

Press release

27th May 2015

Chamber welcomes new President Michael Gaynor

At the Chamber AGM **Michael Gaynor** was elected President with **Paddy Matthews** having completed his successful 2 year term. **David Minto** was elected Vice President with **Michael Farrell**, Treasurer and **Paddy Malone** PRO remaining on. Paddy Matthews thanked those who contributed to the success of the Chamber during the year and made special reference to the organiser of both the Santa Run and Saint Patrick's Day parade, **Jimmy Cumiskey** who is stepping down. He also thanked Paddy Malone for his advice as the previous President

Outgoing President **Paddy Matthews** was delighted to welcome the "**Shop Local Voucher**" at the Dundalk Chamber AGM and feels this will be a great asset to the town. There is a fantastic mix of businesses signed up to redeem the vouchers from hairdressers, toys shops, beauticians to hardware, all helping to keep money local. He would encourage all businesses and members of the public to buy them as bonuses, gifts for birthdays, anniversaries and leaving presents. The vouchers can be bought in the **Chamber, Grants on Dublin St. or in McCuskers in Earl St.** There are now just under 120 businesses that will redeem these vouchers and this is building all the time for more information log on to www.dundalk.ie/vouchers

Michael Gaynor the new President of Dundalk Chamber of Commerce in his inaugural address, paid tribute to the outgoing President, Paddy Matthews and thanked him for the very valuable contribution he made in the promotion of the Chambers ideals over his tenure. He also introduced and welcomed the new Vice President of the Chamber David Minto and stated he was looking forward to working with David during his presidency. Michael continued "Chambers are not about President's or Vice President's, they only exist and develop with the assistance and help of a positive and forward thinking management team and Council. We are very fortunate in Dundalk that such a team exists at both management and council levels which have been successfully driving the chamber forward over the years.

Michael is keen to develop further links with local Industry, and to encourage more membership from this sector. It is his intention to forge greater links and 'build bridges' with other stakeholders in Dundalk, who have the town's development interest at heart.

As president, he intends to encourage youth membership onto the various Chamber committees, and sub committees.

The concerns of the business community in Dundalk are clear; the proximity to the border will always be a factor that will impact on how we do business in the

town. The Dundalk Chamber will continue to argue strongly for business reform and increase efficiency, but it will do so right across the spectrum rather than by targeting one group at the expense of another."

Business growth is at the heart of national recovery; businesses are working hard to become more innovative, more competitive and more in touch with their customers. Each individual business success will feed through to a sustained and broader regional and national recovery.

The focus of the Chamber for 2015 will be, to continue the positive momentum of 'recovery.' The chamber's active participation on numerous forums, and joint committees with local authorities, development agencies and neighbouring Chambers, ensures that the key business issues locally are being represented, and incorporated into the decision making processes within the region. We as a chamber will continue to influence all appropriate Public and Private bodies, and state agencies, in order to facilitate the creation of an environment and infrastructure within Dundalk and its environs which is conducive to the further development of business, industry and commerce.

Dundalk Chamber has made enormous progress over the past number of years. We are the largest business network in Co Louth, and we have delivered in the facilitation of business net-working, through or event planning, and have provided a platform to enable improving prosperity and business opportunities within the region.

Dundalk Chamber aims to be the prime representative forum for businesses in Dundalk and County Louth. We are committed to stimulating investment, sustaining economic growth, enhancing business opportunities, and representing the interests of, and for our members.

Press release ends

For further information on this press release contact Paddy Malone PRO Dundalk Chamber on Tel: 042 9336744 or email paddy@malone.ie