

Chamber Chatter

The Voice of local business in Taunton Deane

September 2009

TAUNTON
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

RETAIL FORUM - An opportunity to have your say

The Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce it will be hosting an evening in September with the retail sector in mind.

On Monday 28th September from 5.30pm onwards, the Conference Centre at Somerset College will be playing host to the Chamber of Commerce "Retail Forum"

Open to Members and Non-Members, particularly from the retail sector, the event will commence with our Guest Speaker, Tim Coomer from Community First, presenting on "Store is the Core - helping shops thrive". This will be followed by a "Question Time" session where delegates will have an opportunity to put questions to a Panel of invited guests in respect of current issues that are important to them. The Panel Members are Mr Graham Love, Taunton Town Centre Manager, Mr Phil Sharratt, Taunton Deane Borough Council's Economic Development Manager, Liz Oram, Competitiveness Business Manager from Business Link and representing the commercial sector, Heather Lukins from McKinlays Commercial Property Consultants (independent private business).

Representatives from Somerset Waste Partnership, ADK Limited, Somerset College, Business Link and others will also be on hand to offer advice and support.

Don't miss this opportunity to voice concerns about the state of play for retailers, particularly in Taunton, whether those concerns be short term (paying the rent) or long term (the future development of Taunton). Come along and have your say.

To book your place, please complete booking form attached.

Diary Dates — Forthcoming Chamber of Commerce Events

OCTOBER

THURSDAY 22nd October — Business Breakfast at Porter Dodson Solicitors
Kindly Sponsored by Porter Dodson Solicitors & Advisors

Guest Speaker — Stephen Wray — "Minimising Exposure to Bad Debt and maximising opportunities for growth"

Booking form with October edition

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 25th November — Networking Lunch at Clarke Willmott
Further details to follow as they become available

DECEMBER

TUESDAY 1st December - Chamber of Commerce Christmas Lunch at Kings College
Kindly supported by Kings College
Guest Speakers - Ian Guy and Peter Davies — St Modwen Properties PLC — Update on Firepool, Taunton
Further details and booking form to follow

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPPORTING "IOD SOMERSET" - Date for your Diary

"Rebuilding/Improving Business confidence in the South West"

Friday 20th November 2009 — 2.00for 2.30pm to 2.30pm - Mount Somerset Hotel, Lower Henlade, Taunton
£25.00 for Chamber Members (inc vat)



The United Kingdom finds itself slowly emerging from one of the worst recessions in decades. Some say that the South West has escaped somewhat lightly, but for those businesses and employees affected it has been very tough. Business confidence has been badly hit, but we now face an election in the coming months (by May 2010), which will decide who will lead the country for the following 4 years. Rebuilding confidence will be a key task for the newly elected Government.

Join **Jeremy Browne, MP for Taunton Deane** for lunch, hear his views on this topic and put your questions to this key influential local Politician.

Event arranged and hosted by the **Institute of Directors, Somerset** - Chamber of Commerce Members are invited to attend at the IoD Member rate; please contact our regional office on 01179055050 or iod.southwest@iod.com to book a place

Your Schools Need You — A Call for School Governors

Schools in Taunton, Wellington and West Somerset Schools need governors. Somerset County Council are mounting a recruitment campaign to invite people from businesses communities and from all levels of the organisation, to join governing bodies.

Some companies actively encourage their employees to become governors because of the additional management experience they gain and the links they create between business and the local community. Somerset County Council are keen to foster this relationship.

If interested, please do not hesitate to contact:
Ann Adams, Senior Administrative Assistant
Somerset Governor Services
Tel: 01823 355757
Email: adams@somerset.gov.uk

PROVIDING FOR LIFE
WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



Chamber of Commerce Publications
kindly sponsored by:-



MAIL BOXES ETC.®

Print and Copy
Services

7 Bridge St. Taunton
Tel: 08000 978897
Email: info@mbetaunton.co.uk

Help with Business Rates Bills



A gentle reminder to let you know there is new help available to lighten the load of your business rates bill.

There are two schemes currently available, where you may be eligible for help:

2009/2010 Business Rates Deferral Scheme - offers the chance to postpone some of your rates bill for **this financial year only**. You may be able to spread the payment of the increase in your 2009/2010 business rates bills over a three year period. If your bill has increased as a result of the end of the current transitional relief period, you may be able to defer 60% of this increase in your bill. If you don't qualify for transitional relief, you can still defer 3% of your total 2009/010 bill. You can apply at any time until **31 March 2010** provided you have some of your bill left to pay. If you have less than 3% left to pay, you can defer your remaining balance.

Small Business Rate Relief - If you run a small business, further help may be available to pay your bills, with Small Business Rate Relief. The relief supports small businesses who generally occupy only one property. The relief is available to 50% for eligible properties up to £5,000 RV and relief decreases at the rate of around 1% per £100 of RV up to 0% at £10,000. In order to qualify you need to meet two criteria, further information about which can be obtained by contacting the Business Rate Department at Taunton Deane Borough Council (number as indicated below).

If you have any further queries regarding either of these two schemes, or are unsure if you qualify, please contact **01823 356324**.

You can also find further details of help available to businesses at the Real Help Now website, www.realhelpnow.gov.uk or Business Link website, www.businesslink.gov.uk

Mill Meadow Eco Project in association with BFC Solutions Limited

The **Mill Meadow** holiday home project comprises 18 Scandinavian type, 2 storey homes on the edge of an area of outstanding natural beauty. The project has been developed with a significant level of sustainability; setting the benchmark for high quality eco tourism with a low carbon, low energy footprint. The project strives to become carbon neutral and has achieved full BRE Eco Homes certification. The state of the art project has seamless alignment with local, regional and national policy in the sustainable green energy building related sector.

Appointed Project Eco-Consultants for Mill Meadow are **BFC Solutions Limited**. BFC Solutions Limited is an international associate consultancy headed up by Mike Pitcher, BSc, with more than 27 years high level experience in directing, managing and advising, coaching low carbon, high value business development strategy that offers CEO's, directors, public sector executives, etc., the opportunity to convert today's green revolution into competitive value creation and sustainable business models — a sustainable enterprise is a profitable business.

Keeping up with the changes in the sustainability, renewable energy and carbon solutions sector can be time consuming. Many professional bodies require continuous professional development is maintained in order to maintain accreditation.

Together with Rob Such from RS Renewables, BFC Solutions offer a wide range of training courses to help keep you on top of your CPD requirements and up to date with the latest developments in the renewable energy and carbon management markets.

For further information, please contact: Mike Pitcher, BFC Solutions, telephone 01823 451378 or bfc-solutions@binternet.com



Boarding and day schools for boys and girls aged 3-18

Open Day
Saturday 3 October 10.00am arrival
King's Hall School (ages 3-13) Telephone 01823 285921
King's College (ages 13-18) Telephone 01823 328204
Please contact us to reserve your place

www.kingschoolstaunton.co.uk

TAUNTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE welcomes New Members:-

Orthoworld Taunton
Optinto Ltd, East Anstey

BUSINESS NETWORKING PARTY

LAKEWOOD CENTRE
RHODYATE, BLAGDON, BRISTOL, BS40 7YE

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2009

7.30pm - MIDNIGHT

TICKETS INCLUDE
A SHOWCASE BUFFET OF HOLT FARM'S PRODUCE (GREEN LAMB, POULTRY, VEGETABLES AND SALADS)
PREPARED BY OUR NEW RESIDENT CHEF
LIVE MUSIC FROM **Electric Blue**

THE EVENING WILL BE INFORMAL AND IS A GOOD CHANCE TO MEET NEW BUSINESS CONTACTS AND OLD FRIENDS

TICKETS £15.00 PER PERSON
£2.00 PER PERSON DONATION IS BEING MADE PER TICKET SALE TO HEADWAY SOMERSET

Headway Somerset

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TARA GILLAM ON 07824 882250 OR TARA.GILLAM@LAKEWOODCENTRE.CO.UK

WWW.LAKEWOODCENTRE.CO.UK/BUSINESS-NETWORKING-PARTY

Lakewood Conference Centre
Rhodyate, Blagdon, Bristol, BS40 7YE
Tel: 011761 423366
www.lakewoodcentre.co.uk
email: info@lakewoodcentre.co.uk

To contact us:

call: **01823 353353**
Email: office@taunton-chamber.co.uk
Write to: **First Floor, 12F Fore Street, The Old Market Centre, Taunton TA1 3TP**

Data Protection

The Chamber has your details held in a database that has been compiled from volunteered information.

If you no longer wish to receive E-communications from the Chamber please email Jane Burden. We will continue to hold your remaining details unless you specifically indicate otherwise in writing.

If you would like a colleague to receive these e-mails direct, please let us have their details and we will add them to our database.