



# Brixham Chamber of Commerce

**Chairman:**

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**Vice Chairman:**

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**Brixham Chamber Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 19th February 2013 at  
Berry Head Hotel at 7.00pm**

**Minutes**

- Welcome and Apologies:** Simon James; Belinda King; Shelagh Linton; Joe Brown
- Present:** Councillors; M. Morey (MM) & J. Stockman (JS), Ken Pritchard (KP) (TC).  
MEMBERS: Bob Wooller (BW) (President), Denise McDowell (DM) (Chair), Keith Williams (KW) (Vice Chairman), Joe Cloutman (JC) (Secretary), and 12 members.  
**plus:** 1 non-member.  
Speakers: Mel Mounce and Matt Neale (Jobcentreplus—Brixham)  
Alasdair Linn—YTKO - Superfast Broadband  
Ian Westwood—TBC—Rates appeals.

**Mel and Matt** explained how jobcentreplus now runs a modernised and streamlined “**Universal Jobmatch**” service, tailored to the needs of both the potential employer and the job-seeker. This is a free service, and allows a lot of pre-selection on-line before actual face-to-face interviews. Open to all job seekers, not just the unemployed.

**The Youth Contract:** Designed to encourage employers to recruit 18-24 year olds: Includes wage incentives, work experience and training packages. / full or part-time.

**Work Experience:** Aimed at first time employees, allows young unemployed people to gain some valuable experience in the workplace, without loss of current benefits.—is a voluntary 2 to 8 week placement.

**Work Trial Scheme:** designed to allow a trial period before further commitment.

For more information on all the above, Mel can be contacted on Tel: 01803 356935

Email: [Melanie.mounce@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Melanie.mounce@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk)

For Universal jobmatch see: [www.gov.uk/advertise-job](http://www.gov.uk/advertise-job)

Information packages were available to the audience.

**Alasdair Linn—YTKO - Superfast Broadband:** The “connecting Devon and Somerset” scheme aimed to fill in many gaps in the current coverage, especially in more rural areas. A £94M project over the two counties, bringing 26k businesses on-line. The target was 100% coverage by 2016, qualifying with speeds faster than 2Mbps. 90% with high speed fibre connection with high end speeds of 8Mbps.

For those beyond cable reach, TWOWAY offer satellite packages.

If we want faster broadband sooner, it is important that we lobby for it. To register your interest go to: [www.ConnectingDevonandSomerset.co.uk](http://www.ConnectingDevonandSomerset.co.uk) and register your vote.

YTKO are available for one-to-one mentoring, and further training if required, with government funding available.

Contact: [CDS.team@ytko.com](mailto:CDS.team@ytko.com)

**Ian Westwood, Torbay Council Revenues Dept.—**Advised us on procedures for business rates appeals, explaining that two types of appeals were considered by the VOA and must be submitted to them.

i) Interruption of, or impact on business due to developments or reparatory works etc.

ii) long term financial impact after the development is complete, due to business competition.

Type (i) was currently the most relevant to our situation.

It was emphasised that the former appeal needs to be lodged as soon as possible after the development process begins, and will only be considered for developments where disruption is for 6 months or longer. Businesses will be expected to provide accounting evidence from trading periods before, during and possibly after the construction period. The appeal process is not a quick one, and businesses should not expect to see any benefits during the actual construction period. It may be around 2 years before an appeal is settled, but the results can be back-dated. It should also be noted that since rateable value is based upon rental value, successful appeals are based on impact on the latter. Appeals can be undertaken for yourself, or via an agent.

Local VOA details:

Address: Exeter Valuation Office

Broadwalk House

Southernhay West

Exeter

EX1 1TS

Tel:03000 501501

Fax:03000 500161

Council Tax Email:ctwest@voa.gsi.gov.uk

Non-Domestic Rating Email:ratingsouthwest@voa.gsi.gov.uk

3. **Minutes** of the 2012 AGM were approved.

4. **The current membership** stands at 42, plus 2 honorary. Recent additions to the membership were encouraging. It was hoped that a number of initiatives for 2013, such as the markets, would boost recruitment even further. It was very important, at this crucial time, for the chamber to have a strong voice, with local government and in the community.

5. **Chairman`s report**—It has been an incredibly busy first year in office, representing the chamber on TDA, TC, B21, BRAG, Tesco Liaison Group. The chairman felt that it was very important that we make our presence felt on these committees, as it is easy for Brixham to become sidelined in the bigger Torbay picture. We have had good liaison with other working parties in the town, in particular BTC.

The loss of the carnival parade at Christmas 2012 was a big disappointment, but plans are already proceeding to hold a lantern parade for this year. BTC and chamber are working with local schools and lantern design will be incorporated into the arts & crafts curriculum.

The chamber logo will be widely incorporated into many aspects of Christmas 2013.

The flagpole initiative headed by John Ingram is progressing well and will hopefully result in co-ordinates flags, banners and bunting festooning the town at appropriate events.

**Accounts**—Accounts for 2011-2012 had been circulated by email, and were adopted and signed.

Thanks to Peter Riley accountants for the preparation of same.

It was noted that the street markets had made a significant contribution to income (of the order of £1500.00 net profit) last year. The chairman offered special thanks to Torbay Council who had been very co-operative in establishing the market in Brixham.

6. **Election of Officers 2013.** - Denise McDowell was re-elected, un-opposed as chair.

The following resignations from the executive were announced: Christian Miller; Michael Sara; Richard John and Simon James (as membership secretary), although it was hoped that he would continue to serve on the executive committee.

Jacqui Shaw was elected as the new membership secretary.

The remaining executive positions were as 2012 and elected on block. The new executive contacts list will be circulated to members shortly, and will appear in the spring newsletter.

7. **Tesco update** - A meeting of the Brixham Community Partnership was currently running in parallel with our AGM and was discussing the updates to the planning application with particular reference to traffic issues.

**J C** explained the alternative parking arrangements planned for the town during the construction period

Briefly; as much on-street as could be found; Oxen Cove to become short-stay and Breakwater long stay.

Tesco has committed to provide shuttle busses between the car parks and the town centre.

The future of the Park & Ride is still uncertain.

Amended application goes before TC Dev. Management Committee. on 6th March, @ 2.00pm, Parkfield Centre, Paignton.

A number of issues were of concern: Space at Oxen Cove occupied by boats?; Was space at Freshwater Quarry to be taken up with construction vehicles and materials?; Cllr MM to report back to the chair.

Will MDL honour TC long stay permits during the construction period?; and how long will free parking be allowed for in the new multi-story? To be actioned.

**8. Tourism Update - Gordon Gout** reported a good year for 2012, with successful distribution and uptake for maps, posters and banners. This will continue into 2013. Future of the P&R site is uncertain at present, so banners will probably not be erected there. The future of the Brixham Tourism Partnership is sadly, uncertain at present. Gordon hopes that it will be able to keep going in 2013, but we have to await the outcome of their AGM end March / early April before the answer will be known. Their 2012 report is attached.

The English Riviera Tourism Company was suffering major financial cutbacks due to TC financing for 2013, the knock-on effect was that funding for many events was limited, or cut altogether. This makes life exceedingly difficult for event organisers.

**9. Markets 2013 - DM** reported that markets 2012 were a great success, adding significantly to chamber revenues; plans were well underway for 2013, stall uptake was extremely good, and could go higher if locations could be found. Some expansion may be possible into the lay-by adjacent to the Co-operative. A local radio station, and buskers were hoping to add to the attractions this year. The Chamber controlled retail content via the application forms, and tried to prevent conflict with traders. Occasionally there were overlaps and members were encouraged to report these.

2013 markets begin on 10 March and continue on every 2nd Sunday of the month until October. The executive will hold a review of the situation in July and report back to the membership for feedback.

**10. Events 2013** - Please see newsletter for a 2013 calendar of events. **Brian Pearce** reported that The Pirate and Shanty Festival (4-5 May) was suffering from funding problems. Due to ERTC cut-backs mentioned above, £5k to £6k will be lost in funding for this event. Funding is secured for this year, but a major sponsor is being sought for future years. The possibility that this will result in Brixham losing the festival was debated. Brian thanked all those who had supported the festival for this year, especially uptake of advertising in the programme, which was fully booked. The attitude of certain traders had been disappointing, leaving the feeling that the festival was not valued as it should be by certain sectors of the town.

Possible future revenue streams were suggested; Brixham's thriving fishquay; a small charge on-line to register for the event (reclaimable); Mayoral fund; set up a Just-giving page; Sponsorship logos.

Pru Preston reported on Brixfest 2013, 25-27th May. Three days of music, arts and crafts including the heritage trawler race; a fireworks display on Sat. night; Tea Dance, crabbing competition and street party on Sunday and a kids day on Monday (with Imagination Tent{yurt}: Build a sea-serpent on Breakwater Beach: and Kids Karaoke. A vintage car rally will be held on Breakwater on Wed. 29th May

Business promotion opportunities are available on the programme.

Contacts: <http://www.brixfest.org/section.php?id=6>

11. A.O.B. - i)Contractors working on the Kingskerswell bypass were being encouraged by a promotion scheme organised by TDA to shop in Torbay. Traders wishing to offer discounts and incentives were asked to contact Jeannie Perry on 01803 207827: Mobile: 0774 862 2672 before the end of February please.

ii)An appeal went out on behalf of the Brixham Buccaneers for a secure off-road parking space for their van.

iii) Jacqui Shaw reminded all that the next networking meeting of Brixham Means Business was being held at the Berry Head Hotel, 7.30am on Tuesday 26th February. Please register on their website

<http://brixhammeansbusiness.org/>

The chairman thanked Eddie Bence and the Berry Head Hotel for their hospitality and closed the meeting at 09.05pm.