



Minutes of Meeting 31 August 2007

- **Welcome to the meeting by the Chairman and aim of the Business Club**

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the members and briefly reported to the meeting the key aims of the Business Club. Namely, that the Club is able to provide a voice for businesses in Lincoln, whilst also being a relaxed environment in which to meet and network with members of the local business community.

- **Member introductions**

Starting with the committee members, each of the members stood up and introduced themselves and stated which businesses they are from.

- **Charity donations**

The Chairman read out a card to the meeting from the Lincs Farm Project, which is a project to enable children to enjoy the outdoors and to experience farm life. This is one of the charities which the Business Club supported by making a £250.00 donation as decided at the AGM. Additionally, the Secretary read out a letter from the Lincolnshire Centre for Grief and Loss, which thanked the Business Club for its commitment to help children and adults from grief and loss in the Lincolnshire area and again thanked the Club for its donation.

- **Sponsorship for future meetings**

The Chairman reiterated that the Business Club is a non-profit organisation and therefore it does require sponsorship for the meetings. He explained that it is £50.00 per meeting but this enables the sponsor to have all their literature and banners at the venue and also enables them to have a five minute presentation to the assembled members to sell their business. The Chairman also referred to the page in the Business Echo which includes Lincoln Business Club members.

- **A word from our sponsor: Dan James, Printing.com**

Dan James gave the meeting a brief overview of his business, printing.com. They have recently opened a new store in Lincoln which is based at Greetwell Place and explained that they do all printing and design in respect of businesses literature including business cards, letterheads and promotions. Dan explained that printing.com is a national franchise and is in fact all the way across Europe. Dan's company owns the franchise rights from North Lincolnshire. Dan also told the members about the particular offers in relation to printing on a month by month basis and encouraged the members to try them out.

- **“Business for Breakfast”:** Presentation by Shona Wellbury and Robert Doe

Robert and Shona gave an extremely informative and insightful presentation in respect of a new charity which has been set up by local businesses and organisations in Lincoln, the aim of which is to assist children in the city’s primary schools to have a healthy breakfast. The charity is called Business for Breakfast and the idea is that local businesses will support by pledging money, to local schools which are unable to fund the pre-school breakfast clubs. As part of the breakfast clubs, the children will be fed a healthy breakfast. Robert read out some frightening statistics which state that more than 3.5 million children in the UK are living below the poverty line and that the Child Poverty Group estimates that 30% of children in the UK do not go home to a cooked meal. One of the aims of the Business for Breakfast organisation is to ensure that children start the day of properly with a healthy breakfast. Robert also pointed out the social implications of having the children sitting round a table and eating together. Clearly, some of these children do not have the opportunity at home for one reason and another to sit at a dining table or to learn how to use a knife and fork properly. Shona told the members how they can get involved with the charity if they wish in terms of pledging sums to particular schools for a period of 3 years or even just a one off donation. Shona also told the meeting about some heart warming stories where there have been very positive results coming out of the breakfast clubs in terms of the development of the children, relationships between their families and the schools which they attend.

- **Speed Networking**

The Chairman encouraged the members to change places and sit with people who they did not know and where possible to have full tables in order to get the most out of the speed networking part of the meeting. This part of the meeting enables each member to sell their business for 1 minute to the rest of the people on their table. This is a valuable opportunity to get to know the members of the club and to swop a few business cards. We were all reminded to make sure that we bring enough business cards to circulate round the table as we talk.

- **Lincoln Business Club Constitution: Emma Clement**

Emma explained that in her role as assistant secretary and also as a Company Commercial solicitor, that she has drafted an outline of a constitution for the Lincoln Business Club. The committee for several years has been considering having a constitution to act as a framework for the running of the club. Emma has taken this forward and this has been discussed at length at the committee meetings. Emma explained to the club that the reasons why the committee feel it would be helpful to have a constitution are that it will act as a set of guiding principles for the running of the club. That is to say that it will help the committee in that it will have a framework to work within. However, additionally, it will also be useful for new members to check on the website what the club is about and to see what its aims and

objectives are. Finally, it will of course be useful for existing members in order that they know the principles to which the committee work and also the rules in terms of voting, bringing guests and election of the committee.

Emma went through key provisions that the constitution will include which are as follows: the objectives of the club (as outlined by the Chairman at the beginning of the meeting), who the members are in terms of catchment area, attendance and subscription, the committee including its size, election and retirement/resignation, voting procedures at the AGM and formalities of signatures in respect of the bank account. There are also provisions to deal with speakers and any expenses.

Emma explained that if the membership see fit the committee will finalise the draft at the next committee meeting on the 17th September. Nevertheless, Emma encouraged the members to check the draft constitution on the website and to let any of the committee members have any comments that they may have. Then the proposal is that the club will run in accordance with the constitution as drafted and then it can be properly ratified and amended if required at the next AGM. There were no questions from the assembled members.

▪ **Card Draw Speaker: Reverend Les Whitfield**

Reverend Les Whitfield is the industrial chaplain for the Lincolnshire area. Les explained that chaplains are ministers to a specific group of people as opposed to a wider geographical area the vicar would be. He explained that the Lincolnshire chaplaincy services link together all the churches of Lincolnshire. There are chaplains in all areas of work including industry, education, agricultural, environment, waterways and also in relation to the migrant workers in the south of the county. Chaplains will also be found in other larger organisations, for example in the forces or hospitals, but these do not come under the remit of the Lincolnshire chaplaincy services. If you work with any of the organisations which the chaplains serve, the chaplains are there for all employees. The work of chaplains involves perhaps unsurprisingly pastoral care, values and ethics and spiritual guidance but also to build up networks of trust in the workplace to assist in communication. Reverend Les Whitfield works as a chaplain to the electronics industry in Lincoln.

Reverend Les Whitfield also pulled out the next card speaker from the pool of business cards which had been placed in there by all attending members. Mr Peter Applewhite of ICTS Systems was picked out to do a 5 minute presentation at the next meeting.

▪ **Police update: Sgt Pat Coates**

Sgt. Pat Coates briefly updated the meeting as to current crime statistics in Lincoln. Sgt. Coates explained that crime is generally down by 2.5% in the city and such crimes as domestic burglary are even down by 17.5%. Though he acknowledged that there is still an issue in Lincoln City Centre with criminal damage. Sgt. Coates commented that in the Lincolnshire West division, there are very little issues with the gang culture which other areas of the country are suffering and which are in the media at the moment. Sgt. Coates also

referred the members to the leaflets which he has which are aimed at businesses. The leaflets go through procedures which businesses can use to reduce crime at their premises. Sgt. Coates commented that in the East Midlands generally, there is quite a high proportion of business crime and therefore it is certainly worth the members considering the issues raised in the leaflet.

In answering a question from the floor, Sgt. Coates explained that anyone under 18 who is consuming alcohol in a public place can be reprimanded by a P.C. Special Officer who has the power to confiscate the alcohol. However, if the P.C.S.O. witnesses verbal abuse to a member of the public by an individual, they are not able to arrest that individual as it would be a public order offence. Nevertheless, they would be used as expert witnesses should it be necessary if proceedings are brought. He explained that there has been a review of powers of P.C.S.O.'s, nevertheless in this region they do not have the power to detain individuals and they have no power of arrest other than that as a member of the public.

▪ **Website**

Mark, who is the committee member in charge of the website, updated the meeting that there are now 25 new members and that the membership is up towards 400 people. However, Mark made a plea to the members to ensure that they keep their profiles up to date and that, subject to what is agreed in the constitution, if member profiles are not updated on a regular basis then they will be removed. He suspects that there are certainly businesses included on the membership who no longer exist and this is why the figure is perhaps around the 400 mark.

▪ **Events**

John Cawdell, vice-Chairman, announced to the meeting that the Christmas breakfast club meeting will be on Friday 14th December and then on the same day there will be a lunch held at So Lux at the Brayford which will cost in the region of £10.00 each, which will include a complimentary drink and light buffet.

▪ **Advertising**

Jon Finegold, Secretary to the club, again drew attention to the Echo and back page in the business supplement which is dedicated to the Business Club. It costs £25.00 per month (and generally participants are asked for 3 month commitment). It is extremely important that club members not only support the club by advertising on this page but also the Echo.

▪ **Member's Announcements**

Linda Clark of Chattertons made an announcement in respect of a conveyancing deal which is if a Lincoln football supporter uses Chattertons for its conveyancing then Chattertons will donate £100.00 to the football club.

Linda also promoted an employment seminar in relation to Poor Performance in the workplace which will be held as a breakfast seminar on 4th October at Chatterton House on Doddington Road.

Jeannine Peta Thornely from Nicholsons accountants promoted a free seminar which they will be putting on in relation to Age Discrimination which will be held on 25th October, 4.30pm to 6.30pm at their premises.

Nicholsons also promoted a free seminar, also on 4th October but at 4.30 in the afternoon, in relation to the WEEE directive. The meeting was told that the seminar will run through the legislation and how it affects businesses.

Steff Wright, the Lincoln football club chairman, indicated to the members that the football club was considering putting together a package to be offered to both Lincoln Business Club and Newark Business Club for members to use a box for £20.00 per head over 10 games. Only 10 people can fit in each box and therefore there should not be any problems in ensuring that it is full for each game. On a show of hands there were several people at the meeting who would be interested in taking up these places.

- **Date and timing for next meeting.**

The meeting was brought to a close by the Chairman with a reminder that next months meeting is on Friday 28th September 2007.