

TATTENHALL BUSINESS ALLIANCE AND TATTENHALL BUSINESS CLUB

Background

The **Tattenhall Business Alliance** was set up in 2010 to promote and speak for local businesses; it publishes a Business Directory online and has held regular meetings at which matters of mutual interest were presented and discussed. Around 70 businesses have been members.

The **Tattenhall Business Club** was started over twenty years ago with the object of providing a forum for people running businesses in the locality and those who run businesses elsewhere but live in Tattenhall. Normally meetings would be held quarterly at lunchtime at Sport Tattenhall and speakers were invited from a broad range of backgrounds. The club had around 50 members.

Visiting speakers have included Stephen O'Brien, M.P. for Eddisbury, Julia Middleton, a founder of Demos and Founder and CEO of Common Purpose UK, Patrick Minford, Professor of Applied Economics at the Cardiff Business School, Peter Kendall, President of the N.F.U., Sir Richard Lambert, formerly editor of the Financial Times, member of the MPC and Director General of the CBI, Professor Janet Hemingway, FRS, CEO of The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Given the crossover between the organisations, more recently there have been joint events for example breakfast panel meetings covering topics such as AI and hybrid working.

Together the organisations account for about 80 businesses employing over 400 people in and around Tattenhall. As such they are a significant representative voice of business in the area. At a time of increased change and challenge for businesses, especially in rural communities, it is important that they have a forum in which to meet and that their views, experiences and concerns are heard and channeled to the relevant decision makers.

Current Position

TBA has no Chair or committee at present following the resignation of Robert Dancy in 2025. There have been no events since May 2025. However, Tattenhall Online (website) is being maintained and TBA has a credit balance of around £500.

The way forward

1. **Tattenhall Online** is a helpful tool used by many businesses in the area to gather information and to market goods and services. The cost of maintaining the website could be covered through sponsorship and in the short term from existing funds. The operation will need management oversight, and *it is suggested this could be provided by the Parish Council.*

2. **Networking / liaison with local business** the appetite for face-to-face networking has diminished over the last decade while the need for decision makers to engage with businesses has increased especially in rural areas. *It is suggested that a member of the Parish Council takes on the role of ambassador for local businesses and is supported on an ad hoc basis by a small representative group of local businesses.* As ambassador the key objective will be to collect and represent the views of local businesses on matters affecting them to the Parish Council and more widely in the North-West (especially in Cheshire) to other bodies and decision makers. Although face-to face networking has diminished the Parish Council should look for opportunities and help facilitate events when relevant.

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