

BUSINESS VOICE



A NEWS UPDATE FROM MILTON KEYNES BUSINESS LEADERS PARTNERSHIP

SPRING 2015

www.mkblp.co.uk

Business Leaders lead the way against business crime

Milton Keynes is to have its own Business Crime Strategy, with MK Business Leaders agreeing to work with the city's police chief.

Supt Gez Chiariello was asked to address members and guests at one of BLP's regular Breakfast Briefing events on the issue of business crime, but when he looked for a police strategy he couldn't find one. "Yet business forms a significant community within Milton Keynes. So I felt it incumbent on me to develop one," he told an audience of BLP members and guests in January.

Supt Chiariello said a business crime is defined as an offence committed against a person or property, motivated by the connection of that person or property to a business and it includes theft from retail premises, online and cyber-crime, and fraud.

A Business Crime Strategy aims to reduce crime against businesses in Milton Keynes through engagement and sharing intelligence so crime trends and perpetrators can be identified and appropriate prevention advice or actions be put in place.

He said the way forward is to review existing partnerships, define the issues, clarify actions for the police and the business community and develop a plan before inviting MK Business Leaders to lead the business voice.

That was accepted by Philip Smith who said members would embrace any initiative to tackle a problem which cost businesses and their clients and customers hundreds of millions of pounds a year. The first meeting has been arranged for May with a group of MK Business Leader members.

"The business community needs to be talking to and working with the police on this important national issue and MK Business Leaders is pleased to take a lead on it here in Milton Keynes," he said.

Business Leaders forge first links between Milton Keynes and Taiwan



Taiwanese Ambassador Dr CK Liu and Dr Philip Smith

Business Leaders chair Philip Smith has hosted a visit to Milton Keynes by Taiwan's Ambassador to the UK.

It was the first official trip to the city by Taiwan, ranked 18th among world trading nations. Dr Chi-Kung Liu, accompanied by his wife Mrs Huei Tyng Liu Song, was joined by a delegation from the Taipei Representative Office in the UK.

They were shown around Niftylift's new manufacturing facility at Shenley Wood by Roger Bowden and visited Transport Systems Catapult (TSC) before visiting MK College to discuss apprenticeships, and Cranfield University where the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Peter Gregson agreed a number of areas of co-operation.

Continued on page 3

Talk about business and sport – this girl can!

There was a full house at the Quarterly Dinner in March to hear Jennie Price, Chief Executive of Sport England talk about its successful awareness campaign to get more women to do sport and keep fit, and how business fits in with sport.

The more than 90 guests included key players from the sport and leisure communities joining BLP members and business and academic figures.

Jennie said Milton Keynes had embraced sport and she personally congratulated Pete Winkelman, who was present, for bringing football to the city and hosting the Rugby World Cup 2015. She said: “There is a strong cohort of people here tonight who get it - that sport is woven into the fabric of the place and you are genuinely putting together sport and business.”

She spoke about how sport can tackle today’s health challenges with exercise being a powerful ‘miracle’ drug and how Sport England’s ‘This Girl Can’ campaign aims to close the gender gap with two million fewer women than men taking part in sport. A campaign video using ‘real’ women rather than sporting heroines has been viewed online by more than 13 million people.

“Many are put off sport in public because they are not good at it. Most of us are rubbish at sport and some people are not good at maths, but there is no stigma attached to not being good at maths in public?”



Dr Philip Smith and Jennie Price CEO Sport England

A lively Q&A session followed with subjects raised including: funding for sport facilities; disabled sport; and the role and responsibility of employers to fitness. Jennie said she recognised the barriers to employers taking a greater role in this but said the benefits were significant, highlighting a successful staff fitness scheme run by Ginsters - makers of Cornish pasties.

Philip Smith thanked Jennie for an informative and entertaining talk and said her comments encouraged all those in Milton Keynes who saw sport as a driver for better health, recreation and economic success.

MK Business Leaders aims to stimulate debate around issues facing businesses in Milton Keynes and nationally. Here's an abridged version of an article which appeared in Business MK's March edition...

Build links with your local school, businesses are urged

How about this as a resolution for your business in 2015 - building links with your local school or college?

As well as being chair of MK Business Leaders I am also chair of governors at The Milton Keynes Academy whose mission statement includes working with local businesses so students are fully prepared for the world of work. This has seen us enjoy links with companies including Audi, Santander, Network Rail, Halifax and Deloitte.

We enjoy the expertise of business people holding workshops and mentoring which broaden the learning experience and raise students’ horizons. Companies develop the skills of their people by engaging with our staff and students, explore their own business challenges and engage with potential employees.

It’s a win-win for the Academy, our students and our business partners and other schools need to be encouraged to follow our lead.

Milton Keynes College regards connecting with business as having strategic importance. ‘Links with business help us understand what employers want from young people and how the education sector can help deliver it. It is a collaborative process,’ says the Principal, and MK Business Leaders board member, Dr Julie Mills.

There is room for your business to get involved at your local school, perhaps offering practical help like decorating, vehicle hire or marketing? If you have a community involvement programme your next staff ‘away day’ could involve working in a school? Or helping shape careers guidance as students prepare for the world of work?

Why not make your resolution to contact the head teacher or principal of your local school or college. You could find it leads to a lasting and rewarding partnership.

MK BAA 2015 judged a success – the hard work starts now for 2016!

By any standards Milton Keynes Business Achievement Awards can be judged a success and MK Business Leaders Partnership can be proud of delivering another great event.

With nearly 600 guests – up more than 15% on last year it was a sell-out and we could not have squeezed another table or seat into the ballroom at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel. The event will create a further surplus to be donated to the Business Leaders Fund for entrepreneurs held by the Milton Keynes Community Foundation and £500 was collected for Willen Hospice.

We have had some great feedback about the night itself, for our compere Kate Adie, the trophies, the Stirling Austin Band and the food and service. There was a fantastic reception in the room for all our winners and especially for the deserved Lifetime Achievement Award to Pete Winkelman and Business of the Year Award for Bletchley Park.

You could not move in the bar area or be heard over the chatter and laughter as guests met and mingled before the show, demonstrating that in just two years MK BAA has become established as the biggest and most important annual gathering of business people in the region. But there is much more to do to firmly embed MK BAA as THE showcase for business excellence that it was always envisaged to be.

We should have had a greater response from entrants, especially in those sectors where Milton Keynes is so strong – Logistics & Distribution, Retail and Manufacturing so we are already developing a strategy to address increasing the number of entries for next year and examining any barriers to businesses taking part. I would welcome the input of members on how we can reach and engage with



Sir John Southby, Iain Standen, Bletchley Park Trust and Steve Hill, Open University



Kate Adie

organisations of all shapes, sizes and sectors, within the MK post code area.

The date of MK BAA 2016 has been agreed as Thursday, March 10 2016 and sponsors and supporters have already expressed an interest in being involved. The hard work starts now to take this event forward to even greater success.

Continued from page 1

Dr Liu spoke of the demand for British-made goods in his country and Taiwan's improved relations with the People's Republic of China which made it a suitable partner for British firms trading with mainland China. What he had seen suggested a good relationship can be developed between his country and Milton Keynes in trade, education and culture. "This is our first visit – and I guarantee there will be many more," Dr Liu said.

Philip Smith said he was pleased the Ambassador and his party had learned about what business in Milton Keynes can offer international trading partners, and that the city was leading the way in ambitious projects.

Chairman's Report

MK Business Leaders has continued to be represented at meetings, discussions, seminars and events where we make a positive contribution as the voice of business in the city at the highest level, and particularly in those key areas we continue to pursue.

Between February and March they included formal and informal meetings with Destination Milton Keynes, MK Transport Partnership, MK Development Partnership, SEMLEP, MK Sports Board, Women First and MK:Smart.

As part of the Sports Board we played an integral part in the review of the International Sporting City strategy upon which we have reported back to the Council with our observations and recommendations. I also chair the SEMLEP Sports and Leisure group.

I chaired a Baker Tilly workshop on the Economy which included international speakers from Centre for Cities and the European Union.

As the chair of the Business Council I have been closely involved in the preparations for the Business Referendum on the CMK Neighbourhood Plan which is due to take place on 7th May. A presentation to business was made in April in preparation for the vote.

Business Leaders also sat on the MK Council Interview Panel to appoint the new Director of Place for the Council, and we have had useful meetings with the Chief Executive Carole Mills and Cranfield and Buckingham Universities. Business Leaders also continues to maintain its links with groups including MK City Orchestra, SportsAid, MK Athletics, MK Museum, MK Rotary and Willen Hospice as well as attending several networking breakfasts and lunches.

Throughout this period we have also led many meetings around the organising of the MK Business Achievement Awards and I have to admit they were not all 'work' as they included the enjoyable and successful pre-awards night Sponsors' Evening, and a rather pleasant morning

spent tasting a selection of wines for the awards event. Well someone's got to do it!

Philip Smith

For your diary

Breakfast Briefing - June 2015 (date tbc)
MK Council Speaker
Venue: Kents Hill Training Centre

Quarterly Dinner - July 2015 (date tbc)
Industry speaker
Venue: Holiday Inn CMK

Business Briefing - September 2015 (date tbc)
Local organisation speaker
Venue: Bletchley Park (tbc)

Directors of Milton Keynes Business Leaders Partnership

Dr Philip Smith	Chair
Duncan Phillips	DP Leisure
Prof Keith Straughan	University of Bedfordshire
Mike Robinson	PwC
David Newstead	Grant Thornton
Nicholas Mann	Interdirect
Dr Julie Mills	Milton Keynes College

Milton Keynes Business Leaders Partnership is an independent organisation, funded through member subscriptions, MKBLP works to identify and develop interests specific to the business community in the city.

Registered Office: Ashton House, 471 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK9 2AH

Company Number: 06682673

Your contact details

Please remember to keep us up to date with any changes to your contact details, especially email address alterations. Email sandraoverbury75@gmail.com or call **01280 814848** or **07808 070386**

