

IN BUSINESS



Check our website for information: www.sevenoakschamber.com E-mail: info@sevenoakschamber.com Tel: 01732 455188

Parking Review

The Chamber has received many emails and phone calls on this issue and was compiling a report to submit to the SDC when their Administrator went along to the review meeting held on 7th August, 2008 at the SDC offices. There were many irate residents and business owners attending the meeting and the Chamber were surprised to hear that we had not been involved in the whole debate. Unfortunately, our representative on the Parking Review committee had been seriously ill and we at the Chamber were not aware that we had no representation at the various meetings. We are not excusing our non-attendance but sometimes events happen which are completely beyond our control. After the meeting the Administrator of the Chamber met with Councillor Peter Fleming at the Chamber office to discuss this matter and a mutual agreement was made to keep in closer contact to discuss any future developments that may arise. A new representative will be elected so that we can attend the next meeting when it is scheduled.

Dangerous Road situation

The Chamber has brought to the attention of Kent Highways their concern about the crossing or lack of pedestrian crossing at the Corner of the High Street and Suffolk Way. A meeting was held in November, 2007, after emails were sent to Kent Highways, with Kent Highways and the Chamber of Commerce. The outcome was that they agreed there was a problem and the matter would be looked into. Unfortunately, the representative from Kent Highways has since left and after more numerous emails and promises to get back to the Chamber, the matter has not been resolved. We have seen many occasions when pedestrians have nearly been knocked over at this crossing and sincerely hope that this matter can be resolved before a serious accident occurs.

Fairtrade in Sevenoaks

For more information about Fairtrade, please contact:
Gwyneth Brearley at
Gwyneth.Brearley@ukgateway.net or phone: 01732 762172.

Tesco

Tesco has denied plans to close its Riverhead store despite selling off the site as part of a national venture worth more than £600m. The store is one of 13 across the country that have been sold to property investors and then immediately leased back. As you will all know there has been much debate after planning permission was given to extend the store by 50 percent by SDC after previously rejecting the option in February 2007. Tesco has said that the cash raised is going to be invested in foreign ventures including chains in America and India. District council spokesman Steve Mandaluff said "the sale would not affect the planning permission granted to Tesco earlier in the year."

Sevenoaks Stag Theatre

After the sudden closure of the Stag Theatre on Monday 7th July, due to financial problems and much debate about what is going to happen to our much loved centre, two different options have been proposed, namely, one from Kent County Council and the other from Sevenoaks Town Council. Kent County Council is proposing the Stag become a 'Gateway' offering a multi-agency public service point within the building, together with a theatre and one cinema. Sevenoaks Town Council's proposal is to create an independent charitable company to manage the Stag with the possibility of relocating the Tourist information Centre within the facility. Both options are at a relatively early stage. At the last cabinet meeting on 28th August, 2008, it was agreed that the evaluation process should be completed by the end of October, leaving the possibility that the Stag could reopen under the new management early in the New Year. We are all hoping that a viable solution will be made to keep the Stag open as it is greatly missed by us all, especially during the school holidays when children could just pop in locally to see the film or show of their choice. With the current credit crunch we need as many people to come into our wonderful town and patronise the theatre and, of course, all our local businesses.

Tribute to a loyal Chamber Member

It was very sad news to learn of the demise of one of our loyal chamber members John Millest after undergoing cardiac surgery. John did a lot of background work for the Chamber over the years and was always interested in and proactive in local affairs, he will be greatly missed.

Open Evenings & Network Lunches

Unfortunately, our August Open Evening/Barbecue at SC Services Limited had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers, mainly because everyone seemed to be away on their annual holidays. There will be no September Open Evening as the Chamber is moving to new premises the last week of September. Our next Network lunch will be held in conjunction with our AGM at Donnington Manor Hotel on Wednesday 15th October, 2008. Invitations have been sent out.

WHY NOT BRING A COLLEAGUE ALONG AND INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER: EARN £10.00 DISCOUNT

News and Events around Sevenoaks

Looking for the latest news and what's on around the Sevenoaks town and district? Wanting to publicise your business event or announce a press release? Click on www.7oaks.info for its interactive community calendar and add your event / news item online. Do watch this space for news of further planned developments on the web-site.

Business to Business Brochure

It's not too late to let us have your A5 flyer. We are constantly sending out the brochure to new businesses and new Members. Promote your business and include your information in the "Business to Business" pack. The Chamber has been overwhelmed with the response to our request for new flyers and the membership pack is now more fully representative of all the members and the services they can offer.

Discounts for Chamber Members

Did you know, some of our Chamber Member offer discounts to fellow Members??? Please mention that you are a Chamber Member when using any of our Member's many and varied services or look at our 'Benefits' section on our home page www.sevenoakschamber.com.

TO JOIN THE CHAMBER IT COSTS FROM JUST £8.33P PER MONTH!

Information on our Web Page

Perhaps you are not aware that on our Web Page under 'Links' there are many informative sites to log onto from CAB to Eurostar to Inside No. 10! The other local Chambers of Commerce are also listed.

FOR MEMBERS DETAILS DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUR DIRECTORY ON THE WEBSITE.

EUROPAGES

EUROPAGES is a working tool for businesses with an international vocation, helping them to buy better and sell more in Europe.

www.europages.com gives access to the full EUROPAGES database: 600,000 businesses in 36 European countries.

Conservation Council

Conservation maps are now on the SDC website: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/conservationareas.and minutes of Conservation Council meetings are available at the Chamber Office.

Rogue Traders

For any complaints on Rogue Traders, Contact Trading Standards Rogue Hotline: 0845 450210.

Have you looked at the Chamber web site recently?

See the Links – on line business information "ONE SOURCE"

Citizen's Advice Bureau

For any advice on consumer issues, go to the Citizen Advice website, www.adviceguide.org.uk or contact Sevenoaks CAB on 01732 454443, email: info@sevenoakscab.org.uk.

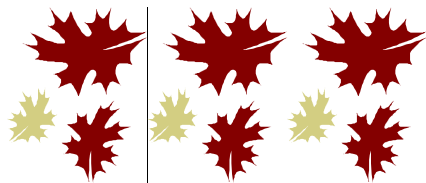
Humour Corner

A very successful businessman had a meeting with his new son-in-law. "I welcome you into the family," said the man. "To show you how much we care for you, I am making you a 50-50 partner in my business. All you have to do is go to the factory everyday and learn the operation." The son-in-law interrupted. "I hate factories. I can't stand the noise." "I see," replied the father-in-law, "Well, then you'll work in the office and take charge of some of the operations." "I hate office work," said the son-in-law. "I can't stand being stuck behind a desk." "Wait a minute," said the father-in-law. "I just made you half owner of a money-making industry, but you don't like factories, and won't work in an office. What am I going to do with you?" "Easy," said the son-in-law. "Buy me out."

Recycling

Did you know you can 'recycle' your old bicycles at: www.freecycle.org?

We are certainly 'doing our bit' for the environment as Sevenoaks District has increased its recycling levels from 33% to 35.2% for April to June 2008 compared to the same period last year.



Remember to vote in next elections

Sevenoaks residents should get their names on the voting register as soon as possible in time for local and European elections next year. There will be Kent County Council and European Parliamentary elections in 2009, so do not delay in responding by phone, online or posting the voter registration form which was sent out from 3rd September, 2008. Only those who are on the register will be able to vote.

For more information please visit: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/elections or phone: 01732 227118 or 01732 227243.

Christmas Lights Turn-on

A date has been set for the Christmas lights turn-on for **Friday 28th November, 2008**. A meeting has been scheduled for the 1st week in October at the Sevenoaks Town Council offices to discuss the event. Details to be sent out at a later date to all Chamber Members.

PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENT TO ROADS IN THE SEVENOAKS AREA

The Sevenoaks district could soon receive some of the £100m earmarked for the improvement of roads in the area. There has been much criticism over the past months regarding the condition of our roads and has been a concern for all who travel daily around Sevenoaks. The pot holes and uneven roads make travelling very uncomfortable and it is very good news that Cllr Richard Parry has had such success in sorting out the problems. Work has already started in London Road outside the former police station. The scheme would not be limited to major roads which is promising for many of the small roads in Sevenoaks which are in a state of bad repair.

Please do not forget that the main function of the Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce

is being here for our Members and the business community. If you have any queries or issues, please feel free to pop in to discuss this or contact the office via email or telephone and we will do everything in our power to help and offer advice and assistance wherever possible.

Chamber of Commerce move

As previously announced we will be moving on 25th September, 2008 to our new office kindly offered by the Chronicle at 54 High Street. Please bear with us if services are disrupted during the moving-in period but our phone lines should be installed and you may phone Avril on 07906094445 if you have any urgent enquiries.

NEW MEMBERS FOR 2008 - WELCOME

Better Body Shop – Jason Crow – Sevenoaks Fitness & Personal Training Centre. Telephone: 01732 749640.
Email: jason@betterbodyshop.co.uk

Catering UK Limited T/A Thai Square – Jeffrey Wilder – Thai restaurant. Telephone: 02078393000, booking: 01732 462785.

Easistore Self Storage Limited – Paul Collings – self storage. Telephone: 01732 862626.

Demelza Hospice Care for Children – Laura Carey – hospice care for children. Telephone: 01580 714028.
Email: laura.carey@demelza.org.uk

The Crown Point Inn – Angus McLelland – Pub/Restaurant. Telephone: 01732 810669. Email: info@thecrownpoint.co.uk

Bloss Legal Services – Marie Bloss – On-line dictation services. Telephone: 01732 746656. Email: marie.bloss@btconnect.com