

January 2014

2014...Bigger and Better

2013 was a great year for SBCP, we engaged with more communities, we supported more businesses to engage in their local area and we increased our impact on Slough! This year we hope to do even more...

An evening of inspiration and celebration - The SBCP Annual Conference

'People can make a difference' was the theme of this year's Slough Business Community Partnership's Annual Conference and this was certainly evident through the night as 100 delegates heard from inspirational speakers and about the achievements of companies and individuals who received recognition for their work in the community.

Guest Speakers

Delegates representing the public, private and voluntary sectors heard from motivational speaker Francis Goss – Head of Employee Engagement at Grass Roots UK. He talked about 'investing in people' and providing employees with motivational forces beyond money which could in turn show an evidenced increase in company savings and productivity.

Mark Francis our key note speaker from Star Commercial Academy gave a thought provoking talk on how to lead change in the workplace by encouraging a greater collective involvement. He highlighted the three R's in this process -

Role Modelling, Rallying the troops and Recognising effort and progress during times of change.

Lastly we heard from Katie Hyson from Telefónica UK – O2 who enthusiastically took delegates through research conducted by O2 which showed positive statistics and the vast array of benefits, both financial and social, derived from employees getting involved in community matters.



Guest Speakers (from left to right): Mark Francis, Katie Hyson, Rafiq Chohan and Francis Goss



Mentor Phil Fisher from BlackBerry collecting his award

Awarding Achievement

The evening was also an opportunity to celebrate. SBCP Awards were presented to businesses and individuals who have had made a significant impact in the Slough Community. Awards were given to employees from BlackBerry and Mars UK for their involvement and commitment to the Business Mentoring Programme – Rob Deeks from Aik Saath, a mentee, talked about how the programme has helped his own development and how his organisation has benefitted from having a mentor from Mars UK.

Company of the Year

The Company of the year was awarded to two of our members, Amazon.co.uk Ltd and LeasePlan for their contribution to the community through their employee volunteer programmes. Jonathan Webster, the Internal Communications Manager from LeasePlan said "We're delighted to be recognised with an award for what we do with SBCP and for the second year running too! SBCP really help to make employee volunteering easy. We have built a strong relationship with SBCP and in turn our employees have found it much more straightforward to identify activities that they can get involved in. SBCP definitely help us to make the most of our community activities by opening the door to these opportunities."



Roisin O'Sullivan collecting the Company of the Year award on behalf of Amazon.co.uk Ltd



The Chairman's Award

The Chairman's Award went to Sue Sibany-King from Slough Foodbank who is making a considerable difference to the lives of vulnerable people in Slough. Sue has established a well run warehouse with the help of local volunteers and manages the distribution of food through three centres in the town. She is always looking at innovative ways to attract more donations for this valuable service in Slough.

(From left - Sue Sibany-King from Foodbank and Bob Jones, SBCP Partnership Manager)

Message from the Chairman

Rafiq Chohan, SBCP Chairman said "This year's conference theme was "People can make a difference". Conveying our improved performance from last year demonstrably showed the difference people working for local business had made to our local community. With over 3,350 hours of volunteering valued at £175,000 benefitting 40,500 members of our community showed that Slough is already doing great work. We had three World class speakers all confirming the value of employee engagement being a win - win for community and volunteer alike. We should all be very proud of our Business Community in Slough and the contribution they continue to make. We look forward to welcoming more activity and more volunteering from business as we approach the new year with increased optimism and hope."

Business 2 Community skills event - 3 more great speakers

Another very informative Business 2 Community Skills event was held on the 5th December. The event provided business representatives with the opportunity to present to delegates from local voluntary and community groups and impart their knowledge and experience in key business development areas.

They heard from Georgina Clarke, New Approaches, who gave some key Project Management tips while Justin Govier, IBB Solicitors, gave an insight into current law surrounding volunteer and casual worker contracts including information on types of contract and employment status. Sid Pednekar from McDonald's gave a motivational talk on Leadership Skills, reminding group leaders of the importance of coaching and supporting employees to reach their potential.

We would like to thank our speakers for their time and support and also thank the attendees for taking part in another great event.



Sid Pednekar from McDonald's and Justin Govier from IBB solicitors

Full house for December Business meeting



Our last Business Meeting of 2013 was held on Wednesday 18th December at the Centre and representatives from local businesses and organisations heard from speakers on some very topical issues.

Rob Anderson (left), Leader of Slough Borough Council and Finance and Audit Assistant Director, Joseph Holmes, presented on the Council's budget and constraints for 2014/15. Rob said that the annual grant that the Council receives from Central Government is projected to decrease considerably over the coming years and that this will impact on businesses and local residents. He went on to say

that there is an opportunity to support the town and initiatives through Business Rates as Local Authorities will, in future, be responsible not only for the collection of these rates but also for the distribution of them. Although there is an incentive for the Council to increase Business Rates this will only help to offset the overall budget reduction due to the decrease in Central Government funding. The Council would like business input to help identify their top priorities for Slough and where they think SBC should invest its resources. For further information or to contribute to the consultation, please contact Shabnam Ali, Economic Policy Development Officer on Shabnam.ali@slough.gov.uk

An informative presentation on Workplace Pensions and Auto Enrolment was delivered by Nick Kidby of Chiltern Consultancy. He explained that Auto-Enrolment onto pension schemes will be implemented from October 2012 to 2017 and that the staging date was dependent on the number of people employed within a business. He informed delegates of costs, impacts and the different options available to businesses / organisations and highlighted the need to ensure that correct systems are in place in time for the staging date.

Rob Gray talked about 'Back Heathrow' which is a group of people, businesses and organisations who are campaigning for a secure future for Heathrow Airport and the jobs that depend on it. He talked about the current Heathrow debate over expansion vs shut down and explained how local businesses could get themselves and their networks involved in the campaign by visiting: www.backheathrow.org.

Gary Drake, GD Tennis Slough, mentioned the excellent Tennis facilities in Salt Hill Park for people to learn or play Tennis. He encouraged delegates to try out the facilities in what are great surroundings.

Economic Development Strategic Plan for Growth

Slough Borough Council has set out its Economic Strategic Plan for Growth 2014-2018. This highlights the actions and measures that will be taken over the next four year period to facilitate economic growth in the town.

The three main areas of focus for the Plan are:

1). Competitive Workforce Business Generation 2). Retention and Inward Investment 3). Physical and Transport Infrastructure

The Council will work with residents, businesses, partners and stakeholders across all sectors to improve these areas. With a diminishing set of resources the Council will further opportunities of enabling and facilitating work with partners. Slough Borough Council will continue to seek feedback from the business community to highlight issues and gaps in the economy that hinder growth. Such information will be used to eliminate and combat any barriers.

For further information, a copy of the plan or a general discussion please contact Shabnam Ali - Economic Policy Development Officer, Shabnam.ali@slough.gov.uk

Welcome new members!



We look forward to working with Accenture, Young Enterprise, and Slough Aspire and all of our Members during the coming year to continue to make a difference in the local community.

Challenge Calendar Updates

The new challenge calendar for February - April 2014 is now available! If you or your colleagues wish to take part in a challenge - big or small - get in touch now by contacting Noreen Mian on noreen@sbcpc.co.uk.

Member companies did a wonderful job in the last quarter, completing 28 challenges to support the local Slough community. Here are just a few examples:

 Completed their first Community Challenge as SBCP members by supporting the Colnbrook Community Association to clear an open field in order for the local charity to be able to use it for youth activities.

 Donated several boxes of chocolates to Meet and Mingle for their Christmas Party they held for their clients and their children.

  &  pulled together to donate 180 mince pies for Wexham Hospital for a Mince Pie and

Coffee morning they held on Christmas Eve for their patients.

Volunteers from  went on a search for hidden pathways and cleared an area of feral cherry trees, rampant hedgerow and brambles to make way for a pond, bog garden, wild flower meadow and fire pit at Godolphin Junior School.

 held a wonderful lunch for clients of Age Concern just before Christmas. They held a delicious spread for the clients who attended and organised for them to take part in a quiz!

 did a fabulous job of updating three different areas of Wexham Park Hospital which involved gardening, planting and painting. Julie Brown, Volunteer Services Manager for the hospital said "The efforts of the team brought plenty of smiles from patients and staff alike which is massively important for patient and staff morale in the hospital".

An enthusiastic group from  supported Iver Village Junior School to freshen up their corridors with a new coat of paint! The school said "The corridor has been completely transformed. The hard work is very much appreciated by the whole school community"

 delivered workshops to the young people of Aik Saath on the topics of Aspirations, Adaptability & Networking.

 Took part in their first Challenge by delivering CV Skills sessions to the pupils of Arbour Vale School

In 2013 SBCP helped broker support to over 37, 800 Slough residents with help from over 750 employee volunteers who volunteered over 3, 400 hours. How can you help this year?

What's next?

- **Business Breakfast:** 8.00am on 13th February 2014 - Smarter Travel for Slough
- **Business 2 Community Skills event:** February 2014 - TBC