

Notes form Business Forum Meeting

24th May 2012

Tiverton Hotel, Tiverton

Presentation from Amy Tregellas (Head of Communities and Governance, MDDC) - Update on progress with the economic strategy

High Street Innovation Fund

The Council has received £100,000 from Government through the High Street Innovation Fund to help improve town centres in Mid Devon. This money is to be matched with contributions from the Council and landlords. The Council has met with Council members, and town traders to develop ideas. Still to have a meeting with landlords and commercial agents on Jun13th.

Ideas for the use of the money include:

- Loans or grants for businesses
- Using empty shops for small start-up businesses, perhaps working with young people
- Improvements to the streetscene –‘a lick of paint’
- Support for market trading – trying out a business idea in the market

‘Business First’

The Council wants to improve the way the Council does business with business. It has set up a project to look at its processes and procedures and is looking to set up a focus group with interested parties to understand the business experience of council services. If anyone would like to volunteer for this please contact John Bodley Scott or Gordon Cleaver.

Presentation from Colin Slade (Tiverton Town Council) - Christmas Lights

Christmas lights were previously paid for solely by the town council, but increasing need support and sponsorship from businesses. This year’s switch-on is on 24th November and hoping to have a same sort of events as last year but will need business support. You can sponsor the lights or single lights, or the Christmas tree. On 8th June there is a special fundraising event – a Christmas meal in June at Tiverton Hotel – Please support this event

Questions

Q. ‘How has MDDC recognized the role of the LEP?’

A. MDDC takes the LEP very seriously. Peter Hare-Scott has already met with Will Mumford, DCC portfolio holder for the economy and district rep on the LEP. Economic Development is top of MDDC’s Agenda and it will continue to work to promote the economy of Mid Devon through the LEP.

Next meeting 12th July

At which there will be presentations from Gravitas Recruitment and At Best Ltd. about retaining and improving staff.