

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Ashford Economic Development Group

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the AEDG held at Ashford College on 20th June 2024 at 8.30am.

PRESENT	NAME	POSITION
	Grace Baptiste (GB)	Guest
	Susan Bonett (SB)	
	Nettie Buss (AB)	Chair
	Jo Brown (JB)	
	Maria Callow (MC)	
	Lee Collette (LC)	
	Steve Garnett SG)	
	Katie Hodson (KH)	
	Richard Lavender (RL)	
	Richard Lloyd (RLL)	
	James McComas (JMcC)	
	Katie Hodson (KH)	
	Andrew Osborne (AO)	
	Tudor Price (TP)	
	Nick Shaw (NS)	Guest
	Tim Sheppard (TS)	
	Dan Sherlock (DS)	
	Richard Stafford (RS)	
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED FROM	Peter Heritage (PH) Jason Rainbird (JR) Tom Shaw-Dunn (TS-D)	

1. NOTICE AND QUORUM

The chair reported that enough notice of the meeting had been duly given and that a quorum was present. The chair declared that the meeting was open at 8.30am.

2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Minutes of the board meeting held on 16th May 2024 had already been approved. The chair had been authorised to sign them as a complete record of the relevant meeting.

3. ANY MATTERS ARISING/PREVIOUS MEETING

Discussed inviting Ashford College to future meetings. SB suggested that AEDG members could be invited to the next parent event in November 2024 showcasing 'Pathways for all'

which helps to facilitate T Level placements across Ashford. SB also mentioned that the college will track destinations for where students are employed.

TP mentioned that ‘Strategic Development Networks (SDN) [T Levels and industry placement support for employers](#) has won a contract to deliver T Levels support.

4. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Welcome

AB introduced and welcomed RLL self-employed Transport and Logistics Management consultant who supports haulage companies.

Stour Centre

Nick Shaw (Kent General Manager, Freedom Leisure) and Grace Baptiste (Sales and Marketing, Freedom Leisure) presented the service they deliver. Freedom Leisure is a not for profit leisure trust run on behalf of Ashford Borough Council.

Their mission is to improve lives through leisure and enabling healthy communities. Discussion around potential local business partnerships and future collaborations with Ashford College, Eastwell Manor and Ashford Designer Outlet.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AB requested submission of outstanding bios from AEDG members.

TP requested permission for sending communications to collate feedback on employers concerns.

Discussion around Stonestreet Green Solar and the need to recruit a rural/agricultural AEDG representative.

6. CLOSE

AB thanked everyone for their continued support.

Date of next meeting - 8.30am, 18th July 2024 at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

There was no further business and therefore the chair declared that the meeting was closed at 10.00am.

.....Chair – Nettie Buss - Date