

President's Notes August 2014

South Holland Business Awards

Following last years successful Business Awards lunch our members asked us to move the event to a Gala Dinner and to have a separate networking/enterprise event at a later date. The Awards Dinner will take place on Thursday 20th November at Springfields Event Centre and the Enterprise event next February.

There are six award categories and entries are open to all businesses across South Holland, including Crowland, Holbeach, Long Sutton, Pinchbeck and Spalding. Companies do not have to be members of Chamber to enter.

Entry forms are now available from Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce by e-mailing enquiries@Lincs-Chamber.co.uk. All applications must be submitted before the deadline of Friday 3rd October.

Making an entry is not difficult and I would encourage businesses to take the time and effort to enter. Entering and winning an award can make a significant difference to a company. It helps to differentiate them from their competitors as well as generating significant media interest. Possibly of more importance is the boost that it gives to staff moral as it recognises their contribution to your company's success.

This year we are delighted to welcome Work Based Learning Alliance as overall sponsors for the 2014 South Holland Business Awards. Our other sponsors are:

- Business of the Year, sponsored by the Butters Group
- Small Business of the Year Award, sponsored by Chattertons Solicitors
- Supporting the Community Award, sponsored by Definitions Health & Fitness
- Business Innovation of the Year Award, sponsored by Duncan & Toplis
- Apprentice of the Year Award, sponsored by Holbeach Academy
- Customer Care Award, sponsored by Ringrose Law

South Holland District Council have agreed to sponsor the event programme.

Tickets to attend are now available for £22 for Chamber members and £27 for non-members. Tickets include a three course dinner before the award ceremony starts.

Markets and Car Parks

We welcome the Councils initiative to review its market and car parks long term plans and have submitted our views to Quarterbridge who are carrying out the work on their behalf. We strongly believe that a thriving market leads to a vibrant town centre and that the Council must make this happen. Our main criticism is that there has been no enthusiasm or ownership within the Council for the markets and they seem to look at it as a hassle that they would rather not have to deal with.

Whilst I personally welcomed the introduction of traffic wardens to free up on-street parking and allow residents the opportunity to visit the town and shop for short periods of time. We were assured that the re-introduction of traffic wardens was not an income generation scheme for Lincolnshire County Council but it's aim was to stop all day parking

which had become the norm.

I have been told of the traffic warden's no tolerance attitude and the frustration of getting a parking ticket on a Sunday but to see a traffic warden on duty on Bank Holiday Monday at 8am only proves that they only have one purpose and that is to make money.

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www.spaldingareachamber.co.uk