

East of Scotland – Fife Branch

Welcome to the first edition of our regular member update for FSB in Fife – we need your views and news and look forward to hearing from you – it's your Federation!

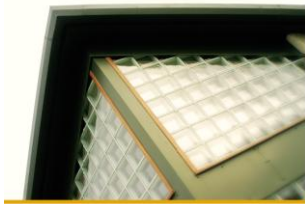


Janet Torley
Chair – FSB in Fife

It's the time of year when traditionally business can seem to slow down for some sectors whilst others such as Retail and Tourism wait with baited breath for that vital head count with even more vital cash to spend. Whatever your sector, whatever your business, I truly hope that Summer 2009 will be as good as possible. FSB in Fife have been working away in the background on behalf of our members and I thought you might like an update on what we have been involved with over the past months. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first six months as Chair, meeting members, speaking on behalf of members and getting to grips with the many areas that FSB can have a positive effect in.

The Committee have developed a Business Plan of key areas and issues that we feel affects our members. You can click [here](#) to download a copy and we would be more than happy to have your feedback and comments

Enterprise in Fife – Alive & Kicking?



THE BOATHOUSE
SILVERLANDS, ABERDOUR, SCOTLAND

Fife Council hosted an outstanding seminar on The Culture of Enterprise within Fife. Some quite startling facts and figures were presented at the meeting at The Boat House Aberdour (great venue by the way!) The perception and attitude in Fife towards Enterprise is not good compared with national statistics. We don't have enough new business and our population don't see Enterprise as a worthwhile ambition. We need to change that. Do you know of any good examples of Enterprising and Entrepreneurial activity that we can promote as good examples to encourage others to 'have a go'? [Email us here](#) to let us know.

Sell my Haggis



The new Norfolkline Rosyth to Zeebrugge Ferry started in June. FSB are delighted that this valuable link has been restarted. But it got us thinking. We don't really have any solid Trade Links with Flanders and Belgium and that is such a shame. There must be some potential synergy and new opportunities, especially for small businesses on both sides of The North Sea. Maybe we just need to think a little bit outside the box. This just might be the diversification that a business would need to thrive in this recessionary time. The outcome after talks with The Belgium Embassy and Fife Council Development Services is that an event of some sort to explore possibilities will be staged early autumn. I asked quite specifically that thought and provision be made for small businesses as so often these events can end up the domain of the Big Boys. If you are interested in this sort of initiative why not call me on 01383 665043 or [email me here](#)

Dunfermline Town Centre delivered the BIDs

Dunfermline Town Centre was delighted to become a BIDs area – Business Improvement District. The scope for Town Centre regeneration now becomes a true reality after many years of stop 'n' start activity. FSB are delighted to support this and encourage any member within the BIDs area to get active with the Dunfermline Delivers Team. Everyone can contribute and now is the chance. Call Diane on 01383 732226 for more information. Now we just need to get the Kirkcaldy BIDs safely delivered to start to make Fife the top retail destination in Scotland. Don't laugh at that statement – we could do it by working together!





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09

A stronger voice for business in Fife

In a bold and enterprising move, Fife Chamber of Commerce, Institute of Directors and FSB sat down to look at The Business Voice – or lack of it – in Fife. Adam Smith College kindly hosted the evening and it was a resounding success. When it came down to brass tacks, we all want the same for Fife – a strong vibrant business community across all sectors irrespective of size of business. The outcome is that we have agreed to work much more closely and openly in the future. If we are all singing the same song, it makes much more sense to use the same song sheet!

Upcoming events for Fife FSB



It is the Fife Branch AGM on Wednesday 7th October. This might seem a long way away but the clock is ticking if you want to make a difference. FSB members in Fife are really lucky to have such a dedicated committee who do work very hard making sure the small business voice is heard. But we would love to have some more help. Why not join our committee – we need a range of skills and knowledge from all business sectors and I personally would really welcome all volunteers. If you are not sure about this why not call me on 01383 665043 for a wee chat. Or better still [click here](#) to download a nomination form. And do put 7th October into your diary to join us at the AGM – it is always a good evening and it is your chance to have a say in who represents you at the Fife Business Table.

...and finally

I would just like to finish with a few words of encouragement. I know business is tough at the moment. There are businesses doing OK and each of them is looking at diversification, new markets and innovative ways of continuing to trade. Use the Summer months to take some time out and reflect on business. Can you diversify, can you move into new markets and can you adopt new ways to trade? Perhaps you have already done so successfully and if this is you we would love to hear from you. I hope so and wish you all a very happy summer.

Kind Regards

Janet Torley
FSB Chair - Fife