



## The Business Group

The main purpose of the Business Group is to listen to, support, represent, work with and inform commercial, industrial and retail businesses as well as self-employed people working from home.

The Group's intention is to periodically identify and maintain a view of what the issues for Crowborough businesses are, what their needs and priorities are and agree what practical things can be done to support and develop the local economy. Then to try to help achieve those things that are considered important and capable of being progressed.

This will be done to a great extent by continuing to identify a network of interested and diverse business people who are prepared to give an opinion or suggest ways in which certain projects or campaigns can be developed to help and support businesses. This has worked in practice in recent years.

### The present situation and recent past

- ✓ A signing Strategy is being developed for Crowborough to help HGV and car drivers get more easily to their destinations.
- ✓ Key local business people actively supported the successful campaign against HGV weight restrictions across the Ashdown Forest.
- ✓ Local businesses were asked for their views about Crowborough's Local Transport Strategy
- ✓ There have also been instances when the Business Group provided support and information for businesses over
 

business rates, parking restrictions,	disruption to business due to road works, free parking and planning applications.
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### What businesses do we have and are we achieving the local economy's potential?

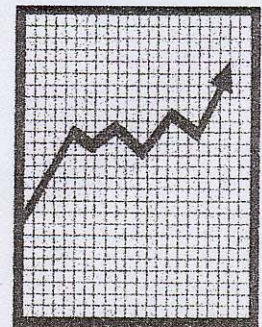
- ♦ One major limitation is that there is no one comprehensive up to date database of all the businesses in Crowborough or the immediate area.
- ♦ Another limitation is that there is no overview of what businesses generally want, need or what the main issues are for them.
- ♦ It is estimated there are in the region of 350 – 400 businesses in Crowborough; there could be potential for local purchasing.
- ♦ The 1991 census figures identified there were 1682 self employed people ( without any employees ) that lived within a 10 minute drive from Crowborough; in addition, there were 756 self employed with employees. Perhaps most of those are homebased – perhaps most of these are in Crowborough! It is reasonable to assume these figures have increased and the 2001 recent census will no doubt demonstrate this; there could be opportunities for networking.
- ♦ Retention of employment sites is overwhelmingly important as is encouraging local firms to grow

### Looking to the future.

The Business Group has a mandate to enhance business competitiveness in Crowborough not forgetting the immediate area and to help businesses to help themselves survive, thrive and compete.

It stands to reason that local businesses must be provided with the opportunity to tell the Business Group what they believe are the most important issues for them now and in the foreseeable future.

The first step to be taken is to carry out a survey of all known businesses in the form of a questionnaire. This has proved effective in other towns, was piloted with a very small number of businesses in Crowborough but now needs to be updated and issued to all local businesses. It will help identify what Businesses believe are their major issues, needs, priorities and plans so the Business Group can try to support them.



If you have any queries at all, please contact Tony Slack on 01892 668182, Pavane House Church Road Crowborough TN6 1BL or by e-mail: [cllr.tony.slack@eastsussexcc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.tony.slack@eastsussexcc.gov.uk)