

Chamber Construction Forum Minutes
VHE Construction Offices, Barugh Green, Barnsley 1st December 2016

Attendance

Stephen Blunsten (Chair) – Strebel Heating Ltd
Mark Goldsworthy – VHE Construction Ltd
Lisa Pogson – Airmaster Air Conditioning Ltd
Peter Lawrence – Barnsley College

Adrian Platts – Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber
Amie Goodyear – Palmer Construction Ltd
Andrew Dunhill - Wardell Armstrong Ltd
Neil Robertson – Keepmoat Construction Ltd

Apologies

Dean Pattison – Complete Utility Solutions
Simon Dennis – Palmer Construction Ltd
Dominic Beck – Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber

Matt Travis – Enzygo Ltd
Karen Temple – NPS Barnsley Ltd
Andrew Denniff – Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber

Welcomes, Introduction and Apologies

Stephen Blunsten welcomed and updated new attendees of the forum, indicating what had been discussed previously and the focus of the group. Peter Lawrence has now taken over as the lead for Barnsley College within the forum. Stephen reminded that details would be shared amongst the group to encourage collaboration. Stephen thanked Mark Goldsworthy for hosting the meeting. Neil gave some background about Keepmoat, their position in the region and where their focus lay. He also indicated that he was part of a construction focused group at Sheffield City Region and reported back on activities with partners in the region. Neil briefly covered an initiative for MIPIM Sponsorship which will be forwarded by email.

Feedback on previous events

Stephen outlined the initial events for the Construction Forum and highlighted the positive feedback from attendees. Henry Boot presented 'Building a Better Barnsley' at the September event which was hosted by NPS Group, and was a welcome subject for attendees. The next event was held at The Walkabout in Barnsley hosted by Airmaster. A presentation was provided around 'Payment and Legal Issues for the Construction Industry', which most attendees found a useful source of information. The December event took place at Barnsley FC and was hosted by Palmer Construction. The presentation subject covered renewable energies and the SCR Low Carbon project and how this could impact on supply chains. Overall, the events have gotten off to a good start.

Forward planning for additional events

The group discussed plans for upcoming networking events. It was agreed that after January, event would now occur on a bi-monthly basis due to the range of events that the Chamber delivers so as not to saturate the offering and have a negative effect on attendance rates. The plans are as follows:-

- Jan 17 – Presentation focus: Apprenticeships and what the levy means for construction businesses. Barnsley and Dearne Valley Colleges intend to host and speak for this event. Barnsley College was decided as the venue of choice due to short lead times with the Christmas break and the availability of the construction facilities.
- Mar 17 – Key Event: Meet the Buyer. Stephen Blunsten suggested to provide an event for forum and chamber members to have stands which would enable visitors to meet the buyer and share what they have to offer. This event is intended to be free to all business people that wish to attend. Either New York Stadium or Barnsley FC are the intended locations for the event. Neil Robertson indicated that once a cost could be established, Keepmoat would support the sponsorship of the event. **(20/01/17 – Date swapped with May due to a large number of events for the Chamber in Rotherham that might affect attendance rates)**

- May 17 – Presentation focus: Meadowhall expansion plans. Mark Goldsworthy suggested holding this event at New York Stadium, Rotherham and confirmed to sponsor on the basis that Darren Pearce and Paul Case would present the plans to attendees. **(20/01/17 – Venue changed to Fusion@Magna due to swapping events)**
- Jul 17 – Doncaster Airport – Logistics Hub and infrastructure focused event to look at opportunities for construction companies as the area develops.
- Sep 17 – Barnsley Civic – Affordable housing presentation to look at plans for the future with Shadow Secretary of State for Housing and local MP John Healey.

Updates / Opportunities

Neil Robertson mentioned the Autumn statement and the potential for affordable housing grant funding which might bring housebuilding opportunities for the North. Further information is expected to feed through over the coming months regarding how this will work.

Neil also pointed out that the Sheffield City Region Construction Forum are looking for views on lobbying at local and national level for policy issues that may need alteration or reversal. Any feedback that companies want to share can be fed back through Neil to the forum.

Social Media

The group were reminded to use Twitter wherever possible to share information or take advantage of promoting information about events, relevant opportunities, related news stories, etc. Stephen advised that if anyone needed any support to speak to address himself or Adrian Platts.

Forum Group Meetings

The next group meeting will take place on Thursday 1st December 11.45am – 2.00pm – VHE Construction Plc, Whaley Road, Barugh, Barnsley, S75 1HT. Mark Goldsworthy has agreed to host.

Further group meeting dates:

Friday 10th March 2017 11.45 – 2.00pm, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce

Thursday 1st June 2017 11.45 – 2.00pm, venue TBC