

Economic Development Consultations, Swanley Town Council, Thursday 24th April

<p>Employment & skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems finding suitably qualified staff • Perception of the skills gaps in the workforce • Links with local colleges, universities or job centres • <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of quality jobs • Lack of skills • Attract business to Swanley • Use people skills • 5 major companies, Swan Mill, United House, Foton, Johnsons, Harringtons • United House moving to Media House • Protect existing industries- survey them • TVOC centre should be developed with local businesses • Can we encourage more business to use work experience • Link between Swanley Town Council and other companies plus Orchards Academy.
<p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging more tourists to the district • Providing more places for tourists to stay • Providing tourism advice & support for tourism businesses • Providing networking opportunities for tourism businesses & accommodation providers • <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another hotel near the M25 would be good • Paramount site will bring jobs and will need a supply chain. • Paramount also will be a silicone valley in Swanscombe • Camping facilities for tourists nearby • Networking for tourists • Redesignation of Swanley as gateway for Brands Hatch • Filming venues • Famous roots, Michael Stock music publisher and well known artists. • Filming venues?
<p>Support services for businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you need business support & advice? What areas of expertise are most important? • Are business loans sufficiently available? • What do you think the Council can do to help businesses in the district be more successful? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Funding still a problem • Support to access start up funding • Cancel the business rates • Use business rates to improve the infrastructure and retain within the area to improve it • Retain employment land

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confined by lack of available land • A local network? + link to TVOC • More advertising of the area
<p>Energy & sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can the Council do to help businesses use energy more carefully? • What can the Council do to help businesses to adapt to the changing climate e.g. the impact of severe weather and flooding? • <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainability schemes
<p>Places for growth & improvement</p> <p>Are there areas or locations in the district that should be identified for growth or improvement?</p> <p><i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre has improved dramatically • Lower High Street has development potential, Bevan Place, MP cab etc. • Would like town centre developed but not on the recreation ground • No appetite to develop recreation ground • Development securities maximising income but we need to help small business develop • Too many landowners in lower High Street
<p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying for improved rail transport • Including Swanley in the outer zone of TfL fare zone 6 • Improve Swanley train station • Improve Bat & Ball station • Improve roads/junctions that get very congested – specify or identify on the map • <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains needed to London Bridge • Swanley station needs to be in Zone 6 • The half hourly 477 bus is full from Bluewater. • Can use Oyster card on Bus but not at Swanley station • Station approach lighting issues • Prices for Transport- £9 to London • There is only one railway bridge creating pinch point in town • Congestion between Swanley and M25, Ruxley Corner.

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<p>Making the district a good place to do business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the district as a great place to set up a business • Making sure there is employment space to set up and expand a business – what premises' are in short supply • Helping town centres to be more vibrant • <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning considered to be picky • Pre app advice does not include discussion with local members • Make contact details clear and which officers to contact • Buy business units? • Active and innovative enterprise agencies • Better publicity for business support schemes • Town want to know more about what's going on • Could there be enterprise/start up units? • Earlier info about what's going on for members • Much more COMMUNICATION • Small units are in demand- they go really quickly. • Manufacturing now retuning to UK so need bigger units?
<p>Broadband</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What areas in our district need faster broadband • Helping rural areas have faster broadband • Helping areas who want faster broadband to find local solutions • <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Any other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swanley Town Council to be added to working group on TVOC Centre.