

Experience conferencing in spectacular surroundings

Just minutes from Ipswich and Woodbridge, Seckford Hall is the ideal Suffolk conference venue, boasting incredible architecture and a fascinating history. It's no surprise that guests choose to hold their event at this spectacular property time and again.

Seckford Hall Hotel and its beautiful grounds are ideal for all types of corporate events and special company celebrations. The Lakeside Suite, overlooking the gardens and lake, is spacious enough to accommodate a business seminar or conference, and prestigious enough to house an exhilarating product launch or special anniversary party or dinner. Licensed to hold civil ceremonies, the Lakeside Suite, can seat up to 100 cabaret style, or 130 theatre style and can also accommodate a marquee, the perfect space for up to 140 guests.

The Mulberry Suite in the east wing of the hotel is a new function area suitable for an intimate wedding, a private dinner or a company celebration or conference. Seating up to 36 guests for dinner or



40 theatre style, the suite overlooks the once private gardens with doors that open onto a beautiful reclaimed York Stone terrace. There is also space for a large marquee on the lawns - a stunning location for any event.

The east wing is also home to a new executive boardroom, The Garden Room, ideal for up to 12 guests. This space is perfect for smaller meetings, private functions and dinners. A new lounge area has



also been completed which again overlooks the gardens and terrace area. Both new suites offer their own executive and function menus.



The Mulberry Suite, above left, and the Garden Room, above, at Seckford Hall

And if you are looking to host a business lunch or meeting, the 1530 restaurant at Seckford Hall provides an idyllic setting - away from the hustle and bustle, offering complete privacy in a tranquil setting.

Ideal for both business and pleasure, Seckford's talented team of chefs turn local produce into mouth-watering dishes, with menus changing seasonally.

1530 is relaxed, stylish and comfortable, full of character but unpretentious. The new design is one that is classical in nature with a warm interior. Stunning statement lighting and a mix of colours mirror the Tudor charm of the hotel.

■ For details of all events at Seckford Hall Hotel contact events manager Anne Musolino on 01394 385678 or visit www.seckford.co.uk.

Local businesses need to express their views

By Mark Emms of Norse Commercial Services

Suffolk businesses need to be encouraged to make their voices heard in the corridors of power, expressing their views about business issues, barriers to growth and the challenges to business success.

By helping to identify the common challenges and opportunities local companies are experiencing, the county's commercial voice will be united in meetings and discussions with our parliamentary representatives and lobbyists.

Local firms are working hard to ensure profitable future growth in the current tough economic climate, and are meeting the challenges with bold and innovative thinking. Their good work needs to be supported by appropriate and timely backing from those at government level who control the purse strings, procedures and regional investments.

It is vitally important that the county's business community has an effective voice in Westminster and Europe, and it is crucial that

our MPs understand fully the needs of Suffolk commercial organisations in order to enable them to lobby effectively on our behalf.

At Waveney Norse and Suffolk Coastal Services we have recently become patrons of the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, and are impressed with the sterling work that the Suffolk Chamber and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership are doing on this front. They are excellent conduits through which to channel and council local business opinion.

Most local business people will have views on topics such as the county's infrastructure, the amount of red tape that affects their day-to-day operations, energy policies and the commercial procurement potential of Sizewell C, the economy, the new arrangement for business rates and unemployment, skills development in the area and so on.

The opinions on these subjects, from people at the coal face of the local business

community, need to be presented in an orchestrated manner, and it should be a priority of large and small firms alike to make their thoughts known.

We have a wide and diverse business base in the county, each with both individual and common issues and agendas that will also resonate with other regions and industries across the country. It is therefore additionally important that the Suffolk business voice is added to national opinion and its needs considered as part of national policy making.

Businesses of all sizes contribute to the local economy, employment and revenue streams and are therefore entitled to have their views heard - we should not rely solely on larger enterprises to lobby and influence decision making.

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