



## **Avis Way & North Quay Business Forum**

29<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Brightwell Dispensers, Avis Way

### **Attendees from:**

- Bee Moved Ltd
- Brightwell Dispensers Group Ltd
- Clean Thermodynamic Energy Ltd
- Feilo Sylvania
- Greenacre Recycling
- Interface 2 Ltd
- King & McGaw
- Newhaven Car Services
- Plastech
- Quintessence Fragrances Ltd
- Tomsetts Transport Ltd
- Underground Gym
- Veolia

Following introductions and an overview of the current state of play in the Enterprise Zone and work in Newhaven, delegates were invited to take part in a Post-It Note exercise to identify their issues and obstacles around Avis Way and North Quay, with regard to Place, People & Premises

### **Place Issues:**

- Drainage
- Planning process
- Planning classifications allowing retail development – inappropriate?
- Value of businesses (Business Rates) is not recognised
- Entry ways, pathways & highways
- Signage
- Lighting
- Owners & occupiers not maintaining verges & other 'public realm'
- Derelict property
- Wider town infrastructure & the 'offer'
- Town Centre & other amenities
- Walking & cycle paths within & leading to the Estates & Newhaven
- Flood risk causing higher insurance premiums

### **People Issues:**

- Recruiting local talent
- Perception of the scale & availability of jobs
- Aspiration levels

### **Premises Issues:**

- Land acquisition
- Impact of retail on business operations
- Not enough available space to grow into
- Landlord approach to lease extensions &/or flexibility



Delegates were encouraged to mark on the map where they were located and identify places needing attention on the Estates

### **Who else?**

There was discussion on whether other agencies should be included and whether businesses on the Drove & other near neighbours should be included

### **Actions:**

- 1 – Identify ownership of &/or responsibility for all the spaces including public realm, pathways, twittens, brooks, gullies, verges, lighting parking & highways
- 2 – Carry out a 'grey audit' by walking the Estates to highlight problem areas
- 3 – Carry out a wayfinding & signage audit and look to see if an identity can be used to provide clarity
- 4 – Identify the Freeholders of all sites and start to engage. It is believed that Lewes DC are a primary landowner and are to be engaged with at the earliest opportunity
- 5 – Include businesses from The Drove
- 6 – Resist approaches from outside agencies to present to the Group until we've got our own house in order
- 7 – Explore a way to list all businesses on Avis Way & North Quay and encourage inter trading
- 8 – Explore common procurement and waste providers to cut costs
- 9 – Explore Heat Energy and other Green technologies
- 10 – Explore the establishment of Avis Way & North Quay Business Forum as a constituted body to become a formal consultee with Local Government
- 11 – Can we identify the Business Rates, NI, PAYE & VAT raised from businesses on Avis Way & North Quay to demonstrate the value to the economy and the Region
- 12 – Explore the viability of a fund (from the EZ) to address public realm through matching with private & public money

### **Conclusion:**

There is a long list of Actions and we need to prioritise 3 early deliverables to be achieved before the next meeting.

We would also welcome up to 5 volunteers to assist the with the Grey & Wayfinding Audits

The discussions were generally positive and, whilst there are many issues to resolve, there is a willingness to try to drive progress with the Enterprise Zone, but this requires further involvement from other stakeholders to include (but not limited to) Lewes DC, Newhaven TC, East Sussex CC, Landlords, Highways, Environment Agency, the Rail & Bus companies

*Would anyone like to host the next meeting?*