

EVENTS

JUNE

President's Lunch sponsored by AIB Bank

Date: Thursday 1st June 2006
 Time: 12.30pm – 2.30pm
 Venue: Red Cow Moran Hotel
 Guest Speaker: Senator David Norris
 Cost: €60 (members) €70 (non members)



SEPTEMBER

Member meets Member

Date: Thursday 14th September 2006
 Time: From 6.00pm - 8.30pm
 Venue: Kudos Bar, Clarion Hotel Dublin Liffey Valley.
 Cost: No cost

SEPTEMBER

Annual Golf Classic

Date: Thursday 28th September 2006
 Time: From 10.00am onwards
 Venue: South County Golf Club, Brittas, Co Dublin

To book any of the above events contact Marie at T: 4585230, email: marie@sdchamber.ie

Expansion of Existing Business in South Dublin County Submission

The Chambers Economic Development and Planning Strategic Policy Committee have made a submission to the South Dublin County Council on Facilitating Expansion of Existing Business in South Dublin County. Many agencies play a role in assisting the expansion of established businesses and this submission seeks to focus on the following areas within the remit of South Dublin County Council;

- Local Authority Charges
- Transport
- Business Research and Mentoring

Local Authority Charges

Local authority costs are increasing beyond the rate of inflation year after year and are now seen as a major cost centre in many existing companies.

Among the charges levied on existing businesses in South Dublin County are: Commercial rates, Water charges, Waste charges and Development levies if they are expanding. We need to ensure that we are a cost effective county in comparison to neighbouring counties. High local charges are a real deterrent to expansion of local businesses.

The Chamber is calling for a reduction in local authority charges.

Transport

Moving across and within South Dublin County is becoming increasingly difficult. In some cases this lost time is resulting in a 100% increase in the time needed to get to a meeting, make a delivery etc. These delays have a real cost that impacts on existing businesses. Whilst we accept the National Roads Authority have a key role here with national traffic, local traffic management is the responsibility of our local authority.

The Chamber is calling for faster implementation of South Dublin County Councils roads programme.

- More roads to be added to current plans at key points to relieve congestion.
- Increased access to private bus operators for un-serviced or poorly serviced bus routes in the County, particularly for cross county services.

Business Research & Mentoring

South Dublin County Council could develop a research service that examines businesses in other counties & countries to establish what are/were the criteria that sparked off expansion in companies. South Dublin County Council could then target companies that they believe could learn from this and ensure these companies are aware that the same opportunities are available in South Dublin County.

The Chamber is calling for an office for Business Research & Mentoring to report to the Director of Economic Planning.

A full copy of this submission is available on our website www.sdchamber.ie

New Members

Company	Tel:	Contact	Type of Business
HomeLoans	4505450	Ann Ryan	Financial Services
SERIMA1	4568872	Stephen Heffernan	Independent Security Consultants
Tara Healthcare Ltd	2453480	Chay Bowes	Medical Clinic, Mobile Screening, Flu Vaccination, Clinical Reports
The Ryan Academy for Entrepreneurship	7006760	Prof. Terri Scott	Education for Entrepreneurs
IPASS	4089100	Noelle Quinn	Taxation Training Services

The following companies have recently become Corporate Members;

B.P. O'Reilly & Co	4525211	Brian O'Reilly	Solicitor & Notaries Public
GAMA Construction Ireland Ltd	8629600	Hakan Karaalioglu	Construction, Contracting
The Abberley Court Hotel & Apartments	4596000	Brendan Flynn	Hotel and Apartments



CHAMBER LINK

The Voice of Business in South Dublin County



South Dublin CHAMBER
 IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

INSIDE

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Please circulate to your colleagues



Dear Chamber Member

As I move into the role of President of South Dublin Chamber one of my principal goals will be to continue to ensure that our Chamber provides strong representation and continues to provide services of value to our members. We are a growing Chamber, one of the most progressive in the country, in a growing and vibrant county.

Our members, through the Chamber play an essential part in the development of South Dublin County, and in the coming year the chamber will spearhead an economic development plan which will replace our current 15 year plan. We will do this through the auspices of the South Dublin County Development Board in conjunction with other agencies such as the IDA and the County Enterprise Board.

Among the issues that effect business in our county is the issue of transport; in 2005 we made a submission on Transport 21, and this year we will host a conference on Making Transport 21 a Reality. This seminar will offer to our members an opportunity to hear how this plan should be implemented and made a reality. A further new initiative for 2006 will be our work with employers and South Dublin County Council on encouraging people who live in the county to work in the county. This will benefit everyone as it will mean shorter traveling time for employees and that's good news for employers.

The community we are part of is changing and we now have a more diverse society. We plan to assist companies who employ non-national workers by providing a practical information handbook outlining very useful information for new workers in South Dublin County. This will range from the location of bus routes to where you should go to get a driving license.

Our new training programme, launched by the Tánaiste in May this year is funded by Skillnets and will be providing members with much needed training and development resources at a greatly subsidised cost. We must if we are to remain competitive ensure our workforce in South Dublin County have the skills to adapt to a changing environment, our SD&K Skillnet programme will assist companies meet this challenge.

Whilst the primary focus of our Chamber is the growth and development of business we also are very much a part of the wider community and whilst our main lobbying issues will be business costs, rates, traffic congestion, insurance and postal services, we will also continue to be active in the community. Our Schools Business Partnership is a great example of how we in business contribute back to our community and I look forward to this project's growth and development.

Finally I would like to thank my predecessor Deirdre Mooney for all her hard work and dedication throughout her tenure as President. In the last two years Deirdre as President gave an enormous amount of her time and energy to the Chamber. I would encourage members to make full use of the chamber and its range of services in dealing with local and national issues as appropriate.

I look forward to meeting you at a Chamber event in the near future.

Neil Murphy, *President*

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CHAMBER DELEGATION MEETS WITH MINISTER MICHEÁL MARTIN TD

South Dublin Chamber met with Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Micheál Martin on April 26th in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Whilst the meeting was in camera to facilitate a frank exchange of views the Minister was briefed by the Chamber on the following issues affecting business in South Dublin. The Chamber will be following up with the Ministers Officials on these issues and other government departments where appropriate;



- Road Infrastructure and the delay in implementing improvements and the real cost to business.
- Escalating costs of doing business in Ireland
- Increased Local Authority Charges in particular Commercial Rates, Development Levies and Water Charges.
- Delays in the Postal Service in the County
- Challenges to manufacturing in South Dublin County
- Establishment by the Chamber of a Life Science Forum.

The Chamber would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and local TD Conor Lenihan in setting up the meeting and attending. The meeting was also attended by Charlie O'Connor TD which was much appreciated.

Health in the Workplace, a Responsibility and Positive Opportunity for Employers

- Recent changes in Health and safety legislation have brought the responsibilities of employers and small businesses into sharper focus, however the positive side of offering health screening and vaccination programmes to employees are often overlooked.
- Each year our economy loses millions through absenteeism, long term illness can cause severe disruption to a small firm considering that if a worker is absent for six months there is only a 50% chance of a return to work, this declines to a 20% chance after one year and reduces again to a 10% chance of successful return to work after two years absence.
- If we consider that at any given time over 20,000 people in Ireland have been out of work and on short-term disability benefit for over 12 months workplace illness is a subject we should all have on the agenda.

What can be done?

- Positive steps such as preventative health screening and vaccination are implementable at short notice, they promote awareness of potentially serious conditions such as heart disease and cancer.
- Vaccination against influenza can reduce absenteeism by up to 30% during winter months, a modest financial outlay on screening and vaccination can prevent far more costly outcomes when viewed as part of a wider strategy of good health in the workplace. In a nutshell... prevention is most definitely better than a cure!!

Article courtesy of Professor NG MC Elvaney:

Professor NG Mc Elvaney is Professor of Medicine RCSI and a Respiratory Consultant at Beaumont Hospital Dublin. Medical Director, Tara Healthcare Ltd.

TARA Healthcare Ltd

Unit B15, South City Business Park, Tallaght, Dublin 24. T: 2453480 Fx: 2453481. www.tarahealth.com Contact: Chay Bowes, Managing Director

IT Security Tip Encrypt Sensitive Information on your Laptop

If you travel on business and use a laptop that runs Windows 2000 Professional or Windows XP Professional, guard against data theft. Use the Encrypted File System (EFS) to encrypt sensitive files and folders. If the laptop is stolen, your files and folders are protected because only those with a special decryption key can access the encrypted files.



The above Tip and more are available through Chamber Publications Smarter Business Guides, published by Chambers Ireland and are now available to members at no cost.

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| Making Your Business Safe | - Smarter Business Guide to Health and Safety |
| Connecting Your Business | - The Smarter Business Guide to Communications |
| Empowering Your Business | - Smarter Business Guide to Technology |
| Securing Your Future | - A Smarter Business Guide to Pensions and Life |
| Funding Your Business | - Smarter Business Guide to Finance |

The guides are available in a pack or individually. If you would like to receive a guide or pack please contact Elaine at T: 4585234 or elaine@sdchamber.ie

SD&K Skillnet Update

South Dublin and Kildare Skillnet (SD&K) was officially launched by An Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney T.D. on 15th May at the Ryan Academy for Entrepreneurship in Citywest.

The South Dublin and Kildare (SD&K) Skillnet is a training network of like minded companies which formed to design and deliver quality training and development programmes to businesses in the South Dublin and Kildare region at reduced cost.

A Steering Group was formed late in 2005 from companies in the South Dublin area and amongst these were Jacob Fruitfield Food Group, Smurfit Kappa, Lufthansa Airmotive, Jungheinrich Lift Trucks, S.W. Carty and Sons, Typetec Ireland and Ronsin Ltd. Michael McEntee, Human Resources Manager of Lufthansa Airmotive was elected Chairman. Courses were held from January and by the end of the second quarter this year we will have put over 60 people from 20 companies through our programmes.

A Network Manager, Tony Buckley and Network Administrator, Mary Grassick were appointed in January and they have been busy developing a corporate identity for the Skillnet including a dedicated micro website www.sdchamber.ie/skillnets. Indeed from June all SD&K Skillnet companies will be able to book courses on line.

In total we plan to run 32 programs, provide 181 training days to 590 participants in 40 companies before the end of 2007 and we would expect to be in a position during 2007 to apply for further funding for the 2008/09 round of Skillnets funding.

Our ability to deliver these programs will be greatly enhanced now that we have just finished construction of our new state-of-the-art training facility in South Dublin Chamber offices. These facilities are due to open for business at the end of May.

For further information contact:

Tony Buckley, Network Manager
South Dublin and Kildare (SD&K) Skillnet
South Dublin Chamber T: 01 4622107 M: 085 7069999 E: tony@sdchamber.ie W: www.sdchamber.ie/skillnets



Pictured at the official launch of the Skillnets South Dublin and Kildare Skillnet (SD&K) are (L-R) Professor Terri Scott – CEO, The Ryan Academy for Entrepreneurship, Márie Hunt, CEO Skillnets, Neil Murphy – President, South Dublin Chamber, An Tánaiste and Minister for Health & Children, Mary Harney TD, Deirdre Coughlan-Murray, President – Newbridge Chamber and Michael McEntee (Lufthansa Airmotive), Chairman – SD&K Skillnet.

Rate Payers Group Established

The Chamber has established a Rate Payers group to review our strategy on reducing local authority charges charged by South Dublin County Council. The committee will be chaired by Brian Buckley of Greyhound Recycling & Recovery and will look at what measures can be taken to address the escalation in costs for commercial rates, development levies, waste and water charges. We envisage the group will meet four times in the year. If you are interested in participating or would like to put forward your opinion please contact Ursula at T: 4585203 or Ursula@sdchamber.ie

Expanding Our Services

The Chamber will soon expand our services to members by offering a hospital sickness and injury cash plan group scheme in partnership with HMCA. Details on the HMCA scheme will be posted to all members over the coming month.

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