



Chamber hosts big economic conference

By Tamara O'Connell

DUNDALK Chamber of Commerce hosted a conference with expert speakers which focused on developing Dundalk as a centre for the north east.

The major economic development conference took place on Tuesday, June 10 from 9am to 2pm at the Park Inn Hotel in Dundalk.

Dubbed "Shaping up Dundalk", the conference included speakers such as Friends First Chief Economist, Jim Power, Colliers Scotland Director, Bob Fisher, Jamie Laffen from Douglas Wallace and Manuel Garrido of Keith Simpson & Associates.

Jim Power spoke about "The challenge of how to regenerate in difficult times", while Bob Fisher addressed "The future for retailers".

Jamie Laffen looked at "The key challenges to make it happen for Dundalk" and Manuel Garrido reflected on how he sees Dundalk's "quarters" shaping up.

According to Dundalk Chamber of Commerce CEO, Bill Tosh, the conference was "development-led, trader-focused and consumer satisfying".

The conference was aimed at architects, builders, developers, investors and representatives from the financial, retail and tourism sectors along with business organisations north and south.

"The purpose of the conference was to let the participants hear these experts speak what we need to do to develop the region successfully," he said.

"I am very worried about all of the vacancies on Clanbrassil Street, the Longwalk and Park Street. We urgently need to take ourselves in hand.

"Any changes to Dundalk has to be developer-led. Whether you like them or not, developers create the space that people move into."



Bill Tosh