

General Discussion following the AGM

During the November Meeting members had discussed the role of the Chamber. There had been many changes to how businesses operated since its formation in 1938. We now needed to look at ways that the Chamber could work to represent both local business and the community in the coming years.

In past years we had invited speakers who were experts in subjects such as pensions, that we hoped would be of interest to businesses, but these meetings had not been well attended. The presentation by Eat Sleep Live Herefordshire had been well attended but had not resulted in new members.

We had also invited speakers from the local festivals, but there was mixed feelings amongst traders for although the festivals brought visitors into the town, road closures would cause a problem and discourage local people from shopping.

We needed to look at how the Chamber could support local industry as well as traders. If more people could be employed locally, then there more money to be spent in the town. There was a particular need to recruit young people and encourage them to work in their local area. It was understood that the Queen Elizabeth School had received funding from the British Legion that should help local youngsters obtain employment.

Need to encourage businesses to engage with the Chamber and to share their experience with new traders. Chamber needed a welcome package to offer new businesses.

It was agreed that this had been a useful discussion and that all businesses should be invited to an Open Meeting in February which would include an opportunity to discuss how the Chamber could work with businesses and the local community.

