

Press Release

Chamber Question Time

On Friday, 27th February 2015, the Thanet & East Kent Chamber of Commerce hosted Chamber Question Time featuring the main four parliamentary candidates for the North Thanet constituency. After a full English breakfast in the executive suite of Margate Football Club, local business leaders posed questions to the panel of Sir Roger Gale MP (Con), Frances Rehal (Lab), George Cunningham (Lib Dem) and Piers Wauchope (UKIP).

In chairing the debate, Chamber Chief Executive David Foley ensured that the discussions covered a wide range of substantive issues relating to the commercial health of the constituency. After each candidate had presented a short presentation of their ambitions and policies, the first question set the tone of animated debate with "Do you think the national media treats your party fairly". This was followed with questions on the public provision of WiFi, the future of Manston Airport, VAT on hotel accommodation, the reduction in UK armed forces and the performance of South Eastern trains.

Such was the lively dialogue that ensued in the packed room, that there was not time to cover all the pre-submitted questions on matters such as assistance with EU contracts and public health. The panellists kindly stayed after the formal ending of the Chamber Question Time to speak to individual businesses. In closing the debate, David Foley thanked Bob Laslett and his team at Margate Football Club both for their considerable financial investment in North Thanet and splendid hospitality as well as the members of the panel for their good-humoured responses and close attention to the concerns of local businesses. He also thanked all the Chamber members present for reminding the parliamentary candidates that it is private business that produces the money that government spends.

[285 words + headline]

Photographs

Images of the event are available from the official Chamber Photographer at Anton Images, tel: 07812 379845, email: wrosie@hotmail.com.

Information

Thanet & East Kent Chamber provides business support to firms in Ramsgate, Margate, Deal, Broadstairs, Manston, Sandwich, Birchington, Hersden and nearby towns and villages.

Dover District Chamber of Commerce was established in 1850 and offers business support services to the private and voluntary sector in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and the villages in the district.

Email: info@tekc.co.uk info@doverchamber.co.uk
Tel: 01843 609289 01304 892484
Web: www.tekc.co.uk www.doverchamber.co.uk