

**KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Canterbury District Economic Development Group (CDEDG)**  
**27 June 2018**  
**The Marlowe Theatre Studio**

<p><b>In Attendance</b></p> <p>Carole Barron (CB)      The University of Kent (Chair)  Heather Cobb (HC)      The University of Kent (Minutes)  Samantha Scott (SS)    The Marlowe Theatre  Sandra Hayworth (SH)   Canterbury Cathedral Lodge  Jon Butt (JB)            Fire Protection Online  Kerrie Moroney (KM)    Right Guard Security  Tony Line (TL)          Kent Recruitment Bureau Limited  Nick Churchill (NC)      Canterbury City Council  Pat Mills (PM)           Clague Architects  Debbie Green (DG)      Chives Catering  Ben Glancy (BG)        Convert Energy</p>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Les Moroney (LM)      J&amp;J Systems UK Ltd  Matthew Arnold          Stagecoach South East  Jo Rossi (JR)            Locate In Kent  Tom Mellish (TM)        HBCCT  Lisa Carlson              BID  Peter Hawkes (PH)      Furley Page Solicitors</p>	
<b>Discussions</b>		<b>Action</b>
<p><b>Approval of minutes from last meeting</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">All agreed approved</p>		
<p><b>Outstanding Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LC from BID to present at a future meeting</li> <li>• MA from Stagecoach to present at a future meeting</li> <li>• NC to ask Ruth from Transport within CCC to attend a future meeting, as she will be better placed to answer some of the group's transport enquiries.</li> <li>• HC will liaise with all the above contacts to arrange a meeting for them to speak at.</li> <li>• Thames Estuary Growth Report update: CB attended the launch, HC will circulate the report not it is released.</li> </ul> <p><i>Mentioned to note:</i> Positive feedback given on the J&amp;J Systems training</p>		<p>LC MA NC</p> <p>HC HC</p>
<p><b>Introductions given</b></p> <p><b>Welcome to the Marlowe Studio (SS)</b></p> <p>The studio space the meeting was held in, is The Marlowe's second venue and was part of the vision when the rebuild took place. The space is used for creative work, seminars, conferences, live comedy and music and to engage young people in the creative arts. The space as a large projection screen and theatre lighting and seats.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you to The Marlowe for hosting this meeting.</i></p>		
<p><b>Canterbury City Council Update (NC)</b></p> <p>NC introduced himself and briefly explained his role to the group before giving updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Road Network progress to date: A2 Off-slip at Wincheap consented but waiting for Highways England decision to determine specific timeline for delivery and preferred funding route (road needs to be completed by 2021).</li> <li>• Sturry Relief Road - planning application from KCC to be submitted in the summer, with intent to start work in spring 2019 and an estimated 18-24 month build timescale.</li> <li>• Canterbury Eastern Bypass (linking A28 with A2) remains under discussion but there is no funding for this currently, while there would be also be environmental and land assembly issues. The Leader Cllr Simon Cook has given his support for the idea so it is being explored.</li> </ul>		

- A Herne Relief Road is also planned but is linked in with the delayed Strode Farm development proposals while the Western Link Road (Canterbury) also remains at an initial discussion stage. There are no firm proposals in place for this as yet.
- Outline planning permission and funding for a new Junction on the A2 at Canterbury (Mountfield Park) is also in place which will support new homes, schools and business park/commercial accommodation.
- Electric Charging Points (as referenced at the last meeting) have been installed in 9 residential streets in Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay as well as in some of the car parks (Pound Lane & Watling Street). The group was informed that The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) can provide 75% funding towards the costs of installing new vehicle charging points.
- An Air Quality Action Plan for the district's urban areas is being devised. Ruth Goudie (Senior Transport Officer) from CCC can provide more information about this and the vehicle charging points project at the next CDEDG meeting.
- Scoping Review underway to upgrade the City's fingerpost directional signage for pedestrian areas within Canterbury.
- A Park and Pedal initiative has been launched. This offers free parking if you cycle from the Wincheap Park and Ride – leaflet provided.
- Buy in the Bay and Hello Herne Bay marketing campaigns aimed at attracting residents and new visitors and shoppers respectively into the town is ongoing. These form part of a programme of work to help prepare traders for a major out of town Sainsbury's store opening on Altira Business Park. *(Note to group – since this meeting Sainsbury's has announced that it will definitely open a new store at Herne Bay).*
- In Whitstable town centre and Tankerton CCC is also working with traders to support them in a more challenging retail environment.
- New economic impact report for tourism in the District is being prepared and is likely to be published by early 2019.
- Various new hotel schemes are being considered – operators are currently looking for new sites for accommodation or to extend existing stock.
- CCC has formally purchased the Whitefriars Shopping Centre. This acquisition is both a strategic decision (to ensure CCC has strong influence on the city centre) and financially it can seek to make a return on its investment over the medium to longer term.
- Hoplands Farm (Hersden) to get underway over next 6 months. 250 houses and 5,700m<sup>2</sup> of commercial space are planned, as well as a college training centre and some local retail space.
- Joseph Wilson Business Park Extension (Whitstable) – an application is imminent for 3,000m<sup>2</sup> of light industrial space.
- Herne Bay Bus Depot redevelopment proposal has received planning permission for 50 new houses and 900m<sup>2</sup> retail floorspace.
- Other smaller schemes to provide new commercial space include 8 units underway at Joseph Wilson Business Park, 6 units near to Chestfield Rail Station, 14 industrial units at Lakesview Business Park (Hersden) and the proposed redevelopment of Goose Farm at BroadOak into 36 modern, light industrial premises. These schemes are welcome as demand for commercial space is exceeding available supply, particularly for light industrial users.
- A draft of the Council's new Housing Strategy will go out to public consultation at end of July.
- The South East LEP is developing a new economic plan. A launch event with stakeholder and media engagement will continue from June into July. [HC to circulate link](#)
- A Government review of business productivity in the UK is underway – the deadline for comments from the public is early-mid July.
- The Council's inward investment marketing project is ongoing (re: presentation given at December meeting). There are two elements to this which comprise a new website and supplementary marketing. The website is set to be developed in-house but in a queue so has been delayed. Once in place and being tested NC would welcome feedback from the group. The

<p>Kent based marketing agency Pillory Barn are assisting CCC with the marketing. There are also 15 business/project case studies being produced for the site and marketing – it was suggested that Convert Energy may wish to participate in the programme (BG)</p> <p>Parking matters were discussed: regarding ANPR and pricing. Some suggestions were shared.</p> <p>Various matters concerning Canterbury City Council’s work on tourism marketing were discussed. The Visit Canterbury website had recently been developed. There was a comment that aspects of the visitor guide looked poor and some of the content was incorrect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NC to pass on Visit Canterbury website feedback to Chris West, Business Development Manager.</li> <li>• There was a concern regarding availability of council officer resource in this area. NC responded that the same tourism marketing activity was continuing despite the recent departure of a marketing officer. However issues around resourcing tourism marketing forms part of wider CCC internal review/restructure process.</li> <li>• In general the Visit Canterbury Partnership is growing and is trying to widen its focus to attractions etc across East Kent (outside District). It was suggested that VC members needed more participation in activity (e.g. meetings). NC said he would also feed this back to the Business Development Team.</li> </ul>	<p>BG</p> <p>NC</p> <p>NC</p>
<p><b>Round Table</b></p> <p><u>PM, Clague Architects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingsmead/Riverside project progressing</li> <li>• Mountfield Park (Canterbury) has not commenced but this is a longer term project</li> <li>• Currently undertaking a lot of property reviews: as house prices continue to increase many are looking to develop current properties</li> <li>• The commercial market is strong and business in general is good, with sales and demand remaining high</li> <li>• There is still some uncertainty regarding Brexit</li> <li>• Staff turnover is low but they are currently recruiting</li> <li>• A planning appeal to redevelop Becket House (New Dover Road, Canterbury) into new flats was dismissed. It’s not clear what will happen to this site but some kind of redevelopment or refurbishment was inevitable at some point</li> </ul> <p><u>DG, Chives Catering</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The catering side of the business is going well and the wedding market is strong</li> <li>• Corporate market also good, with several car launches undertaken and upcoming</li> <li>• Herne Bay Kings Hall has had a review undertaken and it now has a new up-to-date menu. The resources at the hall are brilliant, with excellent equipment and great views from the venue itself</li> <li>• There remains a shortage of good catering, chefs and waiting staff</li> </ul> <p><u>BG, Convert Energy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is very interesting times for the renewables and sustainability sector</li> <li>• There are practical systems being designed</li> <li>• Currently working on 40 affordable houses for Corby Council – to make them carbon neutral</li> <li>• Electric Vehicle charging points discussed: more education would be helpful and there needs to be some understanding of the ongoing costs associated</li> <li>• Quantum battery system in development</li> </ul> <p><u>KM, Right Guard Security</u></p>	

- Right Guard have been keeping very busy throughout a full on season
- Two concerts held recently with 15K in attendance at each
- There was a large number of attendees from Canterbury Pride who came to a concert at the cricket ground after the pride event
- Stagecoach have been a fantastic support throughout events
- Simon Langton School was affected by the noise of recent event during exam season
- The cricket ground is trying to work more closely with the City on events
- 30K people due to attend the upcoming Little Mix concert but news just released that there are plans for a bridge repair at Detling that weekend, which could cause delays
- There are another 4 potential concerts in the pipeline for next year
- The tourism brought in by the attendees of the concerts are good for the local economy
- House building is positive for the security industry

#### TL, Kent Recruitment Bureau

- Explained that primarily deal in Accountancy, IT and Financial sector recruitment
- The changes to the rail services could potentially be a threat to business
- There appears to be a trend for people not wanting to commute
- Commented that there were recent changes in railway timetables which caused disruption for commuters. TL feels that was potentially a positive thing for Kent as more people who currently commute out of Kent to London, as it might give further consideration to working locally and hence improving the talent pool available to Kent companies.

#### SH, Canterbury Cathedral Lodge

- Business is very busy in the summer and conferences have been popular recently too
- Accommodation at the lodge is full most nights throughout the summer
- They have hosted several Wedding receptions and also undertaken catering for events at the Cathedral.
- Upcoming cathedral graduations will bring more business
- It was suggested that SH could give a 'Canterbury Journey' cathedral update at an upcoming meeting. [HC to liaise with SH to arrange this](#)
- A future meeting may also be able to be held at the Cathedral Lodge but this will need to be after the busy holiday periods. [HC to liaise with SH to arrange this.](#)

HC

HC

#### SS, The Marlowe Theatre

- The theatre has recruited a new Chief Executive: Debra Shaw, due to start on 20 September 2018. Debra has worked on some very prestigious projects throughout her career, giving her a national profile and making her an excellent fit for this role
- Sales took a down turn for a few months but then piloted a new performance (The Greatest Show) which sold out. The theatre has scheduled more of this popular event.
- The Marlowe sponsored Canterbury Pride on 9 June, supplying staging and hosting the start of the parade.
- A projector was installed to display a poem on the bridge outside the Marlowe and though currently stalled, once it is in place it will be a permanent feature, displaying content of an artistic nature
- November will see the Marlowe's biggest production to date "Return of the Unknown", at Dover Marine Station. It is hoped the event will attract national press coverage. It was suggested that KMTV might be a good contact to use to promote/cover the event
- There is a business members and networking event being held on 12<sup>th</sup> July, in the Studio, with a fairy tale theme and including a Shrek lunch

#### JB, Fire Protection Online

- Since the Grenfell tragedy sales have been through the roof – it has raised attention
- Unfortunately, a lot of ‘cowboys’ have jumped on the bandwagon and this is dangerous
- The industry is not regulated so everyone should be warned of individuals/companies who are not experts in the field

CB, The University of Kent

- The Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS) is still the main news: it is hoped that this will be ‘more than a medical school’ and offer up a lot of additional opportunities
- The Vice Chancellor is in the process of finalising the university’s Strategy Refresh, a key element of which is to be on Engagement
- The students have finished for the academic year and mostly gone home, with graduations imminent
- Excited to announce that Dr Sue Black OBE will be receiving an honorary degree, as per CB’s recommendation
- More updates to follow at the next meeting

**Dates of next meeting**

**TBC**

**HC**