



**Gorey
Chamber**
IN BUSINESS...FOR BUSINESS

Press Release

DATE.
24th May 2010.

Chamber Objectives outlined at Annual General Meeting.

Branding Gorey set as main target.

Chamber Year Reviewed.

Gorey Chamber staged its Annual General Meeting at a very well attended event held in the conference centre at Gorey Business Park on Monday the 24th of May. In excess of forty individual business's had confirmed their attendance on the evening which gave members an opportunity to network.

Chamber President, Marian McKenna, chaired the evening's business, which outlined the work of the Chamber over the past year, nominated its new committee and outlined its work plan over the coming year.

With Chamber membership of 140 currently at its highest level and a strong business after hours and social networking programme having been put in place the work of the Chamber has never been busier. The evening gave each sub committee and working group chair the platform to outline their work to date.

Chamber President and Retail Working Group Chair, Marian McKenna from La Crème, reported that a very successful year saw the Retail sector plan and deliver, three shopping promotions, the Shopping Extravaganza in November 2009, Goreys Mega Sale in January 2010 and the Golden Egg Promotion in April. In addition, the second Christmas Market on the Main St was an enormous success, while she also outlined success and activity in delivering, training options, as well as progress on parking, litter and Christmas Lighting.

Following on, Ann McLoughlin, FAS Services to Business, the chair of the Services to Members Committee gave a broad outline of the work of the year which included the



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delivery of the monthly Chamber lunches, a meet and greet programme for new members, regular opinion surveys, and the development of the Website, as well as outlining the meeting room and training room facilities open to members.

With the focus in the Chamber always on supporting business, the Business Services committee has developed a programme of Business Start Up Workshops, offering free one to one mentoring to new business. Outlining this and other initiatives, Safeguard Insurance's , Dave McCormack, Chamber Vice President added details of plans for a Schools Enterprise Award in conjunction with the Community School and a Business Awards programme to be rolled out in the next year.

With Finances always an issue for every business, James Kinsella from Sherry Fitzgerald Kinsella, who heads up the Finance Committee looked at developing new income streams in the coming year in an effort at regularising the Chamber finances. The new local Residential and Business Directory currently on sale in the town was also highlighted as one of the Chambers fundraising activities and members were urged to support it.

With networking high on the list of all committees within the Chamber, Niamh O'Sullivan of Ruby Rouge , the Social Committee chair, reported on a number of highly successful and enjoyable evenings including, Bollywood Nights at Wild Spice, A Taste of Italy at Portofinos . the White Diamond Gala Ball in the Ambersprings, and the Christmas Party at ECO.

The reports were concluded by Dick White, acting Chair of the Tourism Working Group who outlined a busy programme for the committee including, taking on the management of the Tourist Office and the planning and implementation of the Family Friendly Hub in North Wexford. This group which is made up of representatives of the Tourism Sector in North Wexford including Gorey and Courtown is the first active tourism group in the area since the days of North Wexford Tourism.

Chamber representatives are also sitting and working on committees and groups including South East Chambers, Gorey Adhoc Community Facilities Ltd, Gorey Town Councils Enterprise Committee, and the Joint Policing Committee for Gorey.

The new committee of the Chamber was sanctioned on the evening with Marian McKenna, Dave McCormack, Ann McLoughlin, James Kinsella, Niamh O'Sullivan , Niall Slattery, Pat O'Hagan, Andrew Owen, Finbarr O'Donoghue, Keith Groarke and Paula Reddy all being nominated.

Outlining Chamber plans for the future the current President, Marian McKenna stated that developing a "Brand Gorey" would be a priority this year and stated "We really do need to seriously think about the need to Brand Gorey. If we focus on our strengths and opportunities, eradicate threats and improve our areas of weakness we will make a real difference in Branding Gorey" continuing, Mc Kenna added, "What vision do you have



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for our town? What brand should we have? I don't have a prescription, but Gorey needs all our input. So I am asking you to participate in this exercise over the year"

Concluding Ms McKenna added " Other areas will also have priority, including, litter, , parking, summer planting, broadband access and the public realm. But the one message I want to go out from the Chamber to business is that , we are here for you and together we can make a positive difference for all of us"

ENDS.

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