

July 2020

“Harrogate will thrive again” - Council leader

For our first-ever Zoom meeting, held on Monday, July 6, we welcomed Harrogate Borough Council Leader, Coun Richard Cooper, and the authority's Chief Executive, Wallace Sampson, OBE.

Coun Cooper opened with a stark warning that whilst Harrogate could, and would, thrive again, the harsh reality was that some businesses wouldn't!

He was incredibly proud of the town's contribution to helping fight coronavirus, in particular with the conversion of the Convention Centre into a Nightingale Hospital, and added that the council was in negotiations with the Government as to when it would be handed back.

Mr Sampson had an update on council activity during the pandemic, in particular the financial support offered, and given, to businesses since the Government-enforced “lockdown”.

The Station Gateway Project to transform Harrogate town centre had, he said, now secured £8m which would help take it to “phase 2”.

Council-owned Springfield House was to become a digital incubator hub and, money secured via the Leeds Rates Pool, would benefit the town centre. There was good news for Harrogate's conference and events industry with the significant investment planned for the Convention Centre.

The pair were asked if HBC would consider a full-scale pedestrianisation of Harrogate town centre. Coun Cooper added he was on record saying he was in favour of it, and would welcome the pedestrianisation of James Street, Albert Street and Princes Square for a trial period.

Mr Sampson added that whilst not a transport authority, HBC had already done a lot and was planning more initiatives. The Car Club last year helped reduce CO2 emissions by 162 tonnes.

Chamber President Sandra Doherty said: “I'd like to thank both Richard and Wallace for their contribution to our first meeting since March. Being held on Zoom was a first for the Chamber, and was a very successful exercise, so much so, we will be holding our August meeting via this platform.”

Pictured are Richard Cooper and Wallace Sampson OBE



Chamber 2020 AGM

Harrogate District Chamber's 2020 AGM will now go ahead, online, at 6pm on Monday, July 27. The meeting is for members only, and we ask that you register your intention to attend by emailing ceo@harrogatechamber.co.uk no later than 5pm on Friday, July 24.

The agenda was emailed to members last Friday and the login details will be sent later this week.



Sandra Doherty

Book your place at our August meeting

Following the success of our July meeting, we will again be holding our August meeting on Monday, August 3, via Zoom.

The meeting, which should have been our Business Safari - and is still only open for members - will have a Covid-19 focus, where members will be able to talk about their experiences, lessons learned and the changes they have made as a result of the pandemic.

Again, we ask you to email ceo@harrogatechamber.co.uk to book your place. The deadline for this meeting is 5pm on Friday, July 31.

Login in details for this meeting are:

[https://zoom.us/j/95686039813?
pwd=Q0INTW91RnplZ21lckpLdVkzM3Bzdz09](https://zoom.us/j/95686039813?pwd=Q0INTW91RnplZ21lckpLdVkzM3Bzdz09)

Meeting ID: 956 8603 9813

Passcode: 215749

Harrogate BID offering levy payers reopening grants of up to £750

Harrogate BID (Business Improvement District) levy payers are being given a chance to apply for a match-funded grant of up to £750 to help with post lockdown re-opening costs.

The funding can be used to purchase signage, barriers, screens or other equipment to assist businesses in the re-opening process, ensuring the safety of staff and customers.

Whilst all levy paying businesses within the Harrogate BID area are eligible to receive

the grant, it does not include PPE equipment or employee costs.

Businesses should submit their request for grant support to Harrogate BID via email to: info@harrogatebid.co.uk, including a brief description of the equipment either already purchased or in the process of being acquired, along with receipts or an estimate of costs and expected delivery date.

Continued Covid Government support for businesses

Businesses can continue to find out what Government support is available to them during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic by following this link <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

Eat Out to Help Out Scheme: promotional materials

The Government has produced a set of posters, images and other promotional materials for use by establishments who are taking part in the Eat Out To Help Out Scheme.

These can be found, and downloaded, at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eat-out-to-help-out-scheme-promotional-materials>



September's meeting

Looking ahead to September's meeting (Monday, September 7), this again will be held via Zoom. Further details will be shared with you as we draw closer to the event.

Something to share?

We publish members' news stories on our website and in our newsletter. If you have a news story to submit, email details to ceo@harrogatechamber.co.uk with a landscape picture.