

Chamber Construction Forum Meeting Notes

Wednesday, 13th December 2017

**Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, Genesis Business Park
Sheffield Road, Rotherham S60 1DX**

Attendance

Stephen Blunsten (Chair) – Strebel Heating
Matt Travis – Enzygo
Peter Lawrence – Barnsley College
Gary Williams – Berneslai Homes

Adrian Platts – Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber
Nick Ward – RNN Group (Dearne Valley College)
Neil Robertson – Keepmoat Regeneration
Jane Williamson – SS Systems

Apologies

Richard Hunt – Clugston Construction
Mark Goldsworthy – VHE Construction
Charlie Grayson (RNN Group)
Lisa Pogson – Airmaster Air Conditioning

Andrew Dunhill – Wardell Armstrong
Kevin Scholey – Barnsley College
Karen Fisher – Henry Boot
Simon Dennis – Palmer Construction

Welcomes, Introduction and Apologies

Stephen Blunsten (SB) welcomed attendees, and Adrian Platts (AP) fed back apologies for those who could not attend. SB covered what had been discussed previously.

Feedback on previous events

SB reported that feedback from attendees at the affordable housing event was extremely positive and liked that we had engaged high profile speakers in the sector for the area whom they could present questions to and get a response back in short order. Generally, forum members agreed that format and subject areas of construction forum events are well timed, informative and encourage development of relationships with prospects, stakeholders and key partners.

Forward planning for additional events

The group discussed upcoming networking plans:-

- Jan 18 - Dearne Valley College – Focus on apprenticeships presentation to support the construction sector. 30th January was confirmed as the date for delivery of the event at Dearne Valley College with collaboration with Barnsley College for delivery. Additional meetings are to take place to finalise details, with RNN Group sponsoring the event
- Mar 18 – Women in Construction – the Holiday Inn, Barnsley is booked. Sponsorship agreed by Blaklader workwear. The event will engage female speakers from the Construction Industry to raise aspirations and encourage female development in the sector. Blaklader will also be profiling their workwear. It will take place on the 8th March for International Women's Day leading onto the Women in Business event afterwards
- May 18 – Construction Plus 'Meet the Buyer' Annual event – planned to take place in Rotherham, this will once again promote opportunities for potential suppliers to meet with local construction companies. Barnsley College are sponsoring and the venue is booked. Further details to follow
- Jul 18 – Wentworth Woodhouse Event TBC. Update January 2018: the venue is exceptionally expensive (over £2000) Forum members to review an alternative location. Keepmoat agreed to sponsor this event date

- Sep 18 – Forge Island, Building a better Barnsley update event. Venue to be confirmed, Berneslai Homes offered to sponsor this event date given the local focus
- Nov 18 – Fire safety event – Possible sponsorship by SS Systems suggested by Jane Williamson, further details to be discussed
- Jan 19 – Apprenticeships event – Possible sponsorship by Barnsley College, to follow up at later date
- Mar 19 – Barnsley Courthouse Development – sponsor to be agreed

Updates / Opportunities - Skills

Peter Lawrence (PL) highlighted the apprenticeship process and timings for 2018. In preparation for the January event, PL highlighted how important it was to prepare early and that there were plenty of candidates flowing through both colleges who are looking for apprenticeship opportunities. Despite a slight slow down in the industry, both PL and Nick Ward (NW) agreed that there is still significant demand for skilled tradespeople in Barnsley and Rotherham and both are focused on addressing the skills gap in the region.

NW highlighted that RNN Group are making swift progress with University College Rotherham (UCR) and will provide a plethora of next level opportunities for people looking for advanced qualifications and will work closely with local businesses to support their needs.

Forum Group Meetings

The next group meeting will take place on Thursday 22nd March 12.00pm – 2.00pm, The Cube Construction Centre, Barnsley College, Honeywell Campus, Honeywell Lane, Barnsley S75 1BP

Jane Williamson agreed to host the Wednesday 6th June meeting at SS Systems offices.

Gary Williamson agree to the host Wednesday 12th September meeting at Berneslai Homes offices.

Neil Robertson agreed to host the Wednesday 5th December meeting at Keepmoat Regeneration offices in Rotherham.