



**Crewkerne & District Chamber of Commerce  
Managing Group Meeting (Private)**

6-7pm, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008

**MINUTES**

Thanks to Jeff & Sheena Palmer, Hurlle House Restaurant for venue

Present: Marcus Barrett (Chair); Shirley Marsland (Secretary); Neil Macintosh (Treasurer); Alison Farrow (Vice Chair); Mike Banks (Vice Chair); Malcolm Brocklehurst; Eileen Mills; Jeff Palmer; Lawrie Tawse

- 1) Apologies: Veronica Venables; Rick Allen; Katy Bastin; Anton Jordi
- 2) **Appointment of new Committee Member:**  
Lawrie Tawse (Edward Jones Stockbrokers)
  - a. New portfolio – Economic & Financial Affairs
  - b. New project – Annual Budget Seminar / financial planning events
- 3) **Treasurer's Update (Neil)**  
Membership income is up year on year and donations put the Chamber in a sound position.
- 4) **Events Report:**
  - a. Networking Dinner, 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, Windwhistle Inn, A30
  - b. Business Breakfast, March, Henhayes CentreBoth of these were very successful and very well attended. Excellent carvery at the Windwhistle and well worth the £17; Katy's first Chamber event at Henhayes Centre led to 2 new members and a lot of interest – over 30 guests many new. First Chamber event run with and subsidised by Freeman Baker Accountants. All present felt it was very useful for businesses. We aim for this to be an annual post-budget event. Thanks to all involved.

**Upcoming**

- c. Health & Wellbeing Businesses, Sat 10<sup>th</sup> May, Falkland Square
- d. Chamber Garden Party & Budding in Business Awards, July, Royal Oak
- e. Chamber Barbecue, August, Royal Oak
- f. Green Business event, Sept, Henhayes Centre
- g. AGM, Oct, venue tbc
- h. Toast the Year, late Nov, White Lion House, Hermitage Street

- 5) Additional Updates from Project-Managers  
**Town Centre** – Crewkerne in Bloom (Eileen)  
 Waitrose are putting £2k toward this project. We have key traders prepared to back scheme and Cllr Sue White leads the Town Council involvement. Flower baskets will be available from around £10 (subsidised) and watering devices will be bought by Chamber and stored at key traders around town who will share watering with each other. The Chamber will run the usual Budding in Business Awards at July Garden Party. Please spread word.
- 6) **Progress Report on Business Directory Project (Marcus)**
- a. Target advertisers: pages of the previous Directory were distributed for Managing Group members to target. All ad details to go directly to Footprintz. Directory has now broken even and many more businesses still to contact – need to promote it in the villages. Please keep word going around.
- 7) Membership update
- a. **Industrial estate** (Mike) Mike to make contact with larger firms and canvass interest in an HSBC-backed Exporters / Dealing Abroad event / seminar.
  - b. **New members** (Shirley): Last Resort Recruitment & Richard Chant Carpets both joined at the Business Breakfast at the discounted rate. Barrington Secretarial Services and Arts & Yarns have also recently joined.
- 8) **Innovation:**
1. View from Crewkerne & District Chamber of Commerce  
 Need to support Evans Media Grp: Chamber editorial will now appear monthly
  2. Contributions to bi-monthly newsletter: from all Managing Grp where poss pls
  3. Shop Crewkerne: continues tokens now free of charge from VFC
  4. Crewkerne Employee of the Year / Customer Service: date to be confirmed
  5. Christmas Planning ‘Think Christmas; Think Crewkerne!’: pls spread word
- 9) **Working with Waitrose (Marcus reporting for Ken Gunn):** ongoing weekly mtgs continue and development now ahead of schedule and largely problem free.
- 10) **Urban Design Framework & Civic Society Awards:**
- a) Martin Pake’s Urban Design Group (part of ABCD) are moving forward a project to reduce ‘clutter’ ie redundant signage etc on our main streets and to see if the built environment and traffic flow can be brought together more beneficially – to celebrate our superb architecture and amenity space. Negotiations continue with County Hall (Highways) and a proposal is about to be presented which will be brought to Chamber for consultation. MB sits in the UD group.
  - b) Civic Society is planning awards for best kept commercial / retail frontage and most improved buildings. More from Jean Pakes (Chairman) anon.
- 11) Next meeting- **Please promote heavily:**  
**10<sup>th</sup> May – ‘Health & Wellbeing Businesses’ @ Falkland Square**

Please check web page: [www.CrewkerneTown.co.uk/commerce](http://www.CrewkerneTown.co.uk/commerce)