



Liffey Valley

CHAMBER NEWS



South Dublin CHAMBER

IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

The Voice of Business in South Dublin County

Spring 2017

LOBBYING • NETWORKING • INFLUENCING • INCREASED EXPOSURE • LEARNING & TRAINING • CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP • BEING INFORMED



Sherri Brennan,
President of the South Dublin Chamber

Reflecting on 2016 we can see it was a very busy year for you our members and for the Chamber in supporting this activity

We are pleased we provided for you:

- 112 Networking Events
- A comprehensive information and support service.
- Opportunities to participate in our policy and influencing work
- Over 40 meetings with key informers, local and international
- Comprehensive training programme at greatly reduced costs

- Support for the community and voluntary groups in our area
- Direct support to members with enquiries and problem solving

We also had some firsts:

- **Our first Trade Mission to the US.** We visited Tampa where we met our sister Chamber, the Greater Tampa Chamber, their members, local Government, university and medical facilities and economic project coordinators.
- **Our Business Awards,** We celebrated the best in our county with the awarding of 12 awards including Business Person of the Year which was awarded to Brendan Hickey, Davy Hickey Properties.

Future

For 2017, we enter the year more hopeful than we have been for a long time. The issues we will be addressing include housing, talent development and retention and transport. The Chamber operates

under the Lobbying Act and you are always welcome to see our activity that we log on www.lobbying.ie.

Economic Growth

Business is the key driver to the future growth and prosperity we want for our county. Our members, big and small, bring employment which is key to building our communities. They pay commercial rates which helps provide the community and business infrastructure. They pay their share of taxes for vital services and most importantly they pay salaries offering people a chance to live the life they want.

Chamber Tourism Group

A first for the Chambers' Tourism Industry Group is our Gaelforce Dublin Adventure Race, supported by South Dublin County Council. This race starts and finishes at Tallaght Stadium, taking in cycling and running in the Dublin Mountains with some Kayaking on the Bohernabreena Reservoir. 1,000 participants will take part in this inaugural event, an event that will grow year on year and add to the vibrancy of our county and be another good reason for visitors to come. We aim to grow this event to be one of the major participation sporting events in the country.

Business Sustainability Programme

Through our co-operative programme with South Dublin County Council we are offering, through the Business Sustainability Programme, every business in South Dublin County assistance and support to be sustainable. We are also working through this programme to implement a series of projects that will strengthen the supports offered to businesses.

I thank you for your support and membership of the Chamber, and wish you and your colleagues a very successful 2017.

Sherri Brennan
President

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Lobbying and Representation

The goal of our lobbying and representation is to ensure our members have the best business environment to work in. We also work with members on issues that are industry specific. Through working as a business community we are more effective and can achieve more for all our members. We have an unrivalled record of helping member companies in their dealings with local authorities and state agencies. We are focused on conveying the concerns and aspirations of our members for the development of our local economy, in a positive and informed manner, to those who can influence change and support economic growth.

We lobby national and local Government and agencies. Locally our issues include rates, housing, labour supply, water costs, roads, waste and security. We work as part of a Chamber network representing the largest number of businesses in Ireland. We do this through Chambers Ireland. The issues we work on nationally include Job Creation, National Pay Agreements, Taxation policy, Local Government Reform, National Development Plan and Infrastructure, support for business and financing of business.

As the voice of the business community in South Dublin County, we continue to press ahead with our lobbying and representation campaign highlighting issues affecting members. As a Chamber member we welcome your views on issues and we need your support in formulating policy and challenging for change those we need to influence.

Lobbying Act

In March 2015, the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 was signed into law by the President. The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 (the Act) is designed to provide information to the public about:

- Who is lobbying
- On whose behalf lobbying is being carried out
- The issues involved in the lobbying
- The intended result of the lobbying
- Who is being lobbied?

Lobbying is an essential part of the democratic process. It enables or facilitates citizens and organisations to make their views on public policy and public services known to politicians and public servants. We are registered under the act and each quarter we file a return on our activities covered by the act for that quarter. The most recent period covered by the act was 1st September 2016 - 31st December 2016.

Our return for the last quarter of 2016, showed the issues we lobbied on:

Economic Development – South Dublin County
Housing
Impact of Brexit
Commercial Rates
Transport services cross county
Tourism development
Taxation
Employment creation measures
Training supports

Who we lobbied

Government Ministers, including An Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Minister for Jobs Enterprise and Innovation, Minister Housing Planning and Local Government and officials from some of these Ministries.

Elected and Executive members of South Dublin County Council, including elected Councillors, Chief Executive and some Directors of Services

Opposition TDs including Leader of Fianna Fail Micheal Martin TD and Dara Calleary TD spokesperson on Public Expenditure and Reform Local TDS. Tanaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality Frances Fitzgerald TD, Sinn Fein representatives Sean Crowe TD and Eoin O’Broin TD

It is an important part of the democratic framework of our country that people come together to share their common concerns and interests with those who legislate and determine the way our country is run. The Lobbying Act, which we called for, is a clear way of having transparency in this important dialog.

Peter Byrne
CEO



Peter Byrne CEO South Dublin Chamber, Helen Downes CEO Shannon Chamber, Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Ian Talbot CEO Chambers Ireland at the Action Plan for Jobs

Exporting Survey

During Autumn 2016, a focussed survey of local business owners and managers was carried out across South Dublin County. This followed on from the Economic Profile Survey carried out across 4500 business premises in South Dublin during 2014, and the Training Survey during 2015. As part of this survey 4500 businesses were reviewed and a representative sample of over 200 businesses, across all sectors, completed the survey, in order to understand the extent of exporting businesses in our county, and the potential to develop this sector.

There were some very interesting results shown from the survey – giving an overview of the main exporting locations of South Dublin businesses, the difficulties that they have faced when attempting to export and even the unexpected impact of Brexit. In addition, we were able to identify that our county employers are recruiting – with over 400 jobs expected to arise in South Dublin during 2017 from this cohort alone.

We have included a copy of the survey results with this newsletter.

For any further information please feel free to contact:
Andrea Carroll (Sustainable Business Programme Manager)
andrea.carroll@sdchamber.ie



Gaelforce Dublin



L/R Peter Byrne, CEO South Dublin Chamber, Frank Nevin, Director of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development, South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Charlie O'Connor, Mayor Gus O'Connell, Andrea Carroll, Business Sustainability Manager, Sherri Brennan, President South Dublin Chamber, Chairperson of Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism SPC.

South Dublin County Council and South Dublin Chamber, in partnership with Killary Gaelforce, are proud to announce the expansion of the Gaelforce event into Dublin on the 18th of February 2017.

This exciting event will see competitors go from urban to rural as they race through South Dublin and into the Dublin mountains. They will pass renowned landmarks and breath-taking scenery while racing through South Dublin County.

There are two distances to choose from; 29km or 49km. The race covers 3 different disciplines: Cycling, Running and Kayaking. The 29km is suited to those who are after a shorter 'sprint' race but want a challenge. Whilst those looking for the extra distance to push themselves can take on the 49km race.

Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Guss O' Connell said "South Dublin County Council are delighted to support this initiative in conjunction with South Dublin Chamber. It is great to introduce such an event to the doorstep of so many of our outdoor enthusiasts. An adventure race of this type really touches on the unique selling point of this County, where city living sits side by side with the great outdoors. I look forward to welcoming the many participants, despite the event being held in February, they are assured of a warm welcome."

Sherri Brennan, President of South Dublin Chamber, commenting on the expansion to Dublin said; "We are glad to welcome Gaelforce to Dublin. Our role is to promote South Dublin. We look forward to welcoming visitors from all over Ireland to see the beauty of our County and to enjoy all that it has on offer. Starting in the heart of Tallaght and stretching up into the Mountains, our competitors will see the many wonderful sides of South Dublin County."

Ciara Young, of Killary Gaelforce, stated: "We are really excited to bring Gaelforce to Dublin for the first time. South Dublin County has some great terrain that lends itself to adventure. Having a goal really helps with the winter training, setting a target is the key to not losing your fitness over the winter. Set up a training group, get a group of friends involved, the more the merrier and the better the journey! We have training plans available on our website that people can follow!"

For more information on this exciting and unique event go to: <http://gaelforceevents.com/en/gaelforce-dublin>

Andrea Carroll talking about Business Sustainability at the European Parliament



South Dublin County Business Awards 2016



Meditec Medical, winners of the Innovation in Business Awards, sponsored by Egis Projects Ireland



Citywest Golf Hotel, winners of the Customer Service – Tourism & Hospitality Award sponsored by EPIC Ireland



The Square Towncentre, winners of the Customer Service – Retail Award sponsored by Bewleys



Impact Special Metals, winners of the International Trade Award, sponsored by Citywest Hotel



Spice Devils, winners of the Best Start-up/New Business, sponsored by Punctual Print



GROOPEZE, winners of the Best Small Business, sponsored by AIB



South Dublin County Business Awards 2016



Citywest Hotel, winners of the Best Sales/Marketing Campaign Award, sponsored by The Echo



Lemongrass Citywest, winners of the Best Place to Eat Award, sponsored by OGX Group



South Dublin County Volunteer Centre, winners of the Best Not-For-Profit Organisation, sponsored by Laois Hire



Noel Group, winners of the Business Sustainability Award. Sponsored by Google



PM Group, winners of the CSR Award, sponsored by Roadstone



South Dublin County Business Person of the Year 2016, Brendan Hickey, Davy Hickey Properties
 Photo L/R: Peter Byrne CEO, South Dublin Chamber, Frances Fitzgerald T.D. Tánaiste and Minister for Justice & Equality, Brendan Hickey, Davy Hickey Properties, Breda Miley, Managing Director, Noel Group, sponsors of the award

B2B Network Meetings

- Citywest B2B Network – meeting Friday 17th February 2017 and every Friday morning thereafter in Citywest Hotel at 7.30am
- Lucan B2B Network – Thursday 23rd February 2017 and every second Thursday morning thereafter in the Lucan Spa Hotel at 7.00am
- M50 B2B Network- Tuesday 14th February 2017 and every Tuesday morning thereafter in the Red Cow Moran Hotel at 7.00am, except Tuesday mornings after a Bank Holiday Monday

Networking - Referral - Learning

Membership of our networks is available free of charge to current members of South Dublin Chamber.

Purpose

This is a business network formed with the aim of providing members with an opportunity to create, improve and maximise business relationships with like-minded business people to increase and improve their business. Referrals and introductions are passed among members as a result of networking and understanding each other's products and services. It is about improving your business as well as a networking opportunity. It is suitable for all Chamber members. All are welcome to attend.

For further information contact mary@sdchamber.ie

Chamber Training Autumn / Winter 2016



During Autumn / Winter 2016 the Chamber had a very strong offering of training available for members, in partnership with South Dublin County Local Enterprise Office. Many of the courses were at a very small cost, including the very popular and practical hands on training in MS Excel. This was offered for both beginners and advanced levels with very positive feedback for the course. This was held in the computer training centre of Tallaght Library, and will be run again in March 2017, such was the demand for the course.

In response to demand from Chamber members and business owners, we also ran courses in Sales, Customer Service and HR (Conflict Management). 5 lucky businesses also got the chance to avail of an in house sales mentoring programme. This is being run on a trial basis, facilitated by Paul Doyle of Ology Coaching. This is a 5 month programme, with a value of up to 2000 Euro, offered free of charge to the participating businesses. A range of similar and innovative training courses will be carried out in 2017, in the areas of MS Excel and PowerPoint, Succession Planning, HR and Sales.

Events 2017

February

- Saturday 18th February - Triathlon Event
- Be Informed Seminar – Raising Finance in 2017 – Presented by Crowe Horwath
- Corporate Member Event

March

- Be Informed Seminar – Building a Valuable Business and Getting the Best Price. Presented by Crowe Horwath
- Greater Dublin Chamber, Speed Networking Event, (joint Chamber event with Fingal Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Chambers)

April

- Be Informed Seminar – Cyber Security
- Corporate Member's Dinner

May

- Be Informed Seminar – Motivating and Managing Staff
- Greater Dublin Chamber Event, (joint Chamber event) – Business opportunities re Brexit

June

- Networking Evening

September

- Be Informed Seminar – Communication and Social Media
- Corporate Member's Event

October

- Friday 20th South Dublin County Business Awards

November

- Networking Evening
- Corporate Member's Event

December

- Friday 8th December, Annual Christmas Lunch



*Sherri Brennan, President South Dublin Chamber
and H.E. Richard Andrews, Australian Ambassador to Ireland*



*Peter Byrne, CEO, South Dublin Chamber, Mayor Gus O'Connell,
David Slevin, CEO, Tallaght Hospital*

New Members

CORPORATE MEMBERS

P.M. Group

Killakee House, Belgard Square
Tallaght, Dublin 24
Ms Eileen Lee, Operations Manager
01 4040700
www.pmggroup-global.com
Engineering, Architectural, Project
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Gordon House, Barrow Street
Dublin 4
Mr Andrew Hyland, Community Relations
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www.google.ie
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Whitestown Business Park, Dublin 24
Mr Steve McKenna, Director
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Ms Jo Collins, Managing Director
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Mr Sean Maher, Sales Manager
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Dublin 24, R7YA
Mr James O'Driscoll, Director
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Shamrock Rovers Football Club

Whitestown Way, Tallaght Stadium
Dublin 24
Mr Brendan Murray, CEO
01 4605948 www.shamrockrovers.ie
Soccer Club

Adecsys

42 Woodlands, Naas, Co Kildare
Mr Adrian Geissel, Director
087 2327222 www.adecsys.com
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M&M Electrical

111 Courtown Park, Kilcock, Co Kildare
Mr Robin Mongey, Director
087 2936091 www.mmelectrical.ie
Electrical

Kingswood Hotel

Kingswood Hotel Citywest, Kingswood,
Naas Road, Dublin 22
Ms Shweta Reihill, Sales & Marketing
Manager
01 4619900
www.kingswoodhotelcitywest.com
Hotel

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Mr Rowan Twohig, Strategy & Business
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Dublin 24
Mr Arthur Bennett, Business Development
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Ms Roberta Hynes, Director
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Chamber Members Logo 2017



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**South Dublin
CHAMBER**
IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS 2017

All Members of the South Dublin Chamber have the right to use the "Members of South Dublin Chamber" logo on their websites / emails / printed materials, etc.

For more information on becoming a member of South Dublin Chamber or obtaining your copy of the logo contact maryl@sdchamber.ie

Welcome Kevin Kirwan

Kevin has commenced work with the Chamber as the new Membership Executive

"Kevin has over thirty years' experience working within the financial services sector managing funds, constructing products and developing business. He is a Qualified Financial Advisor and has studied entrepreneurship and innovation at DCU and UCD."



Kevin has previously worked with the Chamber and was involved in the Economic Profile and Survey of South Dublin County in 2014 and the Exporting Survey for South Dublin County in 2016."

Kevin can be contacted at mobile: 087 2861991 or email: kevin@sdchamber.ie

Connect with the Chamber online and on your smartphone!

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App: For iPhone and Android – search South Dublin Chamber

www.sdchamber.ie

Annual Christmas Lunch 2016



Alan Shortt entertaining guests



Guests having fun at the Annual Christmas lunch



Bank of Ireland and their guests enjoying the lunch



Guests enjoying the Christmas lunch



Chamber members from the Lucan and Citywest B2B Networks at the Christmas lunch



M50 B2B Network members enjoying the Chamber Annual Christmas lunch



Peter Nicholson, OGX Group, John O'Farrell, Citywest Hotel, Marc Thornton, DTA Marketing



Guests from Uchiya Ireland Ltd, Target Integration, Rohan Holdings and Oversite Property Consultants, enjoying the Christmas lunch