

# Business Question Time



## Debate continues.....

### Is Harrow doing enough to encourage business entrepreneurs to come to the area?

I am not a Harrow resident but if Harrow is like Brent I do not think it is doing enough for entrepreneurs.

**(Nomathemba Lukhezo, Sandringham Oak Consultants & Training Centre Ltd)**

Yes, in a variety of ways.

**(Mike Woolnough, Peninsula Business Services Ltd)**

I think Harrow could do more. We need more affordable space to allow small micro-business working from home to move to the next level.

**(Alex Guberman, AIMS Accountants for Business)**

No. Too many empty offices to let and not enough manufacturing units. No business park and virtually nothing in the way of incubation units.

**(Doug Brown, The Food Club)**

No. That is partly why I moved out of the Borough.

**(Laurie Bernard, Business Services Partnership)**

The population of Harrow is changing and more needs to be done to encourage newcomers to set up and run their own businesses. In recent years the services provided by the Borough has declined. There seems to be a lot more litter around the streets, I don't always feel safe shopping in Harrow, too many gangs hanging around street corners. Businesses would look at this before making a decision on whether to set up or not.

**(Cathy Girvan, Rooks Heath College for Business and Enterprise)**

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### Is the Government doing enough to encourage entrepreneurship in our schools?

I think this question should be re-phrased....Are the businesses doing enough to encourage entrepreneurship in our schools? It is very difficult to get any business involved in education. There is more ad hoc support rather than the long term support that is needed. With the education system changing and new diplomas coming on board there needs to be more input from employers both in developing projects and assessing skills. We also need workers to act as role models for some of our children. It does not mean that business people have to come into school for long periods, it can all be set up and done through meetings and emailing. To act as role models or mentors, again this can be done out of business hours. Can I suggest that the government gives some sort of tax incentive to encourage businesses to work more closely with schools.

**(Cathy Girvan, Rooks Heath College for Business and Enterprise)**

Yes and no. Yes with the two weeks work experience and no with practical skills like woodwork, metal work and home economics like we had in my day. Shell LiveWire was well supported in Harrow but I don't know if it still is. Likewise, for Young Enterprise but these are not government initiatives.

**(Doug Brown, The Food Club)**

Not really. Entrepreneurs are free thinkers and non-conformists, education has always taught conformity and caution.

**(Mike Woolnough, Peninsula Business Services Ltd)**

The government has been late in encouraging entrepreneurship in schools and need to do more by working with SMEs in local boroughs.

**(Nomathemba Lukhezo, Sandringham Oak Consultants & Training Centre Ltd)**

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### Do you feel optimistic about the business climate in Harrow over the next 12 months?

No – the Olympics and other government financial cuts are reducing money in the Borough.

**(Laurie Bernard, Business Services Partnership)**

No. The smoking ban has dropped the number attending local pubs significantly, tighter credit will have an effect on retail sales and the price of fuel will add to the woes.

**(Doug Brown, The Food Club)**

Don't have a view. Businesses need to adapt and provide a product or service that is required.

**(Alex Guberman, AIMS Accountants for Business)**

Mostly yes although the credit squeeze and falling house prices will have an effect on the economy overall.

**(Mike Woolnough, Peninsula Business Services Ltd)**

I do feel some optimism albeit not entirely that the next twelve months might see movement in the right direction in Harrow.

**(Nomathemba Lukhezo, Sandringham Oak Consultants & Training Centre Ltd)**

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**Has the credit squeeze in America impacted in any way on your business?**

The credit squeeze has not yet impacted on my business.

**(Nomathemba Lukhezo, Sandringham Oak Consultants & Training Centre Ltd)**

Not yet but only time will tell.

**(Mike Woolnough, Peninsula Business Services Ltd)**

No.

**(Alex Guberman, AIMS Accountants for Business)**

Not yet.

**(Doug Brown, The Food Club)**

Yes. People are more nervous to make buying decisions and want to borrow money.

**(Laurie Bernard, Business Services Partnership)**