

NEWS

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SEMINARS BENEFIT SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses in North Dorset are currently enjoying a series of seminars and meetings on a variety of subjects from skills training to making the most of opportunities presented by the 2012 Olympics.

On Friday 25 April Robert Walter MP opened a breakfast meeting at The Exchange in Sturminster Newton and on Wednesday 30 April another group met to discuss the impact that the 2012 Games could have on the area.

The third and final event in the current series will be another breakfast meeting on Friday 16 May at The Coppleridge Hotel, Motcombe near Gillingham. It will again be hosted by Bob Walter MP and will include presentations on: marketing a small business; understanding the media; and National Non-domestic Rates.

The aim of the events, brought about by the combined efforts of North Dorset District Council, the Federation of Small Businesses, Business Link and Team Dorset, is to raise awareness of the free sources of advice and information that are available to Dorset-based business and how best to take advantage of them.

The first breakfast meeting at The Exchange's Bow Room was aimed at helping local businesses become more effective and remain competitive by enhancing the skills and knowledge of employees. The seminar also provided important information and ideas on how to reduce staff turn over, build on existing skills and make businesses more efficient.

The evening meeting, also at The Exchange, explained how the London 2012 Games will be more than just a four week event and how it will place the UK firmly on the world stage and offer a once in a lifetime opportunity for businesses across the South West in a range of sectors including food and drink, hospitality, transport, manufacturing, construction, service, leisure and creative industries.

Anyone wishing to find out more information or to book a space at the event can contact Lorna Will at the Federation of Small Businesses on 01425 280821 (lorna.will@fsb.org.uk) or Mark Brownbridge at North Dorset District Council on 01258 45411 (mbrownbridge@north-dorset.gov.uk).

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