

Llandudno Business Forum Meeting
25th January 2024 – St Davids Hospice

Attendees

Jon Merrick (JM)	jon@mostynestates.co.uk	Mostyn Estates Ltd
Heather Thomas (HT)	Heather.thomas@conwy.gov.uk	CCBC (Conwy County Borough Council)
Gaenor Loftus (GL)	Stay@no9.wales.uk	No 9 Holiday Apartments
Edward Hiller (EH)	Edward@mostynestates.co.uk	Mostyn Estates
Karen Aerts (KA)	Baycounselling@gmail.com	Bay Counselling
Luke Pollitt (LP)	likepollitt@dafyddhardy.co.uk	Dafydd Hardy estate agents
Tim Winstanley (TW)	Pendragon Drinks	Info@pendragondrinks.co.uk
James Wilde (JW)	James.wilde@stdavidshospice.org.uk	St Davids Hospice
Adrian Owen (AO)	Adrian.owen@stdavidshospice.org.uk	St Davids Hospice
Anwen Jones (AEJ)	Anwen.jones@venuecymru.co.uk	Venue Cymru
Jodi Cook (JC)	Jodi@inscribeprint.co.uk	Inscribe Print
Dan Worsley (DW)	Danworsley@hotmail.com	X Factory Ltd

Jon Merrick opened meeting and welcomed all.

Thank you to Adrian & James from St Davids Hospice for hosting the meeting.

James provided an overview of the Hospice their three sites & how the organisation is funded. This year is the 25th Anniversary and they will be running lots of events over 2024 please see [HOME - St David's Hospice \(stdavidshospice.org.uk\)](http://stdavidshospice.org.uk)

Jon introduced the following topics for today's meeting

1. Feedback on Christmas Events/Trade
2. Awareness of any events in the next 3 months in Llandudno (are we able to source any info on this)
3. Themes for future meetings/ what are the key issues facing businesses currently
4. Any news/updates

Feedback on Christmas Events/Trade

Toy Drive

The Toy Drive had been a great success and provided gifts to 100 less fortunate children

The Empire had kindly sponsored the 7 children volunteers with dinner

Christmas Extravaganza

It was commented that event did not appear to be cohesive to the High Street.

There appeared to be less stalls than in previous years although it was commented that in comparison to larger Christmas markets e.g Market the variety of stalls was better

Madoc Street was only half utilised with a few fairground rides

Footfall appeared consistent in the day but evenings definitely appear busier

Question raised as to whether the date of the Christmas Extravaganza is a bit too early in mid November – could it be linked into Late night Christmas Shopping?

Possibly a lack of physical signage and promotion beyond Social Media

Road Closure standard wording on signs possibly has a negative impact

Late Night Shopping

Limited feedback as no retailers at Forum so unclear on numbers

Appeared to only be a few of retailers themselves promoting about being open

Forthcoming Events over next 3 months

Details of events that CCBC had been notified of provided to Forum post meeting – these did not include those being held at Venue Cymru itself e.g. Snooker – Details of these can be requested from AJ @ Venue Cymru

Themes for next meeting

Requested that the lack of Wi-fi be revisited

Updates

EH – Mostyn Estate

Businesses were indicating a mixed response to trading for the period October – December with some indicating strong performances but others disappointed

For hospitality October appeared to be OK but a tough end to year

Going forward the reduction in Rates Relief to the Hospitality, Retail & Leisure Sector that had been receiving 75% to 40% would possibly make it a difficult year.

Development – Planning consent for old M&S building now obtained so will be able to move forward this that Car Showroom – Planning consent declined

Bodafon Farm now taken back – will sit on this for a while but likely to come back but higher quality

JC – Inscribe Print

December/January tends to be a quieter time for the business historically – will utilise this period to drive to increase local trade as 75% of sales are out of Wales

LP – Dafydd Hardy

December was quieter than usual.

Post Christmas prediction for business to pick up second week of January has happened – reduction in interest rate helped

Buy to Let have dropped and less houses being purchases as Second/Holiday homes with changes Legal Transactions definitely taking longer than in the past – 14 weeks

Since Covid trend had been that younger families were moving back to area but this has dropped off in last 12 months

DW – X Factory Ltd

Previous had retail shops selling discounted clothing in past but currently has an online shop.

They are now looking to reintroduce their high street presence and will be opening their Discount clothing shop on Mostyn street by easter

Positive that it will attract both Tourists and locals in

AJ – Venue Cymru

Ticket sales to the Panto were up this year

Number of conferences and enquiries increased – Additional Conference Account Manager appointed

Conference/Theatre enquiries split 50/50

KA – Bay Counselling

At capacity – had to pare back to ensure she looked after herself

TW – Pendragon Drinks/Maisies/The Chocolate Experience

Pricing within the Chocolate industry is tumultuous with some prices having doubled/tripled - this has been due to the weather cycle affecting cocoa production.

Despite this all three businesses were busy. Enquiries have been picked in relation to chocolate production as Pendragon Drinks have maintained their pricing

JW/AO – St Davids Hospice

Hospice Funding being discussed at Westminster Level

Successful fundraising events leading into Christmas. Christmas Fair at Venue Cymru great success – 120 traders – next year they have booked additional space at Venue Cymru to accommodate growth

Christmas Tree Festival tied in with Friends of Mostyn Street had been the best ever

Wishing Well by Pier will be utilised for promotion of events

GL – No 9

Business has been slightly slower

Craig Y Don is becoming more vibrant with some new shops/cafes & a second Tapps bar opening

UK Shared Prosperity Business Key Fund – HT

Funding still available under scheme

Reminder of overview of scheme

- Fund still open for applications, the fund open with just under £1.5m available, which is being administered on a first come first serve basis. UK Government have defined core interventions details of which and full guidance of the scheme can be found via link [Supporting Local Business Key Fund - Conwy County Borough Council](#)

In general 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 £100K 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.

Advised on a variety of Business events – Details circulated 26/01/2024 but also detailed below

Fingerpost Signage Project – Stakeholder Event 8th February

Stakeholder Engagement Event on the 8th February regarding the Directional Signage Project in Conwy County which has been funded by the Welsh Government Brilliant Basics Fund.

This project aims to develop and update directional signage within Conwy County to enhance the visitor experience and support the local economy.

Your valuable input is crucial as we conduct an audit of fingerpost signage in Abergele, Llanrwst, Colwyn Bay and Llandudno. Your perspective and experiences, will help inform the project team's decisions on restoring, removing and/or installing fingerposts within these four towns.

[Digwyddiad ymgysylltu fudd-ddeiliaid / Stakeholder engagement event Tickets, Thu 8 Feb 2024 at 14:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Conwy Employment Hub & Conwy Business Support

BUSINESS INFORMATION AND NETWORKING EVENT

8th February - 8.30am - 12 noon

Refreshments & Breakfast included

Conwy Business Centre
Junction Way
Llandudno LL31 9XX

SPEAKERS:

DWP – overview on the support for businesses

GLLM - information on ways to upskill and train existing staff along with funding available

GLLM – have you considered offering an apprenticeship? Find out how and what support is available for your business.

PLUS a range of exhibitors from partner organisations offering invaluable business support

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW:

<https://bit.ly/ConwyBusiness>

Grwp Llandrillo Menai Meet the Funder event – 15th February – Conwy Business Centre, Llandudno Junction

An opportunity to access funded training and support for your business.

Projects are designed to meet the needs of North Wales businesses - to deliver skills, knowledge and qualifications in areas that can really impact your business in 2024. Funding is available until the end of 2024 - be sure to attend and find out how you can benefit. For further details please see link

[Cwrdd â'r Cyllidwr / Meet the Funder Tickets, Thu, Feb 15, 2024 at 8:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Business Information

Green Digital Academy

The Green Digital Academy is here to support businesses who see the value of using new digital technologies, accelerate efficiency, productivity, carbon reduction and to reduce costs. Working with a mentor, we can help you to evaluate your current position and undertake a diagnostic on your business, develop a plan to identify training and funding to support you to reduce your carbon footprint.

For further details please see

[Green Digital Academy | Busnes@LlandrilloMenai \(gllm.ac.uk\)](#)

AOB

JM reminded businesses the importance of completing CCBC – Budget Consultation due to close early February.

[Budget Consultation - Conwy County Borough Council](#)

EH

The remaining 5 Prom Shelters were being replaced through funding obtained for WG/UK Gov funding pots which would complete the renewal

Next Meeting

21st March 2024

8.00a.m Network

8.30a.m - 9.30a.m

Venue

Providero

Upper Mostyn Street, Llandudno

