

HDC

HARROGATE DISTRICT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Business Review

Promoting Harrogate business —The latest news from your chamber

November 2016

Traffic and Transport: what does the future hold for Harrogate?

Our annual Traffic & Transport update proved as popular as ever, with dozens of local business owners and managers keen to hear what the future of transport holds for Harrogate.

Organised by our transport spokesman Brian Dunsby, it saw representatives of the rail, bus and air travel industries share their latest news and some interesting plans for the coming months and years.

First to speak was **Tony Hallwood of Leeds Bradford Airport**. He spoke about the significant progress made in recent years, bringing new airlines with additional destinations and greater frequency.

Although winter is traditionally quieter for the airport, 2016 is set to be the busiest yet, with a record 3.5 million passengers travelling through. The airport is on track to break the 4 million mark within four years.

As well as continuing to add new routes and connections, work is going on to



develop the airport itself. The finishing touches are being made to a masterplan which will direct this, but the audience heard it will include expanding and extending the terminal. A new business park will also be created on the other side of Whitehouse Lane, reflecting the airport's commitment to developing business and facilitating business travel.

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December meeting: Safari—bring a guest!

Our December meeting will be our usual Business Safari. For those who haven't been before, this is speed networking in which you meet and exchange cards with almost 50 fellow business owners in one night.

It takes place on **Monday 5th December** from 5.30pm at Harrogate Town Football Club on Wetherby Road (please note change of venue. Parking on Lancaster Park Road or to the rear of Kingswood Surgery opposite.)

For the first time, we are opening this meeting to non-members, but only those who are invited as guests by existing chamber

members. If you are planning to join us for the Safari and have a contact who you think would benefit from taking part, please email ceo@harrogatechamber.co.uk.

To book your place as a member, visit the website (www.harrogatechamber.co.uk) and click the link on the home page. Places are strictly limited, so early booking is strongly advised.

We will be operating a waiting list. If you book and later find you can't attend, please notify us so we can re-allocate your place. Thank you.

Harrogate District Chamber of Commerce

www.harrogatechamber.co.uk — 01423 504086

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Traffic & Transport

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Mr Hallwood said improved transport links will be fundamental to these changes being possible and effective.

The airport supports the creation of a parkway station on the Leeds-Harrogate rail line, close to the Horsforth tunnel. This will also offer a park and ride service into Leeds, helping to significantly reduce traffic into the city centre.

Alex Hornby of The Harrogate Bus Company spoke about his plans to continue the development of its services over the coming years. As well as introducing new technology such as debit and credit card payments, a recent grant will allow eight existing buses to be converted to run on electric, with charging points at the station.

While the company does receive some contribution from North Yorkshire County Council, its aim is to make its existing services sustainable and more profitable so it can then begin to expand with more frequent services and new routes.

Turning to rail, **Northern's Paul Barnfield** said the company took on the franchise with the understanding it would look to modernise and improve. It will be replacing the old pacer trains, which will also allow additional space

to be created so more seats are available. The frequency of services on the Harrogate line will also be increased.

Off the track, more stations will be staffed and new technology will be introduced to make ticket-buying easier, such as self-service ticket machines. Making train travel a better experience is key to bringing new customers and making the line more profitable for the future.

Finally, **Suzanne Donnelly of Virgin Trains East Coast** spoke about their plans to bring a two-hourly return service from London to Harrogate in 2019, following the chamber's campaign for more direct services.

VTEC is investing £140m in the franchise and has already refurbished the trains. On board catering has been improved with a menu from James Martin, while a new free streaming app is proving popular with passengers.

An extra 5,000 seats are being created on weekends between London and Leeds, and a new late train to York is being added. London to Edinburgh will become a four-hour journey, all thanks to the new Azuma trains, which will be brought in from 2019.

Thanks to our four speakers and to Brian Dunsby for setting up an interesting and informative meeting.

Members' Forum

Festive Network & Nibbles

Saint Michael's Hospice is organising a festive network and nibbles night on 7th December. It's a great opportunity to meet other local businesses and support our local hospice.

Call Christine Norton on 01423 879687 for details.

Recognition for Norse

Congratulations to Paul Rawlinson and the team at Norse, which has had a series of awards and recognition in recent weeks.

It has just been awarded two AA rosettes and listed in the Michelin Guide, on top of being a runner-up in the Observer Food Monthly Awards for the second year running and being listed in the Good Food Guide. For more, visit www.norserestaurant.co.uk.

Carols by Candlelight

St Peter's Church on Cambridge Street is holding a Carols by Candlelight event on Thursday 1st December at 6pm. There will be mince pies and mulled wine from 5.30pm, and a collection in aid of Craft Aid International.

New Members

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

Harrogate Town AFC

Contact: Garry Plant
07740 822497
www.harrogatetownafc.com

Entech Commercial Ltd

Contact: Miles Monahan
01423 877122
www.entech.org.uk

Chamber news

Meetings 2017

The new diary of meetings for 2017 is now on our website. Full details of the speakers and debates will be posted nearer the time for each, but for now the dates and venues are:

Monday 9th January: Improving Harrogate for Businesses. Old Swan Hotel.

Monday 6th February: An Ageing Population—Challenges or Opportunities? Pavilions.

Monday 13th March: Tour de Yorkshire & Tourism Update. Rudding Park.

Monday 10th April: Business Safari. Cairn Hotel.

Monday 8th May: AGM and The Local Plan—What's Really Going On? Cedar Court Hotel

Monday 12th June: Networking, Social Media, Radio, Press & PR. Holiday Inn.

Monday 10th July: How to Succeed in Starting & Growing a Business. St Aidan's High School.

Monday 7th August: Business Safari. Harrogate International Centre.

Monday 11th September: Economic Update—Regional and Local Prospects. Majestic Hotel.

Monday 9th October: Inspirational Speaker. St George Hotel.

Monday 6th November: Traffic & Transport Update. Crown Hotel.

Monday 4th December: Business Safari. Harrogate Town AFC.

More on the website

Don't forget to keep checking the chamber website for more news and offers from your fellow members. It's also a great place to share your own news and promote offers or events, with affordable options for advertising too. www.harrogatechamber.co.uk

Christmas comes to Harrogate!

Christmas officially began in Harrogate this week with the opening of Harrogate Christmas Market and the Big Switch-On of the Christmas lights.

Several chamber members took part in the market, which is designed to draw more visitors into Harrogate and boost the local economy at a vital time of year for many independent businesses. It took place from Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th November.

Numerous chamber members have also contributed to this year's festive lights, organised by volunteers at Harrogate at Christmas. A new set of lights has been acquired for 2016, promising to be more spectacular than ever and attract even more shoppers, diners and other visitors into town.

The Big Switch-On was on Thursday 17th November, outside the Victoria Shopping Centre, hosted by Stray FM and with entertainment from numerous local groups. The Harrogate Bus Company offered £1 travel each way into Harrogate, and there was a short carol service at St Peter's Church at 6.15pm.

Congratulations to John Fox, who has helped to secure the lights for Harrogate for the last eight years as chairman of Harrogate at Christmas. He is stepping down after this year's campaign. Anyone interested in supporting the group in future can visit www.harrogateatchristmas.org for details.

