



Stamford Vision: Business

Notes from the meeting 8.1.04

1. Business Centre:

A useful discussion took place with Andrew Middleton of Stamford College who has experience of working to provide training and skills advice to businesses. In the past he has employed business development managers but his experience is that this is a very costly route where the benefits delivered are outweighed by the ongoing expenses. The issue is one of long term sustainability, particularly as the standard of provision has to be of high quality to properly engage businesses. Stamford College focuses mainly on the 16 to 19 student age group and apart from one or two specific courses, such as those to do with licensing, training awards, customer services and door minding, much of the needs of businesses are referred elsewhere. Andrew Harwood said that he had spoken to his colleagues and that Business Link was nevertheless enthusiastic about the prospect of a local business centre and they may be able to man the office part of the time. Discussion then took place on the real needs of businesses in the town and whether just getting better signposting of where to obtain advice would be more beneficial. It was agreed that the agencies involved in providing business advice should be asked to a round table meeting to see where cross linkages could be achieved.

2. Review of tasks: The committee are to be congratulated on the amount achieved during the last twelve months. There was some debate about future direction for the group and the original aim, to create a balanced and vibrant economy in the town, still remained valid.
3. Postcode survey – GH has done some analysis which shows that 48% of those asked were from Stamford itself. The survey will be conducted again in the future.
4. Business Awards: TH has discussed this in principle with the Mercury and there was a real enthusiasm to take this forward this year.
5. Forward investment pack: It was agreed to arrange for a generic SV folder which could be used for this and other purposes.
6. Design Competition: A rota for manning the exhibition was circulated.
7. AOB: Date of General meeting of all groups involved with Stamford Vision:
14th January 6pm at Castle Hill Language School in St Peter's Street.

The next meeting is 3.2.04, 6pm at Duncan and Toplis.

Action	Individual
Organise a meeting for those interested in giving advice Plus some actions from 12.03 on this point –see previous notes	Nadine See notes 12.03
Business awards – collect further information	Tom /Jeff Lloyd
Design of forward investment folder	Hugo
Exhibition – circulate rota and crib sheet	Catherine