



## WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

**Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 at 6pm  
The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Sue White, Terry Sanford, Des Hawkins, Helen Thorne, Emma Blake, Tony Bourne, Clare d'Ruyter, Judith Goss, Beryl Griffiths, Alison Stock, Cathy Wiggan, Frank Morris, John Thorne, Julia Thorne, David Mitton, Janet Reed and Vivienne Stock-Williams.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Sam Parr, Jackie Govier, Andrew Govier, Debby Standfast, Joan Herrington, Steve Mahoney and Andy Hunt.

#### **2. HMRC Presentation**

Sue White opened the meeting by introducing guest speaker Eileen Perrett from the Bristol HMRC Business Education and Support Team. She informed the Chamber that her presentation would predominantly cover new information for employers in 2011.

She started off by discussing Tax Allowances, which will go up in April by £100 for anyone with a tax code ending in L. She also touched on the subject of the P46 forms for a new employee. Where the BR (Basic Rate) code would have been used before if they had no tax code, from April the code OT must

be used. This means that tax is paid at different rates instead of the standard 20% rate.

National Insurance limits will also be changing from 6 April 2011, with the Lower Earning Limit increasing from £97 per week to £102 per week and the Primary Threshold increasing from £110 per week to £139 per week. Employer's National Insurance Contributions have also increased to £136 per week, although new businesses which start up between 22 June 2010 and 5 September 2013 can make an application for 'Regional employer NIC's holiday for new businesses'. These businesses may then be eligible not to have to pay any National Insurance contributions for a period of 3 years. For more information on this visit [www.businesslink.gov.uk/nicsholiday](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/nicsholiday).

Basic PAYE Tools are now available for employers to download from the internet – [www.businesslink.gov.uk/basicpayetool](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/basicpayetool). These are in the same format, but in place of, the Employer CD-ROM which the HMRC no longer send out. However if employers are to continue using the CD-ROM they will need to download the updates from [www.hmrc.gov.uk/employers/cdrom](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/employers/cdrom).

Eileen Perrett closed her presentation by informing the Chamber that further help and guidance on any matters can be found on either the HMRC or BusinessLink websites. Also the Business Education and Support Team can be contacted on 0845 603 2691. This is also the number to contact to book into workshops which are available on a variety of Employer/Employee related topics.

The Chamber thanked Eileen for her time, and Sue White took a number of copies of her slideshow information for anyone who would like details on the topics discussed.

### **3. Montpelier Estates – Chelston Hospital**

Vivienne Stock-Williams, Janet Reed and David Mitton informed the Chamber that they had to declare a personal interest in this matter due to their positions as Councillors on the Town Council.

James McGarry introduced himself and Phil Sharratt as spokesmen for Montpelier Estates, who are the developers for the proposed secure mental health unit at Chelston Business Park.

Montpelier Estates are specialists in the development of care solutions, with 15 years experience in developing over 500 specialist care beds over the last 9 years. The scale of these developments has ranged from 12 bed units to the largest, a 128 bed unit in Birmingham. They are all individually designed and respond to the local characteristics of the area.

Each of the developments is a Centre of Excellence, built around a 'village concept' with passive security, and each site is carefully selected with emphasis on good transport links and access to the motorway, and access to an educated local work force.

The plans for Chelston Hospital is a 75 bed low and medium secure treatment and rehabilitation unit for patients with a broad range of mental health problems. The proposed site is 48,600 sq ft (3.1 acres) in size with a construction period of approximately 18 months.

This project is expected to generate approximately £17 million of investment into the area, with a revenue of approximately £5 million per year to the local economy. It is also estimated to provide 225 full-time jobs, the majority of which are open to tender for local businesses, service providers and individuals. These people are encourage to register their interest on the website ([www.thenewchelstonhospital.co.uk](http://www.thenewchelstonhospital.co.uk)). The website was then launched by Sue White, and is now live for registration.

Alison Stock asked whether any of these patients would be classed as dangerous, and whether they may have gone through the criminal system. James McGarry replied that although some patients may have a criminal record, the majority of these patients pose a danger to themselves rather than others – and potentially 45% of residents will be women.

David Mitton commented that Wellington Town Council had recently had a meeting regarding the application and questioned the actual need for such a facility in this area. James McGarry said that it is difficult to prove the need as the NHS does not disclose this particular information, however the south-west has a very limited number of low secure beds and no medium secure beds. This means that there are up to 70 patients from this region who are having to receive their care elsewhere in the country. If patients can be cared for and rehabilitated in their local area, close to family and friends, this inevitably speeds up their recovery.

Helen Thorne asked what kind of security would be in place besides the 'climb-proof fencing'. James McGarry replied that there would also be sensory tremor switches attached to the fencing along with CCTV and air-lock entrances. All the staff would be trained in security and there would be security procedures, with everything logged and checked each morning and evening.

James McGarry and Phillip Sharratt closed the presentation by thanking the Chamber and encouraging members to look on the website for more information and contact them via the website if they have any further questions.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

##### South Street

It was noted that there was a mistake in the previous minutes meeting regarding the stalls in South Street for the Royal Wedding celebrations. It had

been documented that Sally Hooper had said there would be no charge for stalls.

This needs to be corrected in that there is not an open number of stalls available for the event, as the street is not just going to be lined with stalls – there needs to be room for other events and entertainment to take place.

If any traders are hoping to set up a stall they need to contact Sally Hooper at Mad Dog to see if there is any available space.

### Make It Local Map

Sue White asked for an update on the progress of the 'Make It Local' map.

Terry Sanford replied that they now have most of the details to go on the map, and this is now with the illustrator Lois Mussons. Taunton Deane Borough Council have provided a £500 grant to help with the costs of the project, and Wellington Town Council have agreed to provide the bridging loan when the time comes to make full payment. It is hoped that the maps should be completed by the middle of July, in time for the summer trading in the town.

David Mitton raised the subject of the proposed noticeboards for the town car parks. Richard Coupe has been working towards securing funding for these, and has received confirmation of sponsorship from Waitrose for the board in the Waitrose car park. He is also intending to approach Co-op for sponsorship of the board in South Street car park, and Asda for sponsorship of the board in Longforth car park. It is currently undecided who to approach regarding the board in North Street car park. The consensus was that the project is progressing well and should be completed sometime over the summer.

### A-Board

Clare d'Ruyter said that she had found a price of £130 + VAT for an A-board for the Chamber to put outside of the meeting room each month, although this would be a plain board without any permanent writing. She suggested the Chamber look at the website [www.nextdaydisplays.co.uk](http://www.nextdaydisplays.co.uk), as this company seemed to be the cheapest.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Helen Thorne reported that the Chamber bank account currently has a balance of £868.48, which is down on the balance of this time last year, however there are still subscriptions that remain unpaid at present.

Emma Blake asked whether the Chamber account is actually able to accept Direct Debits from members for subscriptions. Helen Thorne replied that it is not and that the Direct Debit form needs to be removed from the Chamber website and forms amended to ask members to instead set up a Standing Order for their annual subscription.

## **6. Any Other Business**

Chamber members John and Julia Thorne of M2S Media are giving a presentation at next months meeting. They will be talking to members about what their media business can offer other local businesses, such as press releases, advice on information to put on websites, newsletter content, television and radio interviews and crisis PR. John Thorne encouraged members to contact the Chamber Secretary if there is anything in particular that they would like covered in the presentation, and this will then be forwarded on to John and Julia.

Vivienne Stock-Williams suggested that the Chamber send an invitation Joy Wishlade, the Strategic Director at Taunton Deane Borough Council, to come and speak with members regarding the draft Core Strategy. A presentation to the Chamber would in particular raise awareness about the Council's aspirations relating to employment and housing within Taunton Deane Borough Council up until 2027.

**The meeting closed at 8.15pm.**