



Details of the Company that has won the bid for the new contract will be released shortly.

A lot has happened whilst they have had the rail contract: -

£80 million has been spent on improvements

Approx 620,000 passengers per day

The high-speed link started operating in 2009

Passenger numbers have increased by 40% since 2006

The Company aim is to have 25 trains out and 4 in for over-haul but currently, to meet demand, it is 27 trains out and 2 in for over-haul

Who-ever wins the contract is being asked to provide 40,000 extra seats worth of capacity per day.

CV answered all questions asked by members of the group and RL thanked him for his informative update.

#### **4. Round Table**

JN – One Healthcare is a new hospital within the Willaim Harvey grounds. Half the patients are private, and the other half are NHS. The hospital was built three years ago. There is a big issue in the area around funding for the patients.

HG – not much happening at the moment. Construction was quiet but now very busy. It seems that builders are going back to brick and block houses instead of timber framed. Contractors are still being cautious.

RLI – had a very strong November and December but January has been the best January for some time. There has been an issue with residual waste – it normally goes to Allington for incinerating but closed at the moment and they are only taking council rubbish.

RS – has expanded the firm as they have now taken over Atrium. The market is quiet at present after a very busy end of last year. People need to know that is happening with Brexit.

PC – record-breaking Christmas period and record-breaking Black Friday. Construction-wise everything is on schedule. The centre has had good news coverage. Everyone is cautious about taking on new units. 30% pre-let and should open in October with 70% let.

DS – Rix and Kay very busy. Dispute Resolution area has taken on a new member of staff. After Brexit liquidity for some firms could be a problem. Lack of services from courts is a concern as having to use High Courts in London. Maybe we should start lobbying to get local courts back?

KH – things have been very busy and across the board all is steady. Have been helping clients renew loan facilities. Nothing very interesting came out of the autumn budget. Personal allowance is going up.

JR – Kent Business Summit last Friday and next years has been set for Friday 10 January.

GG – the person that was looking after the Town Centre is now working with Stanhope and Hannah Clayton-Peck has now taken over the Town Centre.

Town centre footfall extremely good over the Christmas period. The picture house has opened, and the hotel officially launches next Thursday. The Wool Growers site has been deferred.

AB – business is buoyant. AB agrees with DS regarding the courts. Trains - the last train from Canterbury is too early if you have been to the theatre etc. The last train from St Pancras is also too early.

AO – asked if ‘Future High Street Bid’ could go on the agenda for February meeting.

**5. Any Other Business**

There was no other business

Date of next meeting **WEDNESDAY** 20 February 2019 at 4pm