

President's Notes June 2014

Chamber AGM

Our Members' Annual Meeting takes place at The Broad Street Business Centre on Tuesday, 1st July 2014 with a 5.45pm start. At the meeting I will review our activities during the past year and outline our plans for the coming year. We are pleased to have a guest speaker: Samantha Dodd (Gainsborough Town Manager). We are in the process of appointing a Town Centre Manager and it is ideal timing to hear from Samantha on the challenges she has faced during the first year of her appointment in a similar role in Gainsborough.

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting and support our progress, they can even take the bold step and put themselves forward to be on next year's Chamber Council. Non-members are very welcome to attend and find out first-hand what we do and take the opportunity to network with business colleagues within the area.

Spalding in Bloom

We now know that the East Midland in Bloom judges will visit Spalding on Friday 18th July. They will visit Springfields Festival Gardens, Ayscoughfee Hall and Gardens and walk through the town centre. We will have more hanging baskets this year than ever before and I would like to thank all businesses for supporting us again this year, plus Plantifor who funded baskets at charity shops and FESA and Kerry Foods for their sponsorship. It would be remiss if I didn't give a special mention and thanks to Ben Williams. Ben, or as he has become known "the flower fairy" has, along with colleagues from the Punchbowl, put up the hanging brackets and baskets, often late at night, to cause shoppers a minimum of disruption.

Tourism

Following an initial meeting in December 2013, members of the South Holland, Lincolnshire Tourism Forum met again this month to discuss a draft Destination Management Plan (DMP) for South Holland. The Forum members agreed that the three most important tourism features which should be used to promote the area should be Heritage, the Natural Environment and Food.

The stated objective of the Forum is "to support a flourishing and sustainable visitor economy in South Holland as a centre for visits to the natural surrounding of the Fens and the Wash, as well as the area's market towns, villages and other attractions". The DMP document includes a long term vision for South Holland's visitor economy and is expected to be adopted by Forum members as a road map for all stakeholders that represent, or have an interest in, tourism and in promoting South Holland as a visitor destination.

Currently a Forum Working Group is finalising some key "ambitious yet achievable" Action Plans based on the delivery of the objectives contained in the DMP. These includes identifying the tourism assets with the best untapped potential and also making recommendations as to how the Tourism Forum can raise some funds to start promoting the area to prospective

visitors. The Forum will meet again in September to present the final DMP draft for members to approve.

Business Awards 2014

I can now give you advance notice that this year's event (a black-tie Awards Dinner) will take place on Thursday 20th November at Springfields Events & Conference Centre. Please put this date in your diary. Full details will be announced within the next couple of weeks through the Spalding Guardian. Last year was our first year organising the event which was a great success – this year will be even better.

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Learn more about Spalding & District Chamber of Commerce, visit our website at: www.spaldingareachamber.co.uk