

Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber

Thanet & East Kent Insider

14th August 2009

1. New Business

There are still opportunities to win contracts of up to £100,000 to supply the London 2012 Olympics. Small and Medium Enterprises are invited to register on the government's website at www.supply2.gov.uk. The first piece of good news is that registration is now free, see <https://www.competefor.com/business/login.jsp>. Previously businesses could be charged as much as £180 to participate in the scheme. Make sure you have with you a description and profile of your business with the information you would like a potential buyer to see. The second bonus is that if you are quick off the mark, you can attend a workshop in Thanet when all will be explained. Assuming you are not located close to Slough, Reigate, Milton Keynes, Worthing or Emsworth, your nearest venue is likely to be Eurokent Business Park, Ramsgate. To book for the workshop on 8 October 2009, go to <http://businesslinkssoutheast.net/businesslinkssoutheast/lz.aspx?pl=05858062SI92&CC=&p=0&clD=0>. At the time of writing, there are 89 places left.

2. I Want A Bigger House

Research just published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) tells us that just over a third of the 2,500 householders interviewed claimed that they did not have enough room in their kitchen for basic appliances such as a toaster and a microwave. Have new houses been getting smaller over the last twenty-five years? The sample group living in and around London in houses built since 2003 certainly thinks so. CABE points the finger at developers and local authorities. In answer to the claim from house builders that there are not the buyers for larger homes, CABE states, "By building the smallest homes in Europe, they're not giving people the choice. Homebuyers deserve well designed homes that allow them to choose how they live." One recommendation is to follow the standard practice in many overseas countries such as Japan where Estate Agents routinely provide floor plans and quote the total floor area rather than simply the number of bedrooms. It cannot be easy for a local authority to decide whether to allow the development of 100 medium to large houses, 150 smaller units or 250 apartments to be used for social housing. Many Chamber members are active in the residential and commercial property markets. We welcome their contribution to the debate.

3. How Are We Doing?

The Kent and Medway unemployment figures have arrived this week from the ever excellent KCC Analysis and Information team. The figures for July 2009 can be compared with the same month in 2008. Thanet and Shepway show the lowest increases since last year with both districts registering under 70%. This compares well with the Kent average of a 95.6% annual growth in adults of working age seeking Jobseekers Allowance and National Insurance Credits. Nevertheless, Thanet remains the district with the most claimants, just under 4,000. There is a measure of encouragement from the knowledge that this has not increased since last month. Notably, one of the most deprived wards, Cliftonville West, has registered a drop in unemployment of 1.7% since June 2009. The ward with the biggest unit increase in the jobless figures is Luton & Wayfield in Medway which now has 342 more unemployed than at the same time last year.

	July 2009		Change since July 2008	
	Unemployed	% of workforce	Number	%
Ashford	1,865	2.8%	986	112.2%
Canterbury	2,281	2.5%	1,113	95.3%
Dover	2,136	3.5%	884	70.6%
Maidstone	2,397	2.7%	1,358	130.7%
Sevenoaks	1,454	2.1%	937	181.2%
Shepway	2,290	4.0%	883	62.8%
Thanet	3,970	5.5%	1,592	66.9%
Tunbridge Wells	1,409	2.2%	864	158.5%
Kent	34,157	3.4%	16,697	95.6%
South East	445,243	3.6%	204,379	84.9%
Great Britain	1,521,709	4.1%	677,821	80.3%

4. A Moving Experience

Any recovery in the housing market, see last week's Thanet & East Kent Insider, is good news for Steve Fox of Fox's Removals. Steve prides himself on running a family business that offers value for money and a professional service, but he is always aware that each

customer has different needs. If you are moving an office from Canterbury to Broadstairs or a household from Ramsgate to Rome, Steve has the transport, the insurance, the staff and the experience to reduce your anxiety and keep your expenses to a minimum. The company even offers a full packing and storage service in its own warehouse to cater for any delays between selling your old house and moving into a new one. For details and a quotation, call Steve, Margaret, Francesca or Shelagh, tel: 01843 29 44 22 or email info@foxs-removals.com. Steve and his filing cabinets are pictured below.



Steve Fox of Fox's Removals.

5. East Kent To The Year 2030

The East Kent Local Strategic Partnership has published the EKLSP Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 which sets out its goals for the districts of Thanet, Dover, Shepway and Canterbury for the period to 2030. The strategy examines six themes, Education, Economy, Communities, Transport, Visitor Destination and Environment. The report is available on line at http://www.eastkentlsp.org.uk/files/webfm/site/sustainable_community_strategy.pdf

6. Support Your Airport

Airports are a hot topic for the East Kent business community as Kent International Airport at Manston and London Ashford Airport at Lydd are potential key drivers for economic regeneration. We know from the authoritative study, "The social and economic impact of airports in Europe" by York Aviation (2004) that "Given that there are 950 onsite jobs created per million passengers ... we conclude that for every million passengers (workload units), European airports support around 2,950 jobs nationally, 2,000 jobs regionally, or 1,425 jobs sub regionally." As the Thanet unemployment rate is currently more than 50% above the rate for Kent and the South East, the last thing the area needs is a disincentive to investment in airport infrastructure. Sadly, that is just what we have in the Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007 and the government's plan to increase tax on international air travel. Air Passenger Duty (APD) is scheduled to rocket in November of this year and a further sharp rise is due be introduced in 2010. A family of four flying to Australia will shortly have to pay £340 in APD alone; more than double the current rate of £40 per passenger. Not many people will have doubled their income in the last year. The travel industry views the tax hike as threatening to tourism and passenger air routes as well as decreasing competition and threatening jobs. If you agree with our advisors, then feel free to sign one or both of the petitions on the Prime Minister's No 10 website at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/APDabolition/> and <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/APDIncrease> After submitting your support, you should receive an email of acknowledgment containing a link on which you click to register your vote. Do check your junk mail folder as these emails often mysteriously find their way into a rejection folder. All that remains is then for you to bask in a warm glow of satisfaction that you have received an email from No. 10 Downing Street. You might like to mention this casually in the pub one evening, if you can find one. Now pub closures, have we mentioned this topic before?

7. CDM

If CDM means Cadbury's Dairy Milk to you then you are probably not actively involved in the property market. Urban Surveying and Design Limited of Broadstairs tells us that the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 known in the trade as CDM Regulations are targeted at improving the management, control and co-ordination of health, safety and welfare throughout the construction industry. CDM Coordination is one of the services offered by the company along with Building Surveying, Quantity Surveying, Project Management, Architectural Design and Energy Assessments. This latter category is becoming increasingly regulated. As accredited energy assessors, Urban Surveying & Design Ltd knows its EPCs from its DEC's. In other words, by using the A-G label system that we probably recognize from domestic appliances such as washing machines and refrigerators, the company can advise on Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates. A satisfied client list that includes schools, builders, care homes, a district council, a county council and even the RSPCA suggests that Urban Surveying and Design knows how to keep its customers happy by tailoring its services to give best value results. For details, contact Scott Rigden or his colleagues by telephone to 01843 867507 or by email to scott@urban-surveying.com.

8. New Members

We welcome the following new members: Davison Upholstery of Hersden tel: 01227 719966; Framework Displays of Hersden tel: 01227 714830; Art2Go UK Limited of Cliftonville tel: 01843 292333; AI Motorist Centre Ltd of Broadstairs tel: 01843 86633; TNG (Avanta Enterprises) Ramsgate tel: 01843 570250; Pixel Circus Limited (Multimedia) of Cliftonville tel: 01843 291761; Jungle Jims Ltd of Birchington tel: 01843 846305; Lanes Limited of Broadstairs tel: 01843 861314; Harrison & Co of Margate tel: 01843 291348; Cooke & Co Estate Agents of Cliftonville, Broadstairs, Ramsgate and London tel: 01843 231833; Connexions Partnership Kent & Medway Ltd of Maidstone tel: 01622 607578; Millards Insurance of Sandwich tel: 01304 613072; Michael Martin Partnership Ltd of Whitstable tel: 01227 770500; C H I Windows Ltd of Margate tel: 01843 280807 and Compass Internet Ltd of Ramsgate tel: 01843 855114. The number of new companies joining the Thanet & East Kent Chamber since January 2008 is 99. We celebrate the arrival of all of them and look forward to supporting their work and helping them to trade with other companies in the area.

9. The Singing Bankers

The Cooperative Bank has been voted the "Best Financial Services Provider" in the recent Which? Awards. To celebrate this success, some members of staff have released a video on You Tube which can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kui070Twgq4>. You may consider that such initiatives provide an ideal opportunity to promote teamwork and use a modern marketing medium to generate a higher corporate profile. On the other hand, you could consider that being amateurish and out of tune with your colleagues is not necessarily the image you wish to project to your current and potential clients. Have a look and you decide. It's not for this Chamber to decry innovation. After all, the first singer is wearing a jacket that could conceivably come back into fashion eventually; it may have even been made to measure, but unfortunately not for him.

10. Our Sponsors

The Thanet & East Kent Insider is grateful for the support and sponsorship provided by Girlings, Express By Holiday Inn and Adecco. Girlings Solicitors has been managing the legal affairs of commercial and private clients for over a century. Twenty-six partners and one hundred and twenty members of staff ensure a comprehensive range of services from the local offices in Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone, Herne Bay and Margate. Offices in France and Spain complement specialist departments for charities, individuals and companies. For details, telephone 01843 220274. Express By Holiday Inn took on the daunting task of restoring the former Prospect Inn at Minster. The result is a spectacular hotel that combines the best of Oliver Hill's 1930s design with ultra modern facilities and technological support. Conveniently located for business guests and holiday makers in East Kent, the meeting rooms and 105 bedrooms are available at competitive prices throughout the year. For details, telephone 01843 820250. Adecco is the world's largest HR solutions company offering a comprehensive service of temporary and contract staffing, permanent recruitment, outsourcing, outplacement, career services, training and consulting. Officially designated as a 2009 British Superbrand, Adecco is represented in Thanet and Dover by its Broadstairs office, tel: 01843 609292.



Tel: 01843 609292



Tel: 01843 220274

Working effectively for you



Tel: 01843 820250

Serving Thanet with Value Accommodation

<<END>>

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

It's happening now, it's happening in Thanet & East Kent.
For details of membership, email admin@tekc.co.uk

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.