

The Ivybridge Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Minutes 19th September, 2023. 5:30pm, Ivybridge Town Hall

1. Updates and news from Ivybridge Town Council

Town Clerk Jonathan Parsons is leaving at the end of September. Our new Town Clerk is Kate Elliot-Turner. Welcome to Ivybridge, Kate!

Fore Street will be closed for these events –

Remembrance Sunday, 12th November, morning

Christmas Fair 24th November, afternoon

2. Tony Rea, Ivybridge Town Council - 20 is Plenty Ivybridge speed limit project, feedback from business owners

Ivybridge Council, and other Town Councils across the South Hams and Devon are lobbying Devon County Council to introduce wider 20mph zones. Currently Fore Street has a 20 mph speed limit. This is being looked at to extend across all of Ivybridge, the current 30mph zone. Councillor Tony Rea presented the expected benefits of this – reducing collisions, and the severity of injuries on collision, traffic noise and pollution reduction, and petrol saving.

A question was raised that this could deter visitors to Ivybridge. Tony advised that if this were to go ahead, the policy would be introduced in 30mph zones across Devon, meaning that Ivybridge would not be affected on its own.

The decision would be up to Devon County Council, and there is no current indication that this is on their immediate agenda.

3. Jenny Hughes, Careers Office Ivybridge Community College - Ivybridge Community College Careers Fair date of Tuesday 5th March 2024

Careers Day - 5th March 2024. Local businesses had 2 tables at the careers day, and would be welcomed to join again. Liz Scott joined the fair earlier this year, with positive feedback. If you would like to join next year, contact Jenny Hughes at careers@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk.

4. Elizabeth Coates, Homes for Ukraine SHDC Support Officer - employment and start-up mentoring for the Ukrainian community

Elizabeth Coates from SHDC is working with Sarah Quayle from Odils Learning Foundation Plymouth to support the Ukrainian residents of the South Hams, for them to integrate into society with stable work and accommodation. Currently there are 166 Ukrainians living in the South Hams, and 47 in Ivybridge.

Ukrainians looking for work are quite often university educated or above, with a strong work ethic, although English beyond basic level may be a barrier.

Elizabeth and Sarah are looking to connect businesses with opportunities to offer work experience, potential employment, and as mentors for individuals looking to start their own business. If you would like to explore this, please contact Elizabeth and Sarah at –

Elizabeth.Coates@swdevon.gov.uk
squayle@odils.com

5. Updates and news from SHDC Councillors, including Ivybridge Community Economic Plan

The Ivybridge Economic Plan aims to survey residents from all parts of the community to look at what residents would like for the town, to then assess what projects could be practical and feasible in the short, medium and long terms, and have project documents ready to go as and when funding opportunities emerge. Funding availability is often quite short-term, so to have projects ready to go would mean that they are able to take advantage of these as they come up.

Currently a steering group has been formed, and the survey work is due to being in November, through an online portal and in-person activities across town. Full details to be released in November.

This is a project supported by SHDC, with Ivybridge the first town in the District to work on creating a plan.

6. River Erme water quality - Wild About The Erme River (WATER) / Surfers Against Sewage Coastguard's Beach campaign and questionnaire

Of the 10 major rivers in the South Hams, the Erme is the most polluted. In terms of hours sewage spills Mothecombe Beach at the mouth of the Erme was ranked the tenth highest beach in the country in 2022.

Wild About The Erme River (WATER), an umbrella group of projects and campaigns to improve the water quality of the River Erme, and Surfers Against Sewage are currently applying for Coastguards Beach, on the Erme estuary opposite Wonwell, to be designated as an official bathing water site. If successful this would mean more water quality testing by the Environmental Agency, and impetus to improve river water quality.

As part of the application, consultation is needed with residents and businesses, in the form of a survey. Comments from businesses can give added weight to the application, so **if you can, please fill in the short survey at <http://ermeriver.org/>**

The survey deadline is coming up fast – 30th September.

7. Local Business News - Nadine Dommett, Makers Mews Open Day - Friday 29th Sept 8am - 8pm

From Makers Mews:

Do you want a space to work from that is not your spare bedroom or garage?

Do you have an idea for a class or workshop you want to try out?

Join us for an Open Day at Makers Mews with FREE hot desking, tours + taster sessions of our Accountability Alliance + Fireside Fridays.

Makers Mews Open Day - Friday 29th Sept 8am - 8pm, with beer from Ivybridge Brewery!

8. Updates and news from members - anything you would to share about your business

News from around town

The Trehill Arms has reopened.

The Exchange is under new ownership, and will be reopening after renovation.

The Imperial is also under new ownership.

Cupcake Cottage will close at the end of September (we will miss you, Emma!). A new F&B outlet is planned to open there.

Balloon Express will become part of Gallery 53 (we will miss you too, Norma!). The Tattoo parlour is due to take up the space.

Owens Coffee is continuing to work on Ivybridge being designated a Fairtrade town. More on this to follow.

9. Feedback on Ivybridge Shop 10 card

The Shop 10 Card has had a positive re-start, shoppers welcoming receiving cards, and returnees with multiple stamps now appearing. Draws will be held monthly for participants with 10 stamps collected, to win £50 Ivybridge vouchers, spendable in participating outlets, and redeemable from the Chamber.

We will run initially until Feb 2024, with more feedback in the January Chamber meeting to decide on continuing. Currently there are 13 businesses taking part, with more due to join.

If you are not yet a part of this, and would like to join, payment up until Feb is £10 a month, with costs to be reevaluated (likely downwards) from March onwards. Please contact Matt at matt.steele.ivybridge@gmail.com for details.

10. Next Town Trail - October half term / Halloween Friday 20 - Tuesday 31st October

If you have not joined previous trails, and would like to be part of the Halloween Trail, please contact Matt at matt.steele.ivybridge@gmail.com for details. There has been a lot of positive feedback on previous trails, from excited children and parents happy to have a free activity to keep the kids occupied for an hour or two.

11. Best Dressed Window Competition - Saturday 18th November - Sunday 10th December

We will send out a request in the week leading up to 18th November for a photo of your window if you would like to join this. The photos will be posted on the IvybridgeForYou and Ivybridge Community Facebook pages for members of the public to vote for the winner. It's a great way to publicise businesses, and the town in general, in the run-up to Christmas.

12. Thoughts on Palladium Planning Application for former Ivybridge Motors site

Over 100 objections against the plan have been received, with regards to the look and feel of the Palladium site, given its prominence in the town, adjacent to the Methodist Church. Also access through the site to the Health Centre, and the affect on traffic for residents.

There are definite pluses and minuses to the project, from filling a derelict site that is suffering vandalism, that has been empty for a year, to how exactly this will look, and reflect on the town and impact residents, workers and visitors.

This has not yet come up for consideration by SHDC, SHDC Ivybridge Councillors have requested that this be put before the Planning Committee for proper consideration of the issues, and for the committee to visit the site, to appreciate the effects this will have, in coming to their decision.

13. Next Meeting Tuesday 23rd January, 5:30pm

Ivybridge Chamber of Commerce Membership:

£25 yearly membership, used for promoting businesses in the town

Funds were used in the last year for –

Printed material, advertising and voucher redemption for Town Trails – the major expense, around £300 per trail

Wreath donation on behalf of the Chamber at the Remembrance Day ceremony

Best Dressed Window winners cup engraving

(The Shop 10 Card program is funded through separate contributions)

If your business is not currently a paid member and would like to join, and contribute to the wellbeing of the Town's businesses, payment can be made on one-off or direct debit basis to:

Sort Code 30-94-58

Account # 02432330

Name Ivybridge Chamber of Commerce

Annual payment - £25