

Businesses - Make Your Voice Count

The North Allerdale Business Forum meets regularly at the Wheyrigg Hall Hotel, Abbeytown and is an opportunity for all businesses in the area, to come together. The objective is to make a difference on the issues that affect the business environment. At the Kick Off meeting on 29th January businesses brainstormed these issues and developed a list for use in an action plan. Examples of the issues that were discussed are:

- Lack of willing suppliers to deliver to area
- Allerdale Borough Council do not look further than the major towns of Workington and Maryport
- Local MP does not pay enough attention to area (along similar lines to ABC)
- Too many complicated processes to get funding
- North Allerdale – “in wrong place” – not in Carlisle nor Workington
- Lack of adequate training establishments with the right courses in the area – often have to look outside Cumbria
- How can we interest students into business – guidance/career advice need to be realistic
- Education bodies need to understand business requirements
- Marketing/advertising costs too high when trying to market outside

immediate area (which is well covered by local community papers and parish newsletters), CN Group should consider preferential rates for smaller businesses looking for growth

- Larger Cumbrian businesses need to put more back into nurturing and helping small Cumbrian businesses (corporate social responsibility)
- Gap in help available to fledgling companies – support available for start-ups and larger companies but gap for companies who have been running for 1 year or so.

At the second meeting on 7th March the Forum took part in a consultation exercise on Transport Infrastructure. Cumbria County Council had asked the Chamber of Commerce to facilitate consultation between itself and West Cumbria businesses on the prioritising transport infrastructure improvements in the area. The views of the Forum were incorporated into a paper that the Chamber submitted to the County Council.

A further meeting on 22nd April heard a presentation from the PIKE project being run by the University of Central Lancashire on reducing business crime. Several Forum members

signed up for the free consultancy package available.

Future meetings scheduled are:
12th June – David Harris-Jones from the Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency will present on Improving Resource Efficiency and CREA's free programme for assisting businesses in this area.
25th July – Lakes College will talk to Forum members about 'Train to Gain' and the new 14-19 Diplomas
At the meeting on the 26th August the Forum will return to the issues in order to prioritise them into an action plan.

Types of businesses that have attended so far include:

Double Glazing
Garden Centre
Garden Design
Concrete
Photography
Interior Design
Domestic Services
Accountancy Services
Fork Trucks
Upholstery Supplies
The West Cumbria & Furness Business Forums Group has been setup by Cumbria Chamber of Commerce and Industry specifically to be focussed on facilitating Business Forum Groups, Networking events and promoting business regeneration in West Cumbria and Furness.

Silloth Darts League Charity Night

Report By: Martin Slack
Silloth Darts League

Once again Silloth Darts League held a charity night on the 1st March in memory of Michael Wilson (Wuzzel).

This year it was held in the Social Club due to the closure of the Huntsman Inn, never the less it was once again a truly successful night. Not just because of the darts, which was one of our biggest turnouts, but because of the money raised for Silloth junior Football, Rugby and Tennis clubs which was the most we have made to date, a grand total of £750.

Before I go into the night I would like to say thanks to all the people who attended the night,

all the shops and local businesses who kindly donated raffle prizes and items to auction. Our local professional darts player Peter “one dart” Manley for providing a signed dart board from this years premiere league, Carlisle Glass for the trophies they supplied, Silloth Social Club and many more. Thank you all.

Now the darts, it was the usual format of blind doubles with the exception of last years winners who got the chance to defend the title. The draw took place and two or three good pairings came out of the hat, last years winners of course Peter Robinson and Craig Pearson, Mike Sowerby and Jack Robinson, Mike Davison and Steve Amore

and favourites me and the mother in law? All the darts on the night were played in a competitive yet friendly manner.

Soon the favourites were eliminated in round two and last years winners went out to, this could have been due to the fact Craig was a bit worse for wear from his Rugby in the afternoon. The eventual finalists were Mike Sowerby (2 times former winner) and Jack “The Flash” Robinson against Mike “the Spark” Davison and Steve “The Hair” Amore. It was played with plenty of quality darts from both teams but unfortunately for “The Spark” and “The Hair” it was a story of missed doubles and Sowers and “The Flash” won 3 - 1.

Mawbray Hall Fundraisers

A Shared Supper Dance was held at Mawbray Hall on Saturday 5th April.

It was arranged by Margaret Thompson and Edna Hill, the Roe Valley dance band played to locals and its followers in a full hall. The Dance was in aid of the Abbey Appeal and Holme St. Cuthberts church. They shared the £429 proceeds.

After the Raffle the Vicar of both parishes, Rev David Tembey, thanked Edna and Margaret for the donation with the help of Mrs Tembey who presented them both with a bouquet of flowers. Margaret and Edna would like to thank all



those who gave draw prizes and who helped in many ways

Cumbria Chamber of
Commerce and Industry



North Allerdale Business Forum

**Creating a greener work environment –
Resource efficiency to increase profit**

We invite you to join us to hear Dave Harris-Jones speak on CREA's FREE programmes to assist Cumbria Businesses in creating a greener workspace and utilizing their resources more efficiently.

Wheyrigg Hall Hotel, Wigton
Thursday 12th June, 2008
12:30hrs-14:30hrs

Buffet lunch available (£5 per head)

To reserve your place/s please contact Anke Gross
Tel: 01946 592329, email anke@cumbriachamber.co.uk



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