home and assisted living accommodation. It could also be part of an Eco-village/town site incorporating all of the above.

More details from the Secretariat with comments to the developers requested by 31st March.

Dunlopillo site development

Following the refusal by the Planning Committee to the initial submission to build 200 houses on the former Dunlopillo site, the developers have appealed against the decision, which will now go to a Public Enquiry.

The Chamber had supported the Council's position that the site should be used mainly for employment land.

Supermarket plans withdrawn

Asda Stores have withdrawn the plans they submitted to put in a mezzanine floor. Car Parking was not adequate.

Likewise, we understand that Tesco will be withdrawing their current application but with a revised bid expected.

Parking Ticket Problems?

Members who are having problems appealing against parking tickets might find the following website useful: www.parkingappeals.co.uk. It includes helpful links on how to avoid a parking ticket and how to successfully appeal against a parking ticket. Have you tried it?

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Menwith Hill Visit spaces available - see inside the golf balls!

A few places are still available on the Menwith Hill Visit on the evening of 17th April. Members are invited to find out what is really inside those large "golf balls" near the A59 Skipton Road. Members and guests can experience climbing inside a Radome and tour one of the Satellite Communications rooms and followed by a briefing and carvery buffet dinner hosted in the club on base by an RAF Menwith Hill representative. This will be followed by time for questions.

The buffet will cost £9.50 payable on the night. Places are limited so don't delay to avoid disappointment on what is a popular social event. **Complete the enclosed booking form and send it to Secretariat by 11/04/08**

YORKSHIRE BUSINESS MARKET 28th April 2008, 12.00-19.00

Promotion to prospective visitors to Yorkshire Business Market starts in earnest this month, with the brochure mailing carrying members' inserts being despatched to 5,500 businesses in North and West Yorkshire.

As well as the **Ackrill Media Group's** 8-page, full colour supplement due to be published on 18th April, the **Yorkshire Post** are publishing a supplement in the Business Tuesday section of their paper on 22nd April.

Exhibitors and members can benefit from greatly discounted advertising in both of these publications - just ask the Secretariat for details.

The Yorkshire Business Market has also appeared in Ackrill Media Group's "**On Location**" supplement and will be featured again in this publication in the lead-up to the event. Emily MacDowell, Assistant Economic Development Officer at Harrogate Borough Council who compiles "On Location" has asked members to send any business news items you may have to her at emily.macdowell@harrogate.gov.uk for consideration.

If they aren't suitable for "On Location", Emily will pass them on to Ackrills for consideration in Business Pink. **Deadline for items for the 25th April issue is Thursday, 10th April.**

Since the meeting, we have now passed the landmark figure of 100 exhibitors, so we have now exceeded the number of exhibitors we had last year, and great interest is being generated amongst Leeds Chamber members after a personal mailing to all 1,600 of them.

This means that stand space is now very limited. To avoid disappointment we would urge you to submit your booking form as soon as possible if you have been considering exhibiting. You can download the form from the website www.yorkshirebusinessmarket.org or ask by e-mail from info@yorkshirebusinessmarket.org

Members who just wish to visit on the day can take advantage of the online registration which will save time when you arrive, as your name badge will be waiting for you. Go to: www.yorkshirebusinessmarket.org/visit.htm

Stuart Pearson confirmed the speakers for the Ask the Expert Panels and the Business Seminars covering leadership, networking, marketing, selling, web imaging and training – coordinated by a Marketing Manager from Bradford University, sponsored by LSC Train-to-Gain.

FREE entry tickets are available for members to send out to all their business contacts. Please request a supply of tickets and brochures (see enclosed) from the Secretariat. Your support in the promotion of this event is vital to its success - **we have printed 50,000 tickets!**

Alternatively please e-mail all your business contacts with news of the Business Market and attach PDF files of the News Release, Brochure and Ticket available from the Secretariat: info@harrogatechamber.org.

So if you have a statement run going out at the end of this month or regular newsletters **PLEASE ASK FOR A SUPPLY OF TICKETS!!** Just e-mail a note of how many you need to info@harrogatechamber.org

MEMBERS' NEWS

Ackrill Media Group Business Awards

Several members won awards at the recent Ackrill Media Group's Business Awards Dinner held at the Paramount Majestic Hotel.

Harrogate Chamber again sponsored the Best Small Company of the Year. The winner was **It's Nut Free** and its Founder, Angela Russell, was presented with the award by Chamber President Granville Simpson.

It's Nut Free will be exhibiting at the Yorkshire Business Market and Angela will speak at the 9th June meeting on "How we succeeded in growing our small business".

Chamber members who won awards at the event were:

Simon Pease, DSC - Employer of the Year

Eleanor Lutkin, SI Recruitment – Employee/Year

Paul Berwin, Berwins LLP - The Mayor's Award

**Peter McCormick OBE, McCormicks Solicitors
- Lifetime Achievement Award**

Harewood House re-opens for Easter

Elaine Speight of Harewood House reminded members that the **house and grounds re-open on Saturday, 15th March** in time for the Easter holidays. A feature for 2008 in the house includes the recently uncovered hand painted Chinese wallpaper that has been fully restored.

There are also plenty of events and exhibitions coming to Harewood this year with several outdoor concerts ranging from Eric Clapton to Girls Aloud, culminating in a Proms spectacular with WW2 spitfire on 30th August.

Visit www.harewood.org for full details and don't forget Chamber members can benefit from a discount off the Harewood Card until 30th April. **Call 0113 218 1000 for further details quoting "Harrogate Chamber"**

FOCUS GROUPS

Town Centre

Robert Whiteley drew attention to announcements by the North Yorkshire Police that they will no longer be policing road closures for public events. This will **seriously threaten some of the long-standing events** in our community, for example the Harrogate International Music Festival, Starbeck Gala, Knaresborough Bed Race, etc.

It was understood that this controversial decision has been made solely by the Chief Constable and is not a matter of new legislation imposed upon the Police force.

Robert Whiteley advised members of a meeting between the Chief Constable and Harrogate Borough Council on 3rd April. Anyone who does not want to see our community events decimated in this way is invited to gather on Crescent Gardens between 5.30 pm and 6.00 pm on that day to "greet" the Chief Constable as he arrives. Please note that this will not involve a march, which would mean closing roads!

If any other organisations wish to support this campaign please ring Councillor Philip Broadbank 01423 888377 or e-mail p.broadbank@btinternet.com

Traffic & Transport

A new X54 express bus service from Harrogate to York will be operated from 25th April by Harrogate & District Travel using dedicated buses in a distinctive, easy-to-recognise colour scheme. Modern easy-access vehicles will have kerb-level entrances, step-free floors and dedicated spaces for wheelchair users and buggies. They run seven times a day with one hour journey time.

Harrogate & District Travel have also been successful in securing funding to continue the Airport service from Harrogate to Leeds Bradford Airport. This service will be re-branded "Airport Express". They are working on how to increase the frequency from the current 90 minutes.

Visit www.harrogateanddistrict.co.uk for timetables.

Leeds Bradford International Airport have announced new services to Crete and also to Paphos in Cyprus.

Full details at www.lbia.co.uk

The Harrogate Chamber's 14th July meeting will be focussing on Traffic and Transport. The following companies have confirmed their participation:

National Express - East Coast Mainline service

Northern Rail - local services

Harrogate & District Travel - bus services

It is also hoped that there will be some update on the proposed **Harrogate Transport Interchange** from the Council and/or the Developers, including the probable impact it will have on through traffic on Station Parade. Re-routing will have a major effect on traffic in the town

In answer to Brian Haines' question on whether flights could be re-introduced to other **London airports**, Brian Dunsby explained that the argument from BMI is that the current usage does not cover the operational costs even for the current service from Leeds Bradford to London Heathrow, which is under review due to higher airport charges. Brian Dunsby said he would raise the question at the **Airport Consultative Committee** on 27th March.

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Harrogate Borough Council's FREE Online Business Directory

Harrogate Borough Council's Economic Development Unit would like to make you aware of their new and improved FREE online business directory.

The directory can be found on the Council's website at: www.businessharrogate.co.uk It allows businesses from Harrogate district to sign in and register, they then have the ability to enter their own company details and edit when necessary. People can search the directory using a number of different search criteria and it is free to join and its aim is to help promote local businesses.

Quick Facts:

- It's FREE
- Average of about 250 hits per month and rising
- 89 new members joined since May 2007
- There are 6282 businesses currently listed
- It is updated every 3 months
- If your business is not on it you won't be found.

Retail Crime Forum

Police Sergeant Robert Thorpe of the Harrogate Town Centre Policing Team, would like to hear from Chamber members who would like to be involved with the **Business Crime Forum** that Harrogate Police are setting up.

Robert said that considering the vital role that Harrogate businesses play in the local economy, business and retail crime has to be a policing priority. Quite clearly, the police cannot tackle crime problems on their own.

They have neither the resources nor the wide range of expertise to do so. The only sensible route is to speak to businesses and to ascertain what their issues are; identify best practice, and create communication channels to share this with their partners.

Improvements were beginning to be seen and already numerous town centre businesses have agreed to work with the Police to set up a Business Crime Forum. This will enable them to tackle those bent on crime against local businesses.

An 'anti social behaviour order' has already been applied for and granted against a local youth whose activities were targeted against Harrogate shops. This is the first step.

The Police will open up more communication channels, **but they need your help** to tackle ALL business crime within Harrogate. Robert asked members to contact the Safer Neighbourhoods Office at Harrogate Police Station if you feel that you can help, or if you have a specific problem that can be tackled together with the Police.

For further information contact **PS Robert Thorpe, Harrogate Town Centre Policing Team** by phone - 0845 60 60 247 ext 3412 or e-mail at Robert.Thorpe@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Compete for Gold?

If you would like to try your hand at winning in the Olympics, you may like to consider putting in a bid to provide products or services via **CompeteFor**, which is a new website from London 2012 for the publication of Games-related contract opportunities. It is supported by Yorkshire Forward, the region's development agency.

It acts as a brokerage service between buyers throughout the London 2012 supply chain, and potential suppliers. CompeteFor also provides access to business support services, building skills and capacity to ensure that businesses across the UK can access opportunities linked to the hosting of the London 2012 Games.

CompeteFor has been developed on behalf of the English Regional Development Agencies and UK Devolved Administrations by the London Development Agency, working closely with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

To view **Yorkshire Gold** – Yorkshire and Humber's Strategy for Seizing the Opportunities of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games visit www.yorkshire-culture.co.uk

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting on Monday, 14th April is at the Cairn Hotel and will be the popular **Business Networking Safari** open to no more than 49 member companies who pre-book. Almost half the places are already taken, so don't delay if you wish to take part.

A free buffet will be provided to keep up energy levels during the many table changes, when you can meet up to 48 companies in one night. Not only do you find out what other members do, but they can find out about your business too.

Visit www.harrogatechamber.org/safari.htm for full details or e-mail info@harrogatechamber.org for a booking form.

THANKS TO CEDAR COURT HOTEL

Many thanks to General Manager, Simon Cotton and the staff at Cedar Court Hotel for hosting and catering for our meeting. For more information on this venue go to: www.cedarcourthotels.co.uk or ring 01423 858585.

NEW MEMBERS

Accolade Flowers (Florist)

Marianne Barwick, Owner
40 High Street, Starbeck, Harrogate, HG2 7JE
Tel: 01423 883861
E-mail: marianne@accoladeflowers.co.uk
Web site: www.accoladeflowers.co.uk

Blueberry Marketing Solutions (Lead generation)

Laura Hornsey, Strategic Business Development Manager
Aire Street Workshops, 30-34 Aire Street, Leeds, LS1 4HT
Tel: 0113 200 5209 **Fax:** 0870 333 3357
E-mail: laura@blueberryms.co.uk
Web site: www.blueberryms.co.uk

Crème de la Crème (Networking for Women)

Nola Lucas, Managing Director
Claro Court Business Centre, Claro Road, Harrogate, HG1 4BA
Tel: 01423 565567 **Fax:** 01423 520996
E-mail: nola.lucas@hotmail.com

North Eastern Tyre & Autocare (Autocare, tyres, etc.)

Richard Darcy, Manager
Grimbald Crag Road, St James Retail Park, Knaresborough, HG5 8PY
Tel: 01423 799500 **Fax:** 01423 799501
E-mail: richardd@nete.co.uk
Web site: www.nete.co.uk

The Healthy Futures Group (Healthy Living)

Ron Weinstein, Partner
The Old Dispensary, 8 Castle Yard, Knaresborough, HG5 8AS
Tel: 01423 866537 **E-mail:** ron@thebfg.co.uk

Virtually 9-5 (Business Services & Branding)

Samantha Rhodes, Principal
28 Appelby Gate, Knaresborough, HG5 9LY
Tel: 01423 751639 **E-mail:** info@virtually9-5.com
Web site: www.virtually9-5.com

AGM NOTICE

Monday 12th May 2008

All current members and guests are invited to the Annual General Meeting on Monday, 12th May 2008

At Hotel du Vin, Prospect Place, Harrogate, HG1 1LB. Tel: 01423 856800 Fax: 01423 856801

Complimentary refreshments will be available from 17.30 in the Courtyard (weather permitting)

18.00 – 19.15 USING THE LOCAL MEDIA FOR BUSINESS

***“How to make the best use of the local Press,
Radio & Television to promote a business”***

Main presentation by Jean MacQuarrie, Editor, Ackrill Media Group

19.15 – 20.00 112th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *(Only members may vote)*

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM – 14th May 2007 *(published in REVIEW May 2007)*
3. President's Report – *Granville Simpson*
4. Chief Executive's Report – *Brian Dunsby*
5. Treasurer's Report & Accounts – *Mark Hunter*
6. Approval of revised Chamber Constitution & Rules 2008
7. Ratification of affiliation to Leeds Chamber of Commerce & Industry
8. Any Special Resolutions - *to be submitted by 25th April 2008*
9. Election of Executive Officers *(Nomination list to be announced 14th April)*
10. New President's Induction and speech on future objectives
11. Election of Management Committee Members *(Nomination list announced 14th April)*
12. Vote of Thanks to retiring Officers & Management Committee Members
13. Dates of future meetings – 9th June; 14th July; 11th August 2008
14. Any other AGM Business
15. Monthly Business Developments – brief update on current issues.

Meeting ends approximately 20.00 followed by informal networking in the bar

Please notify the Secretariat if you plan to attend by e-mail, phone or fax as overleaf

BUSINESS BRIEFINGS

Cash for Food and Drink Manufacturers

Cash is being made available to help food and drink manufacturers in Yorkshire and Humberside increase productivity and profits by boosting the skills levels of existing staff. This offer represents a great deal for companies looking to plug skills gaps in their workforce.

This is the first time the Learning & Skills Council has made funding available for adult apprenticeships aimed specifically at the over 25's.

For more information on the adult apprenticeships and how to secure funding visit www.improveltd.co.uk

Prepare for energy performance certificates

Businesses and commercial property landlords are being reminded that the new Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) are to be introduced from 6th April. The certificates are needed when a building is built, sold or leased. The largest buildings require one from April and other buildings need to have an EPC by October. EPCs are useful to businesses when they have to determine a building's energy efficiency.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is advising property occupiers that they will need to be aware of the certificates when acquiring or disposing of property. It has launched a guide to help businesses understand more about EPCs. View the guide at: www.cbi.org.uk/pdf/propertysupp0208.pdf

New legislation on employing foreign workers comes into force

Parts of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 came into force at the end of February and require employers to make stringent checks on foreign workers. The measures impose tough fines on employers caught breaking the law. They also introduce a points-style system which takes into account the skills of migrants who want to work or study in the UK.

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has said that the new fines are draconian and unfair if imposed on employers who have no idea that their employees are working illegally. The Home Office has produced guides to help employers understand the new legislation.

See: www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers

More guidance on employing workers from overseas

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published a guide to employing workers from outside the UK. It provides guidance for employers, employment agencies and businesses on their health, safety and welfare responsibilities for temporary workers. The publication is available in English and Russian.

Download the publication from:

www.hsnews.com/2008/01/09/employing-workers-from-overseas-publication-relaunched

Virus Bulletin website

The Virus Bulletin website is full of useful information to help businesses beat computer hackers and spammers. It contains a directory of mal-ware, plus resources, news and events, and other information to help them identify problems that could compromise their IT systems. Visit the website at: www.virusbtn.com/index

Website provides guidance on tax issues

This website contains useful hints, tips and guidance on all kinds of tax issues, including corporation tax, pensions, stamp duty and investments. Visitors to the site can also subscribe to a free monthly newsletter. <http://www.thetaxguide.co.uk>

Compliance with corporate manslaughter law to cost business

The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act looks set to cost UK firms up to £21.2 million in legal bills. The Act, due to come into force on 6th April 2008, will see firms reviewing their risk management and health and safety policies in a bid to provide adequate protection from being prosecuted under the new law. A survey by Croner Consulting revealed that more than 50% of employers are not prepared for the legislation.

Advice on developing and implementing effective health and safety procedures can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk

Consortium presses Government for action on town centres

A consortium including the Association of Convenience Stores (ACS) and Friends of the Earth is calling on the Government to help stop the decline of independent local shops and town centres.

The Government was due to release proposals for planning policy for town centres in February, which are predicted to weaken protection for town centres and independent stores because they reflect claims made by the Competition Commission (CC). The CC said in October 2007 that supermarkets served their purpose well. Lobby groups such as the ACS and the FSB countered that supermarkets cause the decline of local, independent shops.

View the consortium's statement at:

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/media_briefing/town_centre_first.pdf

View the CC's provisional findings at:

http://www.competition-commission.org.uk/press_rel/2007/oct/pdf/61-07.pdf

APACS report on payments trends

Payments association APACS has published a new report that looks at payment trends in Britain. The report, entitled Payment Myths, offers an insight into consumer payment trends and explores issues such as fraud and online banking profiles. Download the report from:

http://www.apacs.org.uk/media_centre/documents/APACSPaymentMyths28.12.07.pdf

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