**Llandudno Business Forum Meeting**

**13th July 2023 – Pendragon Drinks**

Attendees

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Jon Merrick (JM) | jon@mostynestates.co.uk | Mostyn Estates Ltd |
| Amanda Balance (AB) | amanda.ballance@conwy.gov.uk | CCBC (Conwy County Borough Council) |
| Heather Thomas (HT) | Heather.thomas@conwy.gov.uk | CCBC (Conwy County Borough Council) |
| Gaenor Loftus (GL) | Stay@no9.wales.uk | No 9 Holiday Apartments  |
| Andrea Knox (AK) | andrea.knox@knox commecial.co.uk | Knox Commercial & Insolvency Solicitors  |
| Jodi Cook (JC) | Jodi@inscribeprint.co.uk | Inscribe Print |
| Tim Winstanley (TW) | Info@pendragondrinks.co.uk | Pendragon Drinks & Elycium |
| Karen Aerts (KA) | Baycounselling@gmail.com | Bay Counselling |
| Judith Sharp (JS) | judith.sharp@conwy.gov.uk | CCBC – Events Team |
| Sally Paveley (SP) | Sally@themotorsportlounge.co.uk | The Motorsport Lounge |
| Elyse Waddy (EW) | Sales@empirehotel.co.uk | Empire Hotel |
| Matthew Parry (MP)  | Matt@italian-world.co.uk | Italian World |
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Jon Merrick opened meeting and welcomed all.

Thank you to Tim for so generously hosting the meeting.

Tim at the request of JM provided a brief overview of the business and he also made an offer for anyone wishing to have a tour of the premises after the meeting

Topics of Shared Prosperity Fund and Hospitality Accommodation Zone (HAZ) had initially been agreed last meeting. The discussion regarding the HAZ has been pushed back to September meeting due to the unavailability of the Strategic Planning Policy Officer.

CCBC Events had been raised in previous meetings and Judith Sharp from CCBC Events Team has kindly agreed to attend.

Review of actions from previous meeting

* Issue of litter upper Mostyn Street Jason Pinnick was to provide photos – JM commented he had not received but was aware that as part of Friends of Mostyn Street have been undertaking a lot of tidying up in town.

**UK Shared Prosperity Business Key Fund – Amanada Ballance**

Amanda gave an overview of the above scheme which is due to launch by the end of July 2023.

UKSPF is part of the Levelling up funding awarded to Local Authorities by UK Government. The fund is focussed on key areas such as communities & place, people & skills and supporting local business. UK Government have defined core interventions that funding must be used to support with specified outputs and outcomes. The first round application (now closed) was for strategic level projects more than £250k. CCBC application for Business Key Fund is now going through round 2 process for approval.

At the time of the meeting final approval, full criteria etc were not yet confirmed but the the Key fund will provide grants direct to Conwy based business.

Projects that support Green & Net Zero aspirations, business sustainability and business development will be considered. As a guide, grants will range from £3k up to £70K at up to 70% match funding grant could cover up to 70% of project costs with applicant providing remaining 30%)

Applications will be submitted by online application form and supporting documents such as Business Plan, accounts, P&L and cashflow will be required. A member of the Business Support team will produce an advisor report to be submitted to panel. Complete applications will then be presented to Grants review panel for approval.

Launch of the scheme will be communicated via Business Support Business Updates and the

CCBC Business Support team will be holding a few online meetings / webinars to provide overview of grant scheme. These will be followed by drop-in session in key locations so business can attend to discuss individual projects in advance of applying.

**Events – Judith Sharp (CCBC)**

Judith introduced herself her job title is Major Events Manager but in essence her role is all events in the county. As a background CCBC decided to create a dedicated Events team looking at events outside of Venue Cymru part of the aim being to look to bring events to the county. JS has been in post for year and at present the team consists of her as two colleagues are on maternity leave. As well as events JS also deals with filming enquiries

Aware that communication about they are now looking to create a portal to pull information together with regards to events across the county which become a one stop shop. This would include an area for event organisers to get information on How to put on an Event – support from Safety Advisory Group. It would also be an area where people can find out what events are on and where. Will link into information on Go North Wales and Visit Conwy and link into internal teams such as Harbour Master which they are aware was not happening in the past. The portal could be used as a means of communication to businesses regarding events in areas.

Events already confirmed in Llandudno include :

Cambrian Rally

Goldwings Parade

Fireworks date is being finalised

Timeframe of website is within next 12 months

**JM commented that he would urge that a push be made for this to be in place sooner than 12 months as this has something that has been raised and passed back as key on numerous occasions since the Business Forum was established**

**AK also commented that before the IT Portal Team create the site that they get some insight as to what required and that the forum could provide input into this.**

JS advised that IT would be looking at a generic site as a start and then build on that

**Look at the possibility of a webinar and that end user testing occurs**

Events team looking to apply to SPF to operate a small grant scheme for event organisers and also have equipment that can be loaned out

**AOB – Business updates**

EW – Hotel tending to be busy on weekdays at present and quiet on weekends based on demographic of clients not being affected as much by interest rate increases/utility increases etc. Expecting summer to possibly be quieter as younger couples/families have less monies. Easter was 20% down and fear for other businesses over the Winter not reopening.

GL – Agreed with EW regarding concerns for businesses. Post pandemic Bounce back loans now also being paid back. If businesses not mortgage free the rise interest rates will effect on-costs.

JM – Update on some of Hotels – Marine & The County Hotels just been sold. Mostyn estate have had interest made to them regarding the The Ambassador . St Kilda development progressing ahead of schedule and work The Queens commenced by EverBright Group.

M&S building – Mostyn Estate have been awarded a grant to remove asbestos and in discussion with an operator with regards to the Food Hall. Two floors will provide indoor leisure. Based on the scale and cost this is a longer term project.

AK – 85% of work is as a Commercial Solicitor. Inland Revenue not chasing companies. Not had any Inland Revenue petitions in the last 3 and a half years. Lack of petitions is not helping businesses in the long run as a lot are continuing to plough their own monies into failing businesses.

MP – Last 2 months really busy. Struggling to get stock from Italy to meet some orders . Some items not available until Feb 2024.

KA- Increasing numbers coming to counselling. Many NHS patients not wanting to wait. Has contracts with NHS and Police – now having to work late night and Saturday to fit in appointments

AB – Anti Social behaviour – still important to log and issue of this with the police even in perpetrators left. This assists with dispersal orders being put in place

Next Meeting

Thursday 28th Sepember

8.00a.m Network

8.30a.m - 9.30a.m Meeting

Venue TBC