

Deal & Walmer Chamber of Trade

Serving Traders & The Community



Advertisement feature

We're backing fight for high-speed link

THE success of local representatives at district, county and parliamentary level in winning a high-speed link to Dover Priory was an important breakthrough for the district, and there is no doubt the service is an enormous benefit – cutting journey times to London to around an hour, and bringing vast regeneration and investment potential.

The Deal urban area has a population of 30,000, compared to Dover's 40,000, and the twin centres together comprise 70 per cent of the district.

Because of this the chamber is committed to lobbying for the new high-speed train (HS1) service to

be extended from Dover and to stop at Deal.

We fully appreciate the importance of restricting the number of train stops in order to reduce travel times from the coast to the capital, and believe HS1 should stop in Folkestone once only, instead of twice, and be replaced by a new stop in Deal.

This makes sound business sense for South East Trains as the travel time to London will remain the same throughout the existing route, but there is the potential for up to 750,000 more passengers a year to travel on HS1, given this is the footfall at Deal's two stations (Network Rail, 2007-08).

In addition, Deal is integral to

Dover's Growth Area status with early plans for tens of thousands more houses.

In fact Deal will be developed in the first phase of the new Dover District Local Development Framework, ahead of Dover itself. Finally, Dover HS1 trains already run empty from Dover to and from the Ramsgate depot, so stopping these at Deal would be a low cost start!

We asked Charles Horton, managing director of South East Trains, a direct question at the 2009 national Thames Gateway Conference, inviting him to explain why HS1 stops twice in Folkestone, but not at all in Deal.

He said this happens because

commuters park in Folkestone West but live in Folkestone Central, and yet the town has a modest population of 55,000 only.

We are delighted by the early success of the new Javelin high-speed rail service, and are especially pleased by its punctuality and the high level of demand, but effective public transport – and HS1 in particular – is critical to local business success.

We are committed to securing an HS1 stop for Deal, and have joined forces with the Trains4Deal group to best ensure it happens.

We very much hope you will support the chamber in this important campaign.

Charity quiz night

THE chamber is holding a quiz night at the Hole in the Roof on Tuesday, March 2, at 7.30pm.

Teams of up to six maximum, £5 per person. Come and enjoy the evening, do a bit of networking and even raise a few pennies for a local charity. To book your place please call Bob Humphreys on 01304 360000 or email bob.humphreys1@btinternet.com

Council places

THE chamber has a couple of places available on our council.

The council meets on the third Monday of each month.

If you have ideas about how to help improve business for the town, why not consider joining us? Contact any current council member for further details.

Membership fees

THE membership fees for 2010 are now due. If you haven't sent us your cheque, please feel free to do so. Fees this year are £30 (up to eight employees) and £50 (more than eight employees).

Newest members

WELCOME to new members Beach Home & Furniture, Millard Insurance and Storm It.

Annual meeting

NOTE for your diary: The annual meeting at Deal Town Hall on Thursday April 22.



At the chamber's business breakfast are, from left, Aidan Bailer from the Valuation Office, chairman Peter Varrall and president Bob Humphreys

Plenty to chew over at meeting

MORE than two dozen interested parties attended the chamber's first business breakfast of the year for a presentation by Aidan Bailer of the Valuation Office.

To follow upon from this meeting:

The Chamber of Trade will orchestrate appeals against the overall rates used in the Valuation Office schemes for High Street and Queen Street from which members in those streets should all benefit if successful.

If your rateable value has gone up by less than 17 per cent, you will actually pay less than last year. The maximum increase that you will have to pay will be 12.5 per cent this year.

Small Business Relief is available on properties valued below £12,000 so some properties previously excluded may now qualify.

Apply to Dover District Council www.doverdc.co.uk/PDF/smallbusinapplication.pdf

If your business is suffering from the recession you can still apply for Hardship Relief www.doverdc.co.uk/PDF/hardship.pdf

If you were unable to get to the meeting there are three two-minute videos that explain much of what was discussed at www.2010.voa.gov.uk/rli or copies of the presentation are available at Zoom Photos, 65 High Street.

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