

## **President's Notes February 2014**

### **Gateway Business Park**

The announcement of the Lincs Gateway Business Park demonstrates the growing confidence of developers and national brands (such as Premier Inn & Chef & Brewer) in investing in the area. This should bring additional jobs and B2B opportunities without affecting our existing local hotels and hospitality venues. It will also be interesting to see what new companies will be attracted into the new business and technology units. Hopefully these too will bring with them opportunities for both skilled workers and young apprentices.

### **Logistics Forum**

The Spalding & District Area Chamber, in partnership with South Holland District Council, hosted another successful Logistics Forum event on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Members and other guests received updates from Network Rail on the rail/road crossing closures which are planned to happen during the year as part of the £280 million line upgrade between Peterborough and Doncaster (GNGE project). Other topics covered included Spalding's proposed Road/Rail Interchange (SHDC), training for HGV drivers (Job Centre Plus) and Lincs2Work Travel Plans (LCC). BBC Look North also interviewed delegates on the proposed plans to extend the M11 into Lincolnshire.

### **Shopwatch**

We welcome the plan to upgrade the CCTV cameras in South Holland and have 24/7 monitoring in Boston. The Shopwatch radio scheme in Spalding is a vital link with CCTV and a direct link to the police and monitoring station. As we will have to upgrade the base equipment for the radios it is timely to consider extending the scheme to Holbeach and Springfields. Last week we met with a group of retailers in Holbeach who were very receptive to our plans but we need more to make it viable, not just because of the capital costs but to create a meaningful network in the town. If you have a business in Holbeach and would like to know more, please contact Stuart Brotherton our Shop Watch Co-ordinator at: [stuart.brotherton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stuart.brotherton@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Superfast Broadband**

Last week I attended a seminar at The Broad Street Business Centre "Boost your business online" which was attended by 20 local businesses. With the introduction of Superfast Broadband in Spalding the workshops explored what the business opportunities and benefits of being connected would be. Following the seminar delegates get the opportunity for further free training. If you missed this seminar, the next "Boost your business online" Seminar takes place on Wednesday 5th March at the New Life Centre, Sleaford, starting at 08.30am to 11.15am and it's FREE. To book call: 0300 8080120 or email: [superfast@lincs-chamber.co.uk](mailto:superfast@lincs-chamber.co.uk)

To learn more about Spalding and District Chamber of Commerce, please visit our website at: [www.spaldingareachamber.co.uk/](http://www.spaldingareachamber.co.uk/)