



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

Press Release

DATE.

30th July 2009.

Gorey Chamber hosts meeting with Minister of Labour Affairs.

Local and National Issues Highlighted.

Minister of State Calleary visits Gorey Business Park.

Gorey Chamber and a delegation of Committee Members hosted a briefing meeting with Dara Calleary TD Minister of State at the Department Enterprise Trade and Employment at its offices in Gorey Business Park on the 29th of July.

Chamber Executive, Dick White explained, "As part of our work, Gorey Chamber highlights issues and concerns relating to Gorey at a national level. This briefing session with the Minister of State allowed us to discuss issues including, Urban Status for Gorey, Enterprise Initiatives for business, high speed broadband access, uninterrupted power supplies in North Wexford and wider credit issues amongst others."

In addition to the meeting, the Minister of State for Labour Affairs was also given a tour, by Jim Osborne of Gorey Business Park's facilities including its business start up units, civic amenity facility and extensive range of warehousing.



Given the population increase in North Wexford, Gorey currently lags behind the other three towns in the county in relation to generating rates income and retaining it for local services.

According to the Chamber, this situation can no longer be allowed, continuing, White added “We see this as one of the most important issues for the long term future of our town. Gorey demands to be treated as an equal in the local government context and given the same standing as Enniscorthy, New Ross and Wexford.”

With a Local Government Reform white paper due to be published by Government the end of the year, the Chamber now believes that an opportunity exists to have this situation dealt with.

Continuing, White stated, “The Urban configuration of Ireland has changed dramatically in the past 20 years and old boundaries and borders no longer carry weight. We will to apply to the Minister of the Environment to have Urban Status delivered to Gorey as a matter of urgency and in the mean time to ensure that the needs of Gorey and North Wexford are accommodated in the forthcoming white paper.”

The briefing session also dealt with proposals to see a wider range of business start ups being included in County Enterprise Boards funding criteria in addition to an expansion of services such as mentoring , business reviews etc to existing business.

The meeting also dealt with the provision of such vital pieces of infrastructure as high speed broadband, a 21st century power supply in addition to the need to secure adequate levels of credit for existing and new business.

Commenting, White noted, “The need to secure top of the range pieces of infrastructure such as Broadband and Power supplies is an absolute must for business. With intermittent and patchy services currently provided in North Wexford, Gorey Chamber intends to ensure that every opportunity is taken to have these issues raised at every level and the Minister was left in no doubt as to our feelings.”



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On the credit crunch issue the Chamber was asked, by the Minister of State, to prepare case studies within business and have them submitted to the newly established Credit Supply Clearing Group within the Department, which will use them to change banking policy.

Concluding, White added “This was a constructive meeting from our view point, we highlighted issues of real concern and were given a commitment that our views would be listened to at government level”

ENDS.

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