

HDC Business Review

HARROGATE DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Promoting Harrogate business —The latest news from your chamber

Post-Brexit business: What does Harrogate's future hold?

Our September meeting saw leading figures from local authorities and enterprise organisations unite to tell us about their plans to improve the business sector in Harrogate.

From boosting transport connections to developing new business parks, there were plenty of ideas on the table—and naturally, our members were keen to share their thoughts too.

It was clear that transport remains a key consideration when it comes to growing the local economy. Improving rail connectivity, while also taking traffic out of the town centre and onto relief roads, was discussed by several of the speakers as a vital step in allowing Harrogate to develop.

While the town has extremely low unemployment, most low-paid hospitality workers commute from elsewhere. Affordable housing needs to be provided in combination with a



drive to bring in new employers offering better paid positions.

There is also a range of grants and schemes available to growing businesses.

For the full report, turn to page 2.

Members' Forum

The Round Table Dining is offering a one-night-only chance to sample chef Whaheed Rojan's cooking in the beautiful surroundings of the Crimple Valley. The pop-up restaurant at Christian's in Crimple Hall will take place on Friday 30th September from 7.30pm. The menu includes three courses, canapes, fizz on arrival and wine pairing. Tickets are £55 per person and must be pre-booked. Call 01423 788453.

Christmas lights

Thanks to everyone who donated to How Big Is Your Bauble, the annual fundraising drive by Harrogate at Christmas on Stray FM. With match funding from Harrogate Borough Council, more than £21,000 was raised—but more is needed to fully fund this year's lights. Lots of people giving a small amount is fairer than a few giving a lot!

Visit www.harrogateatchristmas.org to make your donation.



Cheese and Wine Night

This year, Harrogate District Chamber is organising a cheese and wine night on Friday 14th October. It takes place at the Cedar Court Hotel, where manager Simon Cotton has put together a cheese quiz to challenge your tastebuds and test your knowledge! Then Ake & Humphris will guide you through some delicious wines from around the world. The evening will also feature a tombola with

prizes from local businesses and all proceeds will go to the Christmas lights.

Tickets are £30 per person including entry into the tombola (though you can of course buy more tickets on the night!). Tables of 10 are available if you want to bring your clients or colleagues along to enjoy the fun. Email ceo@harrogatechamber.co.uk to book.

Harrogate District Chamber of Commerce

www.harrogatechamber.co.uk — 01423 504086

Twitter.com/hgchamber — facebook.com/harrogatechamber — Search Harrogate District Chamber on LinkedIn

Business News

Coun Don Mackenzie, NYCC executive member for highways, road safety, countryside access (including broadband) and public transport, began by referring to the EU referendum result. As many local businesses have said, there has not yet been a significant impact from Brexit. It may still be to come, but until it does local authorities are doing what they can to support enterprise as usual.

NYCC and HBC know there is a need for housing, but finding sites that are acceptable to the public is a challenge. In terms of infrastructure it is better to develop large sites than small ones, as they bring with them new investment in schools, roads and so on.

NYCC's corporate director David Bove was then able to expand on plans to develop new roads. In particular, Junction 47 of the A1 with the A59 is felt to need attention to cope with current traffic volumes, as well as preparing for growth in the future.

Without a bypass, Harrogate is a block in good east-west connectivity in the north. NYCC is looking at a western bypass from Pannal, a northern one at Killinghall, and a relief road between Harrogate and Knaresborough. The closer a relief road runs to towns, the greater the impact it has, as more people are able to use it for local journeys. Modelling shows the proposed road could reduce traffic on Skipton Road by up to 40 per cent.

A steering group is now drawing up specific plans in order to be ready to bid for government money when available, and implement the plans quickly. Plans for new roads usually take between five and seven years to come to fruition.

Coun Graham Swift, whose portfolio at HBC

includes enterprise and tourism, said Harrogate has only 85 people unemployed. However, the 95,000 working people are not filling the 95,000 jobs in 13,000 businesses in the district. Rather, Harrogate people are travelling elsewhere to work, and local employees are commuting in to Harrogate from outside.

This is partly down to the tourism-based local economy, as hospitality jobs tend to be low paid, while house prices locally are high. There is limited availability of sites for growing businesses, and for large employers to come in and create well-paid jobs.

HBC and NYCC are looking at ways to address this through a more sustainable economy. Key strategic evidence-based interventions will be used, and business breakfasts are being organised now to gather the views of local business people.

Alistair Forbes gave a summary of the benefits on offer through the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership. From grants for capital investment to match-funded training and development, he has spent the last 18 months putting businesses in touch with the right support to meet their needs.

He is also organising events to get businesses speaking to the LEP and each other more, and is hosting a taster event for the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses programme in October.

Finally, James Farrar outlined the support on offer from York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership. The organisation is also committing funding to projects such as electrification of the Harrogate rail line, believing congestion needs to be addressed in order for the economy to grow.

New Members in September

Welcome to the following businesses, who have all joined us in the last month:

Mark Hudson Wealth Management

Hayley Hudson

sjpp.co.uk/markhudson / 07989 419368

Able Couriers

Ian Crossley

www.ablecouriers.co.uk / 01423 880088

Mayfair

Edward Wick

www.mayfairenergy.co.uk / 07758 235032

Sarah Darbyshire

HR Solutions Yorkshire Ltd

www.hrsolutionsyorkshire.co.uk /

01937591577

The Virtual Office

Alison Tomlinson

www.thevirtualoffice.biz / 07980 915043

Harrogate Spa Tennis Centre Ltd

Carolyn Rothwell

spatennis.org.uk / 07900 567904

Outhwaite Associates Ltd

Stephen Outhwaite

www.outhwaite-associates.co.uk / 07949 929663

Harrogate District Chamber of Commerce

www.harrogatechamber.co.uk — 01423 504086

[Twitter.com/hgchamber](https://twitter.com/hgchamber) — facebook.com/harrogatechamber — Search Harrogate District Chamber on LinkedIn