

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

**Clerk, Mrs Tracey Price
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1st July, 2026

To all businesses in the Presteigne and Norton area.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Chamber of Trade

As you will be aware the Chamber of Trade organisation 'CONNECT' ceased to exist a few years ago and the town currently has no organisation representing the interests of business owners.

The purpose of this letter is to see if there is sufficient interest for a new Chamber of Trade to be formed. The Town Council would be willing to facilitate an initial meeting of those interested but, to be clear, it would not be able to take on the running of the Group. This would depend on volunteers from the businesses themselves.

The benefits of a Chamber of Trade are many –

- **Networking Opportunities:** Chambers offer regular networking events providing businesses with the chance to meet other businesses and find mutually beneficial opportunities.
- **Access to Resources:** Members have access to various marketing tools, such as business chamber blogs, email marketing, and social media accounts, which can help boost exposure.
- **Training and Development:** Chambers often provide training and skills workshops on topics such as human resources, employment law, marketing, and accountancy basics, helping businesses to develop skills from each other.
- **Support Services:** Members receive tailored business support, resources, and training courses on legal issues, health and safety, and other operational challenges.

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- Exclusive Deals: Chambers can access exclusive deals and discounts, which can lead to cost savings and improved business operations.
- Advocacy: A Chamber acts as a collective voice for local businesses to lobby local government on key issues like infrastructure, business rates and planning.
- The overall goal is to provide a supportive environment for business growth and success.

With an active Chamber of Trade in the town it would be possible for the Town Council to more easily forward grant opportunities, business information, relevant consultations (for example on a change to business rates) etc. It would also be possible for such a group to set up town voucher schemes, promote free parking days, consider special events, Christmas shopping nights etc.

Membership would be open to all businesses, not just the High Street shops and would include holiday let businesses, those on the industrial estates etc.

For the community, benefits have been shown to include increased economic growth and job creation, along with community improvement and cohesion. The social impact often results in increased support for local charities, sports organisations and environmental initiatives.

The Town Council is keen to hear what your business would want from a Chamber of Trade and how you would want to be involved. A new Chamber could exist as a mutual support and information group only or it could hold training days, events etc. It would be what businesses want it to be.

If this is something you think you could get involved with and that you believe could benefit your business please can you get in touch with myself to register your interest in attending an initial meeting.

Please can you get in touch by the end of July, 2026. If there is sufficient interest a meeting would be arranged for the early Autumn.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Tracey Price

Tracey Price, SLCC CiLCA (Wales)
Clerk to the Council