

# Pembrokeshire Business Network

Minutes of Pembrokeshire Business Network  
Committee Meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
At the Picton Centre, Haverfordwest 7:30pm

## Present

Paul Woolman (Chair), Viv Phillips (Treasurer), Gary Howell, John Owen, Jane Howells(PLANED), Duncan Edwards, Chris Morris, Darrel Walters, Tim Fletcher, Nigel Adams, Keith Maguire, Paul Morgan Sommers, Sandra Burnett(PBI), Claire Staley (PBI), Rodri Packman (PBI), Chris Allman (PBI), Kathryn Bradbury (PLANED); Gordon Barry (Secretary)

## Apologies

Peter Davies, Jim Price, Jo Morgan (PBI), Alison Rackley, Trevor Collins, Ceri Price, Helen Scourfield,

### 1. 'On Line' payment methods and security

PBI gave briefing on on-line payment methods and security. This presentation could be easily expanded for possible use by individual business groups.

The Power Point presentation is attached.

Many thanks to the speakers Sandra Burnett and Chris Allman

### 2. Update on MyPembrokeshire hosting the online business directory

The previous meeting posed a number of questions which were addressed as follows:-

- *What do we see as the purpose of the Database? (Mail shots? Advertising? Informing?)*  
Very dependant on business / Company requirements. Use is currently being made of Yellow Pages, Phone Book, Postcode Directory. These being in addition to Google / Yahoo Internet searches.

- *Does PBN require a Pembrokeshire wide (Business) Database?*  
The meeting rejected this and recommended that MyPembrokeshire continues to be used independently as required.

- *Could local 'groups' take ownership of their area Database? This would require full details for the existing listings to be collected and maintained.*

Currently many of the local groups do have their own or are associated with town databases. These 'local' databases tend to be kept up-to-date by the site owners / facilitators with support from the local Group. This negates the reason for PBN becoming involved either in updating or improving the structure or search facilities of the MyPembrokeshire database.

- *Enhancements to the existing? (But funding problems)*  
Any funding to allow Local area / Town web based sites to be improved would be welcomed.

It would be prudent of all members to ensure that their data / information was correct on My Pembs and if not to contact [www.pembrokeshiredirectory.com](http://www.pembrokeshiredirectory.com) with the corrections

### Update on PBI development of the PBN website - Gary Howell

Although Gary has access to the website to do simple additions (meeting dates and minutes etc) PBN now need to give some thought as to how the site is to be developed. What additional content is required?

**ACTION: Members to contact Gary with their ideas please**

Please remember that Chamber / Group secretaries still have editorial control over their own community sites.

### **3. Mid and West Wales Chamber (update)**

There would appear to be a hold on progressing the development of this Chamber.

It is understood that the Business Dragon application for 'Convergence Funding' has not been approved.

We understand that West Wales Chamber of Commerce are uncertain that a takeover by Foothold / or a merger is in their best interests.

The decision taken last meeting to support the concept of the MWWCC but not to formally join at this stage, would seem to have been the correct one.

### **4. Best practice examples to share?**

a) There will be a "Web Presence Seminar" hosted by **St Brides Havens Business Group** on Thursday 22nd January, where local businesses will be encouraged to understand and register their business on two of the popular and free search facilities on the internet, namely "Google Local Maps" and "Ufindus"

The session is between 2pm and 8pm at Anchor House, Broad Haven.

B) Also the **Preseli Business Network** website will be formally launched at 7.30pm on 29th January 2009 at Maenclochog Village Hall.

**ACTION: Please contact Chair or Secretary for further details.**

### **5. Committee report – Finance**

The Treasurer reported that the Bank funds stood at £295.

### **6. PLANED – activity update**

Pembrokeshire Enterprise Network consists of representatives who deliver business support/advice in Pembrokeshire, whether located in the county or not. The group meet quarterly, secretariat provided by PLANED and was first formed in 2004 to provide a 'one stop shop' for communication and activity for enterprise support. PEN continues to be supported by PLANED's Axis 3 Enterprise Hub bid and also acts as the steering group for the project. PBN is represented at these meetings by Paul Woolman, deputy Gordon.

One of the aims of the Network is to assist with the co-ordination of business events/activities and a number of members already send information to PLANED for circulation. The intention is to not only avoid duplication of effort and clash of activity but also to develop a joint approach to delivering a programme of activity in line with business needs. It would therefore be helpful if all groups, eg local business groups let PLANED know of activities/ideas/suggestions.

PBI are currently collating data from businesses to define requirements and this data will be used to inform the above process. The PBN website would also be used to promote the calendar of activities once known.

### **7. AOB**

#### **Report on Wales spatial plan meeting.**

Please see appendix 1

### **8. Items for the next meeting**

- E-crime (WAG presentation) and e Commerce Event, (PBI presentation) further details below.
- Reprise the PBI presentation for local groups
- April meeting to major on "Marketing Expertise"? Suggestions for speakers to be forwarded to Kathryn or Jane at PLANED [janeh@planed.org.uk](mailto:janeh@planed.org.uk) or [kathrynb@planed.org.uk](mailto:kathrynb@planed.org.uk)
- Meeting venue to be in North of county.

**The Pembrokeshire Business Network is a Partnership of Local Business Groups in Pembrokeshire**

## **9. Date and place of next meeting**

26<sup>th</sup> February, Plas Hyfryd – Narberth. Buffet supper at 7pm, presentations to commence at 7.30pm. Facilities will be available for businesses to meet privately with the Welsh Assembly Government team dealing with crime and to discuss any queries or concerns with regard internet fraud. Places will be limited so please encourage your members to book their place either through PBN contact or direct with PLANED.

Please note for your Diary. Possible meeting dates for the year are;

26<sup>th</sup> February 2009  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2009  
28<sup>th</sup> May 2009  
9<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
21<sup>st</sup> August 2009  
8<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
19<sup>th</sup> November 2009

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Report on the Spatial Plan meeting 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009 by Jim Price.**

#### **Presentation from the Assembly Roads Department**

The key points that arose were:

A40 - the various reviews and consultations about the Pontblewin to Slebech section have now been completed and the Minister has given approval for the published plans to go ahead. Work will start in February unless someone (County Council?) requests a judicial review in which case there will be another delay. The closing date for applying for a judicial review is Jan 28th so we will know soon what is going to happen. The work is scheduled to be complete in early 2011. We were shown an excellent simulated view of driving along the proposed 3 lane road which will at least have lengthy overtaking stretches.

Work on the Llandewi Velfrey to Penblewin section is due to start in 2014. The design and legal processes will not start until there is a clear decision on the Slebech section.

A477 - work on the new road from St Clears to Red Roses is scheduled to start in Summer 2011 but this will depend on the public enquiry. It will not be designed as a 3 lane road but there will be a crawler lane up the escarpment leading to Red Roses.

#### **Economic outlook for Pembrokeshire**

There was a long discussion on the economic outlook for Pembrokeshire in the coming two years. It was recognised that a number of factors will come into play:

Recession - this will have an effect but no one seems sure about how badly the County could be affected.

LNG rundown - this is already having a significant effect among people who have been working as contractors on the site. For instance the Pembroke Dock Job Centre has doubled its number of claimants this January.

Exchange Rate - this is seen to offer a double opportunity for extra tourism. British holidaymakers may not want to pay the higher cost of European and US holidays, and European/US holidaymakers may be attracted to the UK.

New Power Station - a government decision on this is expected imminently and there is high confidence it will be positive. If it is given the go ahead in Jan/Feb work will start immediately but will take some time to build up. There is seen to be much opportunity for local employment during the Civils stage.

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Kefin Wakefield says the problem the County Council has is that it tends to get its statistical information about what is/has happened well after the event. He asked if the PBN through its contacts in the towns could provide a regular view on how these factors are netting out since this would help PCC in its negotiations with the Assembly. My personal view is that this would be a very useful service for us to provide. It would not have to be too in-depth and could be based on 'judgements' together with a few specifics. Do you see us having the capability/willingness to do this. I would be willing to help if required.

#### Assembly Tourism Marketing Consultation

There is a document currently for our consultation, for which a reply is due by the end of January. PCC has prepared its response but it would be helpful for other local organisations to respond, preferably supporting the same view. Richard Crawshaw will circulate it to us and we can decide how to deal with it.