

Press Release

15th April 2016

“East Kent companies, Ramsgate Ferry & the EU”

A selection of companies in the Thanet & Dover districts from thirty different sectors of the local economy were asked to comment on their views on the establishment of a cross-channel ferry from Ramsgate to France or Belgium. There was unanimous support for the revival of the service with not a single business questioning the need or viability of a Ramsgate Ferry.

Comments such as “a much-needed alternative to Dover” and “the sooner, the better” were typical of the responses received. Of those questioned, 56% said that they would use the ferry service for business as well as for pleasure. A corresponding 44% said they would like to use the ferry for tourism and day trips rather than for business purposes.

In an additional question, Chamber members were asked: “Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?”. Just over a quarter of those polled, 25.8%, were undecided. Curiously, this is exactly the same number who said they were in favour of remaining in the EU, leaving 48.4% to declare they wished the UK to leave the European Union. This indicates that the ‘outers’ currently hold a clear majority over the ‘inners’ in the East Kent coastal business community, but there is a considerable number of undecided business leaders who remain to be persuaded.

[221 words + headline]

Information

District Chamber of Commerce was established in 1850 and gives business support to the private and voluntary sector in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Shepway. Thanet & East Kent Chamber provides business support to firms in Ramsgate, Margate, Deal, Broadstairs, Manston, Sandwich, Birchington, Hersden and elsewhere in East Kent.

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