

**From:** davidfoley@tekc.co.uk [mailto:davidfoley@tekc.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 26 February 2008 15:18  
**To:** 'admin@tekc.co.uk'  
**Subject:** Thanet & East Kent Chamber weekly bulletin "The Insider"

\*\*\* Welcome to the first edition of the Thanet & East Kent Insider \*\*\*

Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber

## **Thanet & East Kent Insider**

26th February 2008

### **1. Commercial Rates**

From 1 April 2008, rate relief on empty commercial properties will be abolished. There are some exceptions for charities, protected buildings, companies in administration and sports clubs. The unintended consequences of this may be to discourage small-scale property developers from investing in Thanet. The Chamber is making representations on behalf of our members. Will this affect you? If so, email the Chamber on [admin@tekc.co.uk](mailto:admin@tekc.co.uk) and we will send you details.

### **2. Have your say on Eurokent at Westwood Cross**

The development site between Westwood Cross and the Marlowe Academy, known as Eurokent, is owned by Thanet District Council, Kent County Council and Rosefarm Estates plc. TDC and KCC have formed East Kent Opportunities to seek views on a new masterplan for the area. The EKO caravan with displays and background information will be on site at Westwood Cross on the edge of the car park between W H Smith and Marks & Spencer from 1100 hrs to 1700 hrs from now until Saturday.

### **3. Chamber Reports**

Members should have received a full report on the last two Chamber events "Get a share of £1bn" and "The China Gateway – full of Eastern promise for Thanet". If you have not got yours to hand, please email the Chamber to [admin@tekc.co.uk](mailto:admin@tekc.co.uk) and we will send you copies by return. This is to confirm that all paid-up members of the Chamber will be included on a preferred contractors list to be sent to a decision making director of The London Array and his counterpart at Commercial Group Properties.

### **4. New Partners**

Thanet & East Kent Chamber has signed a partnership agreement with Channel Chamber of Commerce. This will bring significant added benefits to members as well as serving as a local gateway to new opportunities in the Folkestone, Hythe, Hawkinge, Dymchurch and New Romney area. Details of these plus an exciting new partnership programme with Channel Chamber of Commerce should arrive in the post early this week. Please contact the Chamber on [admin@tekc.co.uk](mailto:admin@tekc.co.uk) if you would like copies by email.

### **5. Did you see it??**

The Politics Show, BBC1 at 12.30hrs last Sunday? There was a debate about Kent County Council's move into commercial services and the reaction of local business. Is Kent County Council "a large business" acting in the best interests of ratepayers or is it improperly "dabbling in local entrepreneurship"? A podcast of the programme is available to view until next Sunday on [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/politics\\_show/regions/south\\_east/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/politics_show/regions/south_east/default.stm). Click on 'LATEST PROGRAMME' and fast-forward to 12 mins.

### **6. Big Breakfast Networking**

Our new partners at Channel Chamber are organising a BIG Breakfast on Tuesday 11th March at the Ramada Hotel in Dover starting at 7.30am. There is room for up to 100 businesses at this networking event. To book your place, please telephone 01303 270022.

## **7. National opportunities and great savings**

We will shortly be distributing the Chamber Connect Card. A sweet fruit of our new partnership arrangements, this new unique Membership Card takes advantage of the wider national network of the British Chambers of Commerce and adds value to your membership. It offers access a wide range of business opportunities for your company, nationwide networking and leisure benefits for your employees. To find out more about Chamber Connect, click on the link at <http://www.chamberconnect.info/>

## **8. Small Business Act**

The European Union Commission has launched a consultation on implementing a "Small Business Act". The aim of this legislation is to develop a strong SME structure. The consultation gives businesses an opportunity to express their opinions on a wide variety of issues including EU regulation, access to EU markets, skills shortages, access to public procurement and environmental challenges. An online questionnaire is available for you to complete on: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/sba\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/sba_en.htm) . All questions are optional and so you can ignore the ones that do not interest you.

## **9. Martha Trust**

The Martha Trust Celebrity Golf Day is taking place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> February at Princes Golf Club, Sandwich. Geraint Jones, Kent & England cricketer, will be leading the celebrities from sport and television. Details from the Martha Trust in Deal on tel: 01304 615223.

## **10. New Members**

Contact details of our new members will be published in our March newsletter.

This is a weekly news communication from Thanet & East Kent Chamber designed for members. All comments, recommendations and advice is warmly welcomed. Please email comments to [davidfoley@tekcc.co.uk](mailto:davidfoley@tekcc.co.uk)

<<END>>

---

David Foley  
Chief Executive, Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited  
Director, Channel Chamber of Commerce  
Fellow, Royal Society of Arts  
Tel: +44 (0) 1843 609289  
Fax: +44 (0) 1843 609291  
Email: [davidfoley@tekcc.co.uk](mailto:davidfoley@tekcc.co.uk)  
Mobile: +44 (0) 7967 284850

---

Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited  
Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited (TEKC) is a company registered in England and Wales with company number 4518138. Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited, Kent Innovation Centre, Thanet Reach Business Park, Millennium Way, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2QQ. Tel: 01843 609289 Fax: 01843 609291 TEKC is not VAT Registered. Important: This e-mail may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient it may be unlawful for you to read, copy, distribute, disclose or otherwise use the information used in this e-mail. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, please telephone, fax or e-mail us immediately. Errors and omissions may occur in the contents of this e-mail arising out of or in connection with data transmission, network malfunction or failure, machine or software error or malfunction, or operator error. TEKC accepts no responsibility for any such errors or omissions and you are advised to confirm the accuracy of the contents of this e-mail before relying on it for any purpose.