

July 2014

Summer of Volunteers

As predicated its been (and continuing to be) a busy summer with many employee volunteers taking part in Challenges and others contributing through events. Here's a round up of our activities...

Greetings new member!



We look forward to working with McDonalds who have joined us as a Member.

Transport themed Business Meeting

SBCP's Business Meeting held on Thursday, 19th June was themed around Transport initiatives that will impact on people who live, learn and work in Slough.

Ruth Bagley, Chief Executive of Slough Borough Council began the event by giving the delegates an update on the Western Rail Access to Heathrow project (WRATH) – a rail link between Reading and Heathrow, via Slough, Maidenhead and Twyford. Ruth talked about the importance of this new rail link highlighting the value of Heathrow Airport and the current surface access to the UK's only hub airport, which is not easy from the west of the Airport.



Ruth Bagley from Slough Borough Council

WRATH proposes to provide 4 trains per hour each way, creating a 6 minute journey time from Slough (reduced from 45 minutes) and 28 minutes from Reading to Heathrow. The aim is to be operational from 2021 and the project will benefit the South East, South West, South Wales and West Midlands by contributing to journey time reductions up to 70%. Some of the key benefits are predicted to be £800 million in economic activity generated, 42,000 jobs, over 5000 tonnes less CO2 produced each year and excellent transport links with international markets to secure trade and investment. The Council has asked for business to become involved and to contribute by visiting: www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk/wrath where they can register their interest under 'Subscribe'.

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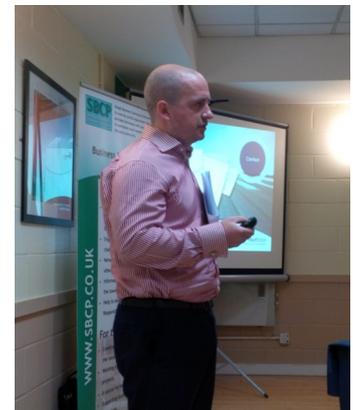
Our next speaker gave an update on the progress of Crossrail and John Goldsmith, Area Community Relations Manager, told delegates about the progress of the Crossrail project which will provide a new high capacity, high frequency railway link across London, linking Slough to a line that will be able to take more passengers into Central London, faster. This will impact on journey times from Slough by making a journey to Paddington 28 minutes, Tottenham Court Road 34 minutes, Liverpool Street 39 minutes, Canary Wharf 46 minutes and Heathrow in 17 minutes (plus interchange time).

John also highlighted future work on Slough's bridges and SBCP will keep you updated on these works when they occur.

Finally, Nathan Fletcher, Head of News at Heathrow Airport Ltd, gave an update on the proposals that Heathrow Airport had submitted to the Airport's Commission. We heard that Heathrow, as the UK's hub airport, can connect the whole of the UK to growth; bringing jobs and prosperity to the whole country but it is currently running at full capacity and so a third runway will allow for greater economic competitiveness and ultimately more jobs. Nathan also gave an update on how Heathrow Airport will mitigate the impact on local people by the positioning of the third runway, quieter planes, planned take offs/ landings and compensation schemes for residents.

The revised plans for a third runway, which include their North West option, are in response to the Commission shortlisting two airports as options for new runways; Heathrow and Gatwick will make their final proposals to a new Government in Summer 2015. If you would like any further information about our speakers or details of their presentations then please contact us.

Nathan Fletcher from Heathrow Airport Ltd



‘Just Play’- Join the new kick-about in Slough

New fun and flexible football sessions are held on Thursday nights from 17.30 – 18.30 at Herschel Sports Centre (SL1 3BW). Run by a qualified coach as part of Mars and the FA's national 'Just Play' scheme, it aims to make a lasting difference to participation in adult football. Just Play supplies everything that you need – all players need to bring is their kit, their boots, and themselves. Search online for 'Just Play', type in the Slough Centre's postcode and sign up - getting back on the pitch is as simple as that. The weekly sessions are open to anyone over 16 and cost £2.50 per person.



More Info: Call Simon Wears on 07766 774471 or email: simon.wears@berks-bucksfa.com.

If you would like a poster to spread the word about the new Slough sessions with your colleagues, clients and friends, please contact SBCP.

Business to Community Skills – Governance: An Update

The Slough Business Community Partnership held a successful ‘Business to Community Skills’ event on 22nd May 2014 at the Centre. The event provided an opportunity for local charities and community groups to hear from business representatives on key topics that they found very helpful for their groups.

The theme of the event was ‘Governance – an Update’ and as there have been many recent changes it was important for charities and community groups to be aware of these updates. In particular the session gave detailed information on Charity Law and Workplace Pensions – specifically Auto-Enrolment.

Chelsea Martin, from IBB Solicitors, gave the group an update on Charity Law and Governance. She covered topics such as Senior Executives pay, annual reviews, strategic reports (if relevant to certain charities) and highlighted the new Charity Commission guidance. She also provided Charity Commission guidance notes on the 2014 Annual Return, which proved to be a key theme as was highlighted from the questions asked at the end of the session.

Our other speaker was Nick Kidby of Chiltern Consultancy and he took the group through the major changes to Work Based Pensions and Auto-Enrolment. He explained why Auto-Enrolment was coming into force and what it means for employers including charities.



Advising on the actions employers need to take, he explained the requirements and impacts of the scheme on employers. Finally, he outlined some pension solutions and explained how employers can prepare for the changes.

Both topics were received with great interest from the delegates who said it was very useful and informative and that the speakers were “exceptional”.

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

Nick Kidby, Chiltern Consultancy and
Chelsea Martine IBB Solicitors

If you would like more information on the topics and the speaker presentations please get in touch.

Slough Working Well - Building a resilient workforce

On Wednesday, 11th June 2014 the Slough Business Community Partnership (SBCP) working with members of the Slough Working Well Group put on an event to look at how to build a resilient workforce.

The event started with an interactive session encouraging the delegates to think about the practices that they have in their own organisations and the way that managing energy levels could help to improve an employee’s resilience.

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Delegates then heard from informed speakers which included Susanna Yeomans, Deputy Locality Director for Upton Hospital, supported by Talking Therapies who talked about Mental Health issues affecting employees, ways of identifying the early signs and what support there is for a company and its employees.

Slough Working Wells' other speakers included Helen Wray from Mars Chocolate who outlined the procedures that the company has in place to support its employees and how having a resilient workforce can benefit a business.

Helen was followed by Lesley Baker, Lambda Mediation, who spoke about the role of mediation to



Left - Rajiv Joshi from Blake Morgan LLP speaking at the Slough Working Well Event

resolve issues and how this can help employees to be more resilient to stress in the future. Rajiv Joshi from Blake Morgan LLP underlined the importance of a company having the correct policies and procedures in place to avoid potential conflict.

Everyone agreed that the event was a great success and that the informed speakers had provided valuable information to help improve the resilience of employees which in turn could impact on the profitability of a company.

Activate @ Unilever Graduation 2014

The Annual Graduation of the young people from Activate, the educational provision based in the Unilever building on the Bath Road, took place on the 2nd July. The amazing achievements of the students reflected their hard work during the year but also the dedication of the staff from the Haybrook College who with their support had achieved excellent results. The event was also a celebration of what has been achieved by young people whilst at Activate since it was opened in 2002 by Sara Lee, with the support of SBCP's members and later by Unilever who had housed the facility and whose staff had supported the young people during their learning.



Alan Brown addressing the Activate Graduates during the Awards ceremony

It was announced by Alan Brown, Chair of the Activate Advisory Group, that following the closure of the Unilever factory later in the year that Activate would in September be sited at 323, Slough High Street.

Helen Huntley Executive Headteacher said "We are very proud to see the progress that the young people have made since joining the Activate programme. The continued support from local business and local schools is very much appreciated and we are already looking forward to working with the Activate class of 2014 / 15".

Bob Jones, SBCP and member of the Activate Advisory Board said 'SBCP is pleased to be a key supporter of Activate and we would like to thank our members previously Sara Lee and now Unilever for their commitment to helping the young people develop and obtain qualifications to enable them to enter further education or obtain a job. We also acknowledge the key role of the Haybrook College and we look forward to working with them in their new premises'.

Business Meeting – 3rd July 2014



Paul Woollard International Director for Santander

SBCP held a second business meeting before the summer break and Santander UK presented on their Six Steps to International Growth. Two representatives from the bank updated delegates on the bank's activities – particularly on their international business arm. They talked through the Six Steps to International Growth which provides support to businesses looking to export and develop their international business. These included 'Growing, Exporting, Connecting Overseas, Coping with Growth, Setting up Abroad and

Maximising International Reach. One of the tools that enable them to support businesses wishing to set up internationally is Santander's Business Portal which gives customers the opportunity to find all the information needed to engage in business abroad. Furthermore, their Trade Club provides customers with a community of importers and exporters which are all clients of Santander - this helps to provide connectivity to a global customer base. More information can be found on www.santandertrade.com

Delegates then heard from Nick Kidby, Chiltern Consultancy, who gave an update to businesses on the Pensions Auto-Enrolment. He provided the latest information from the Department of Work and Pensions and when, why and how auto enrolment was taking place. Because of an increased life expectancy and costs of long term care, the government are encouraging those working to begin thinking for the future by starting a pension fund. He talked about the different staging dates for different sized companies and that many of the large companies have already a scheme in place, with companies of 250-350 employees required to stage this year and smaller companies staging in the next few years up to 2017. Business owners and others are being encouraged to begin planning now. For more information on Pensions and Auto-Enrolment please visit: www.chilternconsultancy ltd.com

Finally, we heard from SBCP member – Ros Hammond from Employment Law in Action who provided the group with an important legal and policy update following recent changes in legislation. She advised delegates on the increases to the National Minimum wage (which has now changed from £6.19 to £6.31 for adults), and holiday and sick leave (only four weeks' annual leave now carries over automatically). Ros went on to mention that the statutory rate for sick pay has risen from £86.70 to £87.55 and statutory maternity pay, ordinary and additional paternity pay, and adoption pay had risen from £136.78 to £138.18. Finally, she mentioned that the Children and Families Bill had also extended the statutory rights of all employees to be able to request to change their hours or work flexibly after 26 weeks employment. It will also replace the current statutory procedure which contains a duty on employers to consider requests in a reasonable manner. This legislation will become effective from 30th June 2014. For further information on Employment Law please visit: www.eliaction.com

If you would like any further information about our speakers or details of their presentations then please contact us.

Challenge Calendar Updates

The new challenge calendar for August - October 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.

Our members took part in a huge 33 challenges during the last quarter - thank you to all who took part to benefit the Slough Community.

Here are just some of the fantastic projects employee volunteers took part in:

 donated football kits to Cippenham Primary school for the schools football teams



helped local community group - Destiny Support by providing some IT support to make their computer systems run more effectively



As part of volunteer month many Mars teams were out and about supporting the Slough Community. One group made a huge difference to the Rajasthani Welfare Association when they helped to complete some vital DIY work at the Centre as well as updating a green area used by children to play. A representative from the Centre said "The work that they have done for our charity has made such an impact on our community."



Took part in their first challenge by responding to a request from the Golden Eagles FC who were collecting raffle prizes for fundraising. The Hotel donated a voucher for dinner and a stay at the hotel



Also took part in their first few challenges. Two groups helped clients of Age Concern update their gardens. One of the teams said "we really enjoyed blitzing the gardens, I think we made a real difference and glad we were able to contribute some of our time to help".

Two hard-working teams from  re-organised equipment, cleared out horse stalls, repainted sheds and helped make a rabbit hutch for the Animal Sanctuary.

A large group from  took on updating two garden areas for Wexham park Hospital. They said "This was the perfect way of participating in the community and showing how important doing so is for O2. This was also a great way of getting the team together outside of the office".



Donated several raffle prizes to Alexander Devine to use for their fundraising.

This quarter SBCP has help business engage with 266 employee volunteers who have donated over 1,100 hours and through their efforts have supported the Slough community. Can you help to make a difference in the next quarter?

What's next?

- **Business Breakfast:** 25th September 2014 - Heart of Slough
- **Business 2 Community Skills event:** 2nd October 2014 - TBC
- **Slough Working Well:** 8th October 2014 - Work Life Balance for a changing workforce