



Spalding & District Area Members' Annual Meeting

Tuesday 7th July 2015, Broad Street Business Centre, Spalding

Minutes

1. Members & Guests in Attendance (Signed-In)

Phil Scarlett, President	David Norton, Vice-President	Gavin Allmand
Paul Bryan	Matt Clark	Jan Whitbourn
Peter Williams	Harry Drury	Louise McGuinness
Cllr. Liz Sneath	Trevor Hyde	Stuart Brotherton
Alistair Main	Andrew Cross	Darren Sutton
Dennis Hannant	Gan Seta	Jason Rooke
Ken Maggs	May Brown	Michelle Morley
Nigel Burch	Peter Ruysen	

Simon Beardsley – Chief Executive, Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry in attendance plus guest speaker, Cllr. Richard Davies.

Apologies

Peter Bowman; Rita Bowman; Graham Boor; Paul Turnell.

2. President's Welcome & Annual Business Report

Phil Scarlett, Area President, welcomed members and guests and outlined the meeting format. He then presented his report which included the following updates:-

Area Chamber Activities 2014/2015

- Supported Business Forums – Logistics, Business Club, Spalding Town Retailers Association, Night-Time Economy, Tourism and Bank of England Business Panels.
- Organised the 2014 Christmas Festival and Christmas Lights switch-on event.
- Liaised with Newton Press re the printing of the 2015 Spalding Visitor Guide and Town Centre Map.
- Represented at SHDC Cabinet and Spalding Town Forum meetings.
- Successful recruitment of Town Centre Manager and establishment of TCM Board with agreed Business Plan.
- Supported Spalding in Bloom group with a resulting Gold Award for the town in 2014.
- Successfully organised the 2014 Business Awards Event with 200 guests attending.
- Managed Shop Watch and supported CCTV upgrade and monitoring.
- Continued input into the South Holland Tourism Forum with completion of Destination Management Plan.
- Input into South Holland Pride Awards event.
- Lobbying activity in support of improvements to the A16 and other road transport links.
- PR and networking activity via the Chamber News and local media.

Stuart Brotherton updated the meeting on current Shop Watch membership, including those joining from Holbeach and the prospective members at Springfields.

Area Chamber Objectives - 2015/16

- Launch Agri-Food Forum in partnership with SHDC and other interested organisations.
- Support Town Centre Manager with additional events and other initiatives.
- Meet with SHDC Portfolio Holders and relevant LCC Councillors.
- Continue to lobby for improved transport infrastructure.
- Progress funding opportunities for South Lincolnshire DMO and South Holland Tourism Forum.
- Continue to develop Shop Watch & a new Pub Watch scheme.
- Actively grow membership of the Spalding & District Area Chamber.
- Maintain all existing Forums and continue to represent members in their pursuit of improved local facilities and commercial success.

3. Guest Speaker

The President introduced Cllr. Richard Davies, Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport & IT at Lincolnshire County Council and Chairman of the Lincolnshire Strategic Transport Board.

Cllr. Davies made reference to the 4th Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan and the main areas of responsibility (both operational and financial) of the Highways Department. He also referenced the current budget limitations and the difficult decisions having to be made in balancing the needs for road repairs, upgrades and new routes. As well as these requirements the Highways budget was also directed to supporting school and community bus services.

He outlined plans contained within the 2014-2036 Spalding Transport Strategy to improve the traffic flow in and around Spalding, and in particular the proposals for the first phase of the Western Relief Road and a roundabout at the A151/A17 junction, which were going to be funded by private developers.

Cllr. Davies indicated that other initiatives associated with the rail network including the possibility of a road/rail interchange facility at Deeping St. Nicholas were still under consideration.

Cllr. Davies then provided an overview of the progress made by On Lincolnshire in bringing superfast fibre broadband to residents and businesses across the county and the planned programme to deliver 95% connectivity by 2016.

Q & A

Cllr. Davies responded to a number of questions and opinions, with two main topics being the focus of attention:

- i) Trevor Hyde, Chairman of the Chamber's Logistics Forum, challenged figures related to the movement of LGVs along the A16 between Spalding and Peterborough arguing that numbers provided by local businesses were well in excess of those quoted by LCC Highways. He believed that the dualling of the A16 along this stretch was far more important to local hauliers than improvements planned for the A17. In addition, the accident rate along this road was also indicative of the need to provide more opportunities for over-taking. In response Cllr. Davies defended the Highways figures, which had been compiled following a number of real-time data surveys. In regard to accidents, some measures would be taken to control driver speed and also there could be some junction improvements. There was currently no evidence that this section of road needed dualling and, in addition, there was no funding for this to happen within the County's budget, and therefore any improvements would have to come via Highways England. This subject stimulated additional comment and debate until it was agreed to carry on discussions after the end of the meeting.
- ii) Dennis Hannant raised the question of access though the town centre for buses on non-market days and the limitations imposed by LCC Highways on the use of the Market Place for commercial activities, also on non-market days. Cllr. Davies confirmed that currently only charity or not-for-profit activities were allowed on a "public highway", although he was exploring the options to change this to help with town centre regeneration.

The situation with buses was still under review, and Boston already had a service running through the town centre.

The President thanked Cllr. Davies for making his presentation and for dealing with some of the more “challenging” questioning he had faced. He added that given the importance of the distribution sector to the local economy the topic of improving the road links in and out of Spalding was likely to remain at the top of the Chamber’s lobbying agenda. Members showed their appreciation in the usual way, and discussions on these matters did continue after the meeting.

4. Confirmation of Approved Minutes of the MAM 1st July 2014

The Minutes of the Members’ Annual Meeting of 1st July 2014 were presented to the meeting. Proposer to accept the Minutes, Matt Clark, seconded by Paul Bryan and unanimously approved. There were no Matters Arising.

5. Approval of Area Council Members and Officers

Simon Beardsley outlined the formal process for the election of the Area Chamber’s Council Members and Officers.

- a) Area Council Members – Votes cast at the meeting and ballot papers received confirmed the following:
 - i) Ratification of Area Council Members nominated since the 2014 MAM as follows: Paul Bryan; Darren Sutton; Graham Boor.
 - ii) Ratification of nominations for re-election of members retiring by rotation: Christine Hanson; Jason Rooke; Paul Turnell; Tony Wright; Gavin Allmand; Jan Whitbourn; David Norton; Michelle Morley.
 - iii) Notification of resigned members: Nikki Austin; Trevor Hyde.

- b) Area President: Nomination of Phil Scarlett to the role of Area President unanimously approved.

- c) Area Vice President: Nomination of David Norton to the role of Area Vice President unanimously approved.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. President’s Closing Remarks

The President expressed his appreciation to his Area Council colleagues for their continued support in delivering the objectives and activities of the Spalding & District Area Chamber. He then thanked everyone for attending and declared the 2015 Members’ Annual Meeting closed.