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Chamber making stand on Salcombe development

On behalf of the local workforce, the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Chamber of Commerce is lobbying authorities to guarantee the benefits of the commercial units and affordable housing development in Salcombe.

The multi-million pound development will require hundreds of skilled sole traders, including carpenters, plasterers and gardeners and the Chamber wants to enforce a Government policy to ensure that this workforce is local.

The Chamber believes there is also the risk that the new commercial units will be too expensive to rent and that less than 50% of the houses will be affordable for local workers.

Vice-Chairman for the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Chamber of Commerce, James Spencer of Pebbles of Salcombe said: "The Chamber of Commerce represents businesses of all sizes and from all sectors, from self-employed builders to multi-site businesses. The Chamber exists to protect and promote commercial skills in every area.

"We recognise that this development is the greatest opportunity for commerce in Salcombe for decades and is unlikely to be repeated for decades to come. It provides two of the three rudiments to business in both land and labour and in so doing offers unparalleled opportunity to existing and new businesses."

Salcombe Town Councillors voiced their support for the Chamber's stance and action on the subject at the Chamber committee meeting in February.

Specifically, the Chamber will lobby on three key points:

- 1) More affordable homes will bring a greater local workforce and new skills that will encourage new innovations in business in the future. A minimum 50% affordable portion must be achieved.
- 2) There is a risk that existing workshops will be replaced by unaffordable commercial units. New units must be affordable to existing local businesses.
- 3) The Homes and Communities Agency, which delivers housing in the United Kingdom, has required developers to use local traders such as carpenters and plasterers in the past. This clause must be incorporated into the developer's contract.

James Spencer: "The consequences of badly judging this development don't bear thinking about. We will be maintaining a permanent pressure on those authorities and interested parties on behalf of our members and local commerce."

The Chamber will update members at the Business Clubs and through the local media. The next Business Club is 6pm-7pm at the Winking Prawn, North Sands on 17th May. Non-members welcome.

For more information on the Salcombe and Kingsbridge Chamber of Commerce , please email info@kingsbridge-salcombe-chamber.co.uk and visit www.kingsbridge-salcombe-chamber.co.uk.

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Note to Editor. Interview opportunity. Please contact Kate Parsons, Secretary to Kingsbridge & Salcombe Chamber of Commerce on 01548 531181