

Stamford Vision: Business

Notes from the meeting of 2.03.06

(NB the meeting due of the 2.02.06 was cancelled.)

1. Business Awards: These took place on Thursday February 16th at the Arts Centre. It was an extremely successful event enjoyed by sponsors and winners alike. The arrangements undertaken by Mike Roberts, both for the administration of the wards and the evening event, were excellently handled. The Arts Centre was a great venue, the timings on the evening, the food and the videos were all spot on. There will be a 'wash up' meeting later in March with those involved in sponsoring the event to discuss whether any improvements can be made. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.
2. Benchmarking: The Welland SSP have now appointed consultants to work with all 12 towns in the sub region with a view to rolling out a number of KPIs, much of which we have already done, across every town. Stamford will be a pilot for the visitor satisfaction survey, this first time undertaken by the consultant's staff. We looked at the proposed questionnaire and agreed that for a group such as us to manage this on an ongoing basis was unsustainable because it was too long. It may be possible to use students/ pupils to do the face to face interviews necessary in future. This view will be fed back to the Welland SSP.

We will continue with our other benchmarking activity as follows:

- o Post code survey: later this spring/ early summer
- o Footfall: To avoid Easter the dates for this will be **Wednesday 29th March**(GH, AH plus?) and **Friday 31st March** (Tom's team.) Please put this in your diary, an extra for the Wednesday would be good so please let CLH know asap if you can help.

3. New business space: There was a discussion about other innovation centres being planned in the area including the Harborough one being led by the Welland SSP. Peterborough Innovation Centre which had been shelved is now back on track again. There will be approx 40,000 sq ft with a specific focus on attracting environmental companies. Should an innovation centre be developed in Stamford the preferred model would be more along the lines of the Harborough centre where there is the possibility that the space could be converted to more general office used should there not be enough take up by innovation/ start up companies. A more modest 12-15,000 sq ft is envisaged, however, it is important to identify at an early stage an organisation who could take on the management of the centre and bear any costs of staffing and offer incentives such as reduced rents. **TH** to invite the policy advisor for the East Midlands Assembly to a meeting of the group.
4. AOB: Wayne Lound from the Job centre will attend the next meeting and group members should think of any employment related questions that they might like to pose.

Date of the next meeting Thursday 6th April 2006