



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Lesley George elected for 3<sup>rd</sup> term as Chairman of the Chester, Ellesmere Port & Neston Business Forum.**

The Chester, Ellesmere Port & Neston Business Forum are pleased to announce that at the AGM, held last week at the County Officer's Club, Lesley George was elected for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term as Chairman.

Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year the Business Forum has become established as a vital group supporting local businesses with advice, networking and building links with the education and governmental sectors.

Lesley who is Business Services Manager at University of Chester, has been involved with the Forum since it began and seen it expand from Chester to include Ellesmere Port & Neston.

Together with the Forum's committee, Lesley has developed a strong programme of events for the next 12 months including talks on "Tackling Business Crime" and "What can Chester City Council & Ellesmere Port Borough Council do for your business".

"Our meetings are well attended and my objectives for this year are to raise the profile of the Forum within the local community and increase the range of services we can offer our members" said Lesley. "The committee is run on a voluntary basis and we should not forget that running your own business gives an all important 'buzz' and an important aspect of the forum is to provide an enjoyable social network for our members as well as offering quality business support."

The Forum has a good mix of new and established businesses who share their business experiences – including successes and challenges! Despite the trend edging towards remote e-services the personal relationship is still a vital element in closing many business deals and the Forum is an excellent networking opportunity.

## Images

High resolution images can be downloaded from [www.wirralphoto.com/press.htm](http://www.wirralphoto.com/press.htm)



*Lesley George at the recent AGM with business card display of members*

## Background Information

Research shows that if new or growing businesses continue to take advice and support, there is a much greater chance of them surviving and reaching full potential.

CEPN Forum's mission is to facilitate networking and inter-trading opportunities among members and to promote good business practise. It also provides 'business inspiration' for business start-ups, small & medium sized enterprises and owner managers from a catchment area covering Cheshire, Wirral and North Wales.

The Forum has been running regular events in Chester for 15 years, designed to help local businesses grow. In January 2003 'Chester Business Club' expanded to become 'Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston Business Forum'.

Meetings are held every second Thursday in the month from September to July inclusive at the County Officer's Club, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, the Ellesmere Port Civic Hall or the Neston Civic Hall. Previous topics have included marketing, finance, investment strategy and business crime.

CEPN Forum host a half-yearly networking event called 'Networking 2006'. This provides the opportunity for facilitated networking following a keynote presentation from a knowledgeable professional. It is now an established and valued component of the local Business year, attracting over 100 companies. The next event of this kind is on 25 May in Ellesmere Port Civic Hall, Civic Way, CH65 0BE.

Membership of CEPN Forum costs £60 (£30 for start-ups – trading for less than 12 months) and includes a monthly newsletter, business information, business information mailings and directory entry into the Forum’s website. Guests are welcome to attend meetings with a view to membership. Event and Forum membership opportunities exist for companies who are not members and are looking to target new and growing businesses in the region.

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