



REVIEW

August
2009

FUTURE MEETINGS

17.30 networking
for 18.15 start

14 September
Cedar Court

12 October
St George Hotel

9 November
Crown Hotel

14 December
Holiday Inn
(Safari)

Review of Chamber Meeting + News Update

HARROGATE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

- Planning consent given for new ALDI Supermarket near Focus DIY Store
- Tesco have submitted revised plans for a major SuperStore at New Park
- Chamber raises serious concerns about traffic safety and congestion
- Proposed new budget Hotel on Tower Street rejected by Planning Committee
- Days Inn Hotel now open on A1(M) Junction 47 Kirk Deighton near Wetherby

FOCUS GROUPS REPORTS

- Yorkshire Business Market 2010 now open for bookings – 25% off for members
- Harrogate at Christmas fund has now secured over £20,000 for the Lights etc.
- Leeds Bradford Airport gains many new services from Jet2 and Ryanair in 2010
- Chamber expresses concerns about a lack of customer care at the Airport
- Suggested new topics and speakers needed for Chamber Meetings in 2010

BUSINESS NEWS

- Beware of recurring e-mail scams that ask you to update your personal details
- Beware of bogus enquiries for accommodation promising large pre-payments
- HMRC offer on-line more help for both start-ups and established businesses
- New Company Name & status regulations come into force on 1st October 2009
- Useful guides on Prompt Payment, Food Handling, Building Waste & Standards

Future Meetings

Monday, 14th September - Cedar Court Hotel, Park Parade, Harrogate - 17.30 for 18.15

ELECTION CALL - main Parliamentary Candidates answer key questions from local businesses and the media

Claire Kelley, LibDem + Andrew Jones, Conservative

Monday, 12th October - St George Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate - 17.30 for 18.15

Charity Evening - offering benefits for businesses

Local Charities explain how supporting them benefits a business

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

BUSINESS NETWORKING SAFARI

The 17th Business Networking Safari was well supported with a mix of new and established members taking part.

Many thanks to **Harrogate International Centre** for hosting this month's Safari in the Queen's Suite. Our thanks also to **Kudos Catering** for providing a delicious buffet to keep everyone fuelled during the evening.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

New Aldi Store

Plans for a new Aldi store near to the Focus DIY store off Skipton Road have been approved by the Council. The Chamber supports this planning decision as it will provide a wider choice for Harrogate residents particularly on the North side of town, which may slightly reduce cross-town traffic and stimulate competition.

Proposed Tesco Store

The revised planning application has been received for the proposed Tesco Store, also on the north side of Harrogate. Harrogate Chamber's view, based on previous comments from members, is that we do not have any commercial objections to Tesco coming to Harrogate, provided that they facilitate "park and ride" with a reasonable time limit, so shoppers at Tesco can then visit the town centre on the No. 36 bus.

The Chamber is very concerned that another set of traffic lights by the Infants School on Ripon Road and a major access road through a break in the stone wall along the Road, will cause major disruption to traffic and be hazardous, because cars and artics will both use it.

Views from members familiar with the area would be appreciated - either for or against Tesco's plans.

Proposed Tower Street Hotel

Plans for a new budget hotel on Tower Street, just off West Park, have been rejected by Planning Committee after receiving objections from residents, in spite of Planning Officers recommending the plans be approved.

The decision was *"the massing and design is considered to have an adverse impact on the character of the conservation area, which would have an overbearing effect on Alderson Court flats to the rear of the site"*.

Views from members familiar with this area of town would be appreciated - either for or against the plans.

Days Inn Wetherby - Official Opening

The official opening of the new Days Inn Wetherby, at Junction 46 on the A1(M), was performed by the Mayor of Wetherby on 27th July. The hotel is reporting good business so far and the adjacent Motorway Services have also been extremely busy. Attractive rates are offered – call 0845 437 8650 or see www.daysinn.co.uk

Defer 2009/10 Business Rates

The Government has just announced businesses can apply to defer part of their 2009/10 Business Rates, or defer part of the increase if you have recently had your Rates increased. Details and an application form are available on request from the Secretariat.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

York & North Yorkshire Chamber Event

The next Y&NYCC Business Lunch in Harrogate will be held at the Cedar Court Hotel on 25th August from 12 noon. Tickets are £17.39 (members of YNYCC) or £30.43 (non-members), plus VAT. Contact Sarah Welsh at York & North Yorkshire Chamber Tel: 01904 567838.

Leeds Chamber Events

Leeds Chamber will be holding their Annual Lunch on 16th September from 11.45 the Queens Hotel in Leeds. The cost is £35 (members of Leeds Chamber) or £50 (non-members) plus VAT. The main speaker will describe the impact of the new Arena on the area.

A free event on cutting Red Tape from local authority regulatory services departments is being held on 24th September at 12.00 to 14.00 at Leeds Chamber office.

To book above contact Events Team on 0113 247 0000.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Final Call for Topics and Speakers

The Chamber Meetings Planner for 2010 is being finalised and members are asked to send in any proposals for topics or offer to present at a meeting next year. All new suggestions welcome, so long as it will be informative and interesting for fellow members.

14th September - Cedar Court Hotel

The September meeting will be an **"Election Call"** featuring the main Parliamentary Candidates for Harrogate & Knaresborough - Claire Kelley, Lib Dem and Andrew Jones, Conservative.

This meeting will be open to all businesses in Harrogate to attend - the only requirement being pre-booking

Members and guests will be joined by local media representatives and all will have the opportunity to put key questions on matters of concern to their businesses.

If you wish to attend this meeting, please send an e-mail to info@harrogatechamber.org to book your place. Your key questions should be sent in advance this address.

12th October - St George Hotel

This meeting will be an opportunity for our Charity members to explain the benefits local businesses can gain from supporting a Charity. It is not intended to be an appeal for donations, as the work these Charities undertake is already well known in the area.

There are many ways that your company's support for a charity can help raise your profile as well as the obvious benefits your donation will give to your chosen Charity, i.e. PR, brand name, logo, team building, special events, VIP introductions, etc. Find out more at this meeting.

9th November - Crown Hotel

A new topic for the November meeting is 'Networking Techniques'. This will inform members how to make worthwhile business contacts and then follow them up effectively. Presentations will be made by experienced Chamber Members – ideal for newer members!

FOCUS GROUPS

Business Promotion

The Business Promotion Focus Group is co-ordinating plans for the next Yorkshire Business Market. The date for next year will be **Monday, 26th April 2010** at the Pavilions of Harrogate, open earlier at 11.00 until 18.00.

Harrogate Chamber members have priority with 25% discount for bookings paid in full by 31st December 2009. **The 2010 booking form is available now on www.yorkshirebusinessmarket.org** - with discounted prices starting at £180 (VAT not applicable).

Members who are able to display or distribute posters or leaflets should contact the Secretariat to indicate the number and size required - A4, A3 or A2 size.

Harrogate at Christmas

President, Robert Whiteley, thanked members who helped to raise funds, which now exceeds £20,000 needed for the Christmas Lights in the Town Centre.

The next stage is a Raffle that will be launched by the Retailers Forum, in a bid to raise more funds for the entertainment that will be provided on Switch-On Night - which will be on Thursday, 19th November.

Traffic & Transport

Leeds Bradford Airport has announced that Jet2.com will be introducing new services to Bergerac, Sharm el Sheikh and Corfu in 2010. This has been followed by the news that Ryanair will open a base at the Leeds Bradford Airport in 2010 and will add a further 14 routes to add to their 3 routes currently operating out of the airport. This will bring a further 1 million passengers through the airport, and 1,000 new jobs will be created.

At a recent Airport Consultative Committee Meeting the Chamber Chief Executive, Brian Dunsby, expressed concern at an apparent lack of customer care afforded to passengers in taxis, other than the resident Arrow Taxis; plus the introduction of a charge for baggage trolleys and plastic security bags; the one bag rule through security; the lack of a covered walkway and a 30m exclusion zone. This led him to question the point of attending the Consultative Committee Meetings when the Airport appears not to be listening to the Committee.

As a result two Leeds Bradford Airport executives then met privately with the Chamber President and Chief Executive where they were able to express their views in what was a very positive meeting. It is hoped the airport development plans will address some of these concerns.

SCAMS & SPAMS

Beware of e-mail scams

Some serious e-mail scams are circulating. In particular look out for genuine-looking messages from Microsoft, Virgin Media and several Banks which ask you to click a link to update your details.

DO NOT CLICK ON THE LINK!! None of these organisations would ask you to update your details in this manner. You would be asked to log-in in the usual way if this had to be done.

Accommodation booking scam

There is also a malicious scam doing the rounds of hotels and guest houses, where a fictitious guest asks to send a large amount of money by credit card to secure their booking and then asks you to forward part of it to a third party. Don't be tempted to do this - you will not see any of the money and will end up out of pocket!

MEMBERS' FORUM

St Aidan's win Best School Catering

At a prestigious event in London to announce the national winners of the Times Educational Supplement School's Awards 2009, St Aidan's were presented with the trophy for 'Best School Catering', recognising the fantastic advances and innovation at the school over the last seven years.

Three professional Chefs plus a full time Baker lead the team serving up to 2,000 freshly prepared meals a day, in four dining areas. St Aidan's is also proud to be a member of the Regional Food Group, sourcing fresh local produce wherever possible.

Thanks to Business Link Yorkshire

Following an appeal by Marian Farrar at the June meeting, Donald Cartlidge, our local Business Link Advisor, has helped a talented ex-St Aidan's pupil find a valuable business placement during the 3rd year of his 4 year Product Design degree at Loughborough University. Don put the student in touch with Treves UK an automotive supplier offering a global product range based in Knaresborough,

NEW MEMBERS

Cold Cotes Ltd (*Guest accommodation & events*)

Joanna Russell, Director
Cold Cotes Road, Felliscliffe, Harrogate HG3 2LW
Tel: 01423 770937
E-mail: joanna@coldcotes.com
Website: www.coldcotes.com

eBusiness UK - Leeds & Harrogate

(*Website design, development & SEO*)
Peter Bowerman, Director
6 Parkside, Follifoot, Harrogate HG3 1DS
Tel: 01423 873649
E-mail: peter.bowerman@ebusinessuk.com
Website: www.ebusinessuk.com

Konnectivity Ltd (*Telecommunications Specialists*)

Richard Burns, Chief Technology Officer
The Telephone Exchange Building,
Back Gladstone Street, Harrogate HG2 8DF
Tel: 0800 368 0777 **Fax:** 03333 001302
E-mail: richb@konnectivity.co.uk
Website: www.konnectivity.co.uk

VL Recruitment (*IT Recruitment Services*)

Vanessa Lewis, Director
1 South Barn, Midgeley Lane, Goldsborough,
Harrogate HG5 8NJ
Tel: 01423 867040 **Fax:** 01423 301023
E-mail: vanessa@vlrecruitment.com
Website: www.vlrecruitment.com

BUSINESS BRIEFINGS

HMRC podcasts and videos

Confused over Compliance Checks, PAYE in-year filing, Tax Appeals and more? HMRC have a series of podcasts available via their website to explain these issues. Go to: www.hmrc.gov.uk/podcasts

HMRC are also producing a series of video diaries called "The Start-Up Diaries" aimed at guiding small businesses on a range of tax issues including setting up in business, income tax for the self-employed, corporation tax and VAT. The videos also provide handy links to further online information and help.

Go to: www.businesslink.gov.uk/taxhelp

HMRC wins minimum wage court battle

In a recent court case, the court ruled in HM Revenue & Customs' favour by upholding current national minimum wage legislation relating to tips, gratuities and discretionary service charges in the case of a restaurant and nightclub.

The judgement confirmed that employers must pay their staff at least the national minimum wage regardless of any tips, gratuities, service charges or cover charges, providing they are not paid by the employer to workers through the employer's payroll. This resulted in the establishment having to pay over £125,000 in arrears to its workers.

New company name regulations

Regulations have been laid before Parliament that will govern the names of companies and businesses. The Company and Business Names (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2009 will come into force on 1 October 2009 and will set out which characters, signs, symbols and punctuation can be used in company and business names.

The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has said the regulations are designed to make it easier for the public to find information on the company and so that the legal status of the firm is clear.

To read more go to:
www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20091085_en_1

Intellectual Property for SMEs - London

The Intellectual Property Office is sponsoring an exhibition at the Science Museum in London - Wallace and Gromit Present a World of Cracking Ideas which runs until 1 November 2009.

During the period of the exhibition, a series of IP business events will be run with the remaining two on Intellectual Property for SMEs being held on 17th September and 22nd October. The presentation covers the law relating to IP and includes a question and answer session.

For more information and to book a place go to:
www.ipo.gov.uk/whyuse/events/events-bep.htm

New guide for food handlers

The Food Standards Agency has published revised guidance for food handlers on working with food while suffering from infections. The guidance, entitled 'Food Handlers: Fitness to Work', is designed to help people prevent the spread of infection when working in the food industry.

Download the guide at:
www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2009/may/newguid_efoodhandlers

Envirowise guide for small builders

Sustainable business experts Envirowise have published a guide to cutting waste costs for small builders. It claims that firms could cut their waste disposal costs by up to 40% if they make a series of changes outlined in the guide. Registration is required to access the guide.

Download the guide at: www.envirowise.gov.uk/ - search for 'builders cut waste'

Leaflet on good payment advice

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform as published a leaflet for businesses detailing the importance of paying on time.

The advice, which has been created in conjunction with the Institute of Credit Management, outlines what businesses can expect when they sign up to the Prompt Payment Code.

To download the leaflet go to:
www.icm.org.uk/PDFBin/188-075%20BERRpayingontimeft-web.pdf

Small business guide to British Standards

The British Standards Institute has published a guide especially for small businesses on researching and introducing standards. It also explains how firms can improve productivity and meet their legal responsibilities.

Download the guide at:
www.bsigroup.com/en/Standards-and-Publications/How-we-can-help-you/Business/Small-Businesses/Publications/Small-Business-Guide-to-Standards/

Data protection Code of Practice

The British Computer Society recently launched a new Code of Practice for data protection in conjunction with the Information Security Awareness Forum.

The Personal Data Guardianship Code is designed to help firms understand their responsibilities when it comes to handling personal data.

For more on this story go to:
www.bcs.org/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.26456

The new Code can be found at:
www.bcs.org/upload/pdf/pdgc.pdf

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