

COLLINGHAM BUSINESS CLUB

*... supporting local business success ...*



# Business Support

This aide-memoire has been kindly provided by Terry Nash of the Gusto Group

## **Introduction**

The purpose of Collingham Business Club is to help owners and managers operating businesses in and around the village of Collingham to be successful.

These businesses operate across all sectors, and vary greatly in size; all are united by the need for those businesses to be successful.

The definitions of "success" will be equally diverse, with some business managers/owners wishing only to maintain what they already have, whilst other may wish to grow or diversify their businesses.

Again, what unites these businesses is that they all operate in a constantly changing commercial environment so that even standing-still can be a constant and difficult challenge—or perhaps impossible.

What every business manager or owner needs from time-to-time, therefore, is some support.

## **Business Support**

The support offered by Collingham Business Club mainly takes the form of networking that enables participants to share best practice and highlight inter-trading and other business opportunities that might otherwise be missed.

As attendance at the monthly Business Club meetings is entirely free, and involves no commitments of any sort, this form of business support is extremely cost-effective!

## **Business Link**

Formal national business support arrangements are best accessed through the Business Link network, full details of which can be found at [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk); this portal is also a gateway to professional development support services such as free training offers.

## **Business Champions**

Excellent personal development as a business-person can also be pursued through the East Midlands Business Champions scheme, details of which can be found at [www.businesschampions.org.uk](http://www.businesschampions.org.uk).

## **Grants**

Last but not least, many businesses can benefit by being awarded Government grants, details of which can also be obtained through the Business Link web-site above.

Business Link advisors will explain what is available and how to formulate a successful bid, but a key ingredient is to have a business plan that explains what you are trying to achieve, and why you need a grant to do it.

See Briefing Note 2 for guidance on preparing such a plan!