



Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce

Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce is showing encouraging growth as it continues to provide local businesses with support and networking opportunities, as well as a range of activities to provide them with relevant management and social media training and advice.

Boasting a steady flow of new members, ranging from retailers and the arts to legal advice companies, auctioneers, financial advisers and foreign exchange businesses, the Chamber has also attracted several individual members who are interested in keeping in touch with business issues in the town.



In addition to regular networking breakfasts where a variety of top speakers focus on issues of importance to Felixstowe traders, the Chamber also stages evening events in and around the town centre in the offices of members to help them discover the variety and range of different enterprises in

the town. These events are arranged particularly for members unable to make the early morning meetings, though everybody is welcomed, and are usually well attended.

It is currently looking at the possibility of offering its members the option of occasional special networking dinners in the evenings at local hotels for members and their guests as well later this year.

Meanwhile, a pilot Business Advice Hub set up by the Chamber in the town centre has attracted a fair number of people seeking help for their new start-ups, as well as more established self-employed men and women needing advice on training, financial matters and funding sources.

The Hub has also proved popular with older currently unemployed people looking for advice on how to get back to work.

The Chamber is now exploring the possibility setting up a permanent community Business Advice Centre in Felixstowe in conjunction with other organisations.

The Business Advice Centre could incorporate a training room, conference facilities, hot desks, office space for self-employed people working from home and a help desk with legal, financial and other business advice. It could also offer workshops on subjects such as writing business plans, marketing, managing social media and regulatory issues.

Admitting this was a long-term plan, a Chamber spokesman said: "We are keen to start the conversations now."

For further information see www.felixstowechamber.co.uk or contact: info@felixstowechamber.co.uk

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