

## **Chamber Construction Forum Meeting Notes**

**12.00pm – 2.00pm, Thursday, 1st June 2017**  
**Barnsley FC, Oakwell Stadium, Grove Street, Barnsley S71 1ET**

### **Attendance**

Stephen Blunsten (Chair) – Strebel Heating  
Mark Goldsworthy – VHE Construction  
Charlie Grayson – RNN Group  
Simon Dennis – Palmer Construction

Adrian Platts – Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber  
Cathy Hyslop – Complete Utility Solutions  
Neil Robertson – Keepmoat Regeneration  
Gary Williams – Berneslai Homes

### **Apologies**

Andrew Denniff – Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber  
Andrew Dunhill – Wardell Armstrong  
Lisa Pogson – Airmaster Air Conditioning

Dean Pattison – Complete Utility Solutions  
Karen Fisher – Henry Boot  
Robbie Blackhurst – Robertson Construction

### **Welcomes, Introduction and Apologies**

Stephen Blunsten (SB) welcomed attendees, and passed on apologies for those who could not attend. SB covered what had been discussed previously.

### **Feedback on previous events**

SB highlighted the recent success of the Meet the Buyer event for the Construction Forum and mentioned the positive feedback from attendees along with the numbers attending. The occasion provided an opportunity for attendees to meet the buyer from various construction sector based companies who were exhibiting. The general consensus was that Barnsley FC was a good venue to hold the event at.

### **Forward planning for additional events**

The group discussed plans for upcoming networking plans:-

- Jul 17  
Rotherham Regeneration event incorporating the revival of the Forge Island area and housing across the borough. A networking and presentation event to discuss the plans for redevelopment of Rotherham and what opportunities this might present. 1915 Bar and Bistro offered free venue and catering for the event.
- Oct 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 and housing plans for Barnsley with a presentation provided by Berneslai Homes. (John Healey is subject to availability following the general election.)
- Jan 18  
Barnsley Glass Works Development – Looking at the Barnsley Glass Works and town centre development opportunities.
- Mar 18 – Barnsley college - Focus on apprenticeships

## **Updates / Opportunities**

Neil Robertson advised that Keepmoat Regeneration has been bought out by Engie. He advised that Engie are growing significantly and are securing many public contracts. The company has significant interest in renewable and sustainable energies, and the commercial presence of the organisation is growing.

Simon Dennis advised that potential investment funds may come from Ireland to support the development of solar energy, and that there are plenty of opportunities in the region for construction companies to take advantage of.

Charlie Grayson indicated that RNN Group are seeking to build a University Technical College in Rotherham. The focus behind this is specific skills development for local young people leaving schools who want to pursue a specialised or skilled trade.

The Women in Construction event is intended to take place in the new year as a collaborative event with the Women in Business Forum to engage a wider audience at a networking event. Blacklader Workwear have indicated their intention to sponsor the event when details are confirmed.

## **Forum Group Meetings**

The next group meeting will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 12.00pm – 2.00pm at Airmaster Air Conditioning Ltd, Wetherby House, Park Hill, Swallownest, Sheffield S26 4UN.