

## **Chamber of Trade & Commerce Chair Report**

### **Month: October**

The following report has been produced by the Chair of the North Shields Chamber of Trade & Commerce for discussion at the executive meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2011.

### Membership

- In the past month there has been one new member New Saville Exchange who would like to become a member.

### Finances

The finances of the Chamber remain in line with expectations and will be covered as a separate agenda item.

### Members Communication

- The latest newsletter with 500 copies has now been produced and has been distributed across businesses in the town and the Chair would like to thank the appropriate members for their help and support with this. The next newsletter will be produced for production and distribution at the end of January 2012.
- A separate media file with all press cuttings has now been established and any members who sees appropriate press coverage are asked to forward copies to the Chair.
- The first workshop for members and non members will be held at the Saville Exchange on Howard St on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November starting at 08:30 am and finishing at 10:00 am. The topic to be covered at the first workshop will be Fire prevention and how it helps your businesses and will be provided by the Tyne & Wear Fire Service. After their presentation the Chamber will take the opportunity to update the meeting on town centre developments and to promote the Chamber. This will be an excellent networking opportunity and we have used the distribution of the newsletter among other things to promote the event. All members are asked to attend this meeting and to encourage other businesses in the town to attend.
- Following the last Chamber meeting the ABC magazine has been produced for North Shields and included 2 pages of free coverage on the Chamber activities

the magazine was distributed to 9,000 homes and 1,000 businesses and recreational sites in North Shields. The Chamber have confirmed that they will provide two pages of Chamber news for each edition.

### Chamber Activities

- Plans for the Victorian Market are progressing well with the market taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of December.
- The 'Gannin Shoppin in Shields' history exhibition was scheduled to be on at the Beacon Centre for the week commencing the 31<sup>st</sup> of October as a part of the Age Takes Centre Stage programme run by North Tyneside Council but this has been postponed in order for additional volunteer staff to be available.
- New seating is to be installed on Bedford St between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of November and the Chamber have supplied an appropriate quote to the News Guardian for a story they are running on the new seating.
- The Chamber formally responded to the Councils Core Strategy Options document favouring option 2 with a copy of this letter included in the papers for the Executive Meeting and the Chair would like to thank Maggie Richardson and David Milburn for their work on this matter.
- The Chamber formally wrote to Nexus and North Tyneside Council re the construction work at the Metro station and a copy of this letter is included in the papers for the Executive Meeting.
- The Chamber has been awarded a grant of £4,400 by the North Tyneside Council Big Society funding stream to establish the Friends of Northumberland Square and to make changes to Northumberland Square including the establishment of a town centre notice board and a history trail in the square. The grant has to be spent by March of 2012 and will require a significant amount of work and this topic is a separate agenda item at the meeting.
- The Education and Business Partnership manager Joanna Lyons of North Tyneside Council has now approved the document discussed at the last Executive meeting which outlined the proposal for schools to work on a history project with the Chamber. It should be noted however that the Northumberland Square project may affect the timing of this work.
- The Chamber now has established two business mentors with the Business Factory to assist start up businesses in North Shields.

- Discussions are on going with DFDS and The Port of Tyne re promoting North Shields at the ferry terminal although it has now been established that responsibility for this rests with the Port of Tyne and discussions have commenced with them.
- The North Tyneside Business Forum evening event was held on the 3rd of November and the Chamber was well represented and the Chamber should encourage members to sign up to the business forum to increase Chamber presence and to assist businesses based in North Shields.