

THE Pontardawe CHAMBER FOR TRADE & COMMERCE

OCTOBER UPDATE

Many new businesses have taken residence in Pontardawe Town over recent years. Together with existing business and local bodies, there seemed to be a general desire to create a collective voice for the Traders and Commercial entities in Pontardawe. A meeting was organised to assess the interest in forming such a body. There was good interest shown, and the process of setting up an Association was started.

Apologies are extended to any business or interested party who did not receive notification for the previous informal meeting. We are in the process of building a database of all businesses and/or individuals who would like to get involved in re-forming a Pontardawe Chamber of Trade & Commerce. Please pass on your contact details to Mr. Glen Thomes at Pontardawe Post Office and you will be kept informed of all meetings and progress.

The *Free* Monthly Pontardawe Community Magazine will also publish info.

The first informal meeting was held at The Dillwyn Arms Hotel, 1st Floor Conference Room, October 11th 2007.

Requirements to create a Chamber of Trade Body were outlined.

An open discussion brought many concerns, future developments, and local issues to the fore. These are outlined below:

- 1) **Name** of Body. To be finalised next meeting.
- 2) **A Constitution**. What will be the aims and objectives for an Association. To be discussed in next meeting.
- 3) The development of a **Retail Park** at the old Economic Drums and Sommerfield site. The possible Impact on existing Businesses was discussed and will be on future agendas.
- 4) **Parking** in Pontardawe. The imminent conversion of The Herbert Street Car Park to Pay and Display, brought much reaction, and again will be the subject of future agendas.
- 5) **Membership**. Will there be a membership fee requirement for the Association? General consensus seemed to point to Yes. An annual fee of £30 was mooted, to be confirmed next meeting.
- 6) **Steering Group**. A steering group for the formative period of the Chamber/Association was nominated and seconded by Mr Mike James (Tawe Car Centre).
Acting Chairman - Mr. J.Jones (Regalia Clothing), Acting Secretary - Mr. G.Thomas (Pontardawe Post Office), and Acting Treasurer Huw (Solicitor)
- 7) **Christmas Parade & Decorations**. Can we do more as traders, could the council do more?

Agenda for next Meeting

- 1) Confirmation of Name
- 2) Confirm the Constitution
- 3) Parking - Specifically Herbert Street Car Park
- 4) Christmas - Date/Time of Parade. Shop Decor?
- 5) Membership Fees

Next Meeting: Thursday November 8th 2007

Venue: Dillwyn Arms Hotel, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Start Time: 7pm

Estimated Finish Time: 8.30pm