

BUSY WEEK FOR FALKIRK BUSINESSES

16 June 2009 - Businesses from the Falkirk area had a busy week as the 2nd Falkirk Business Fair hit town.

And a visit from Jim Mather MSP, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism completed an important week for the area's business community, working together to respond to the economic downturn

Of the 51 Falkirk based businesses who welcomed over 400 visitors to the second Falkirk Business Fair, sponsored by The Falkirk Herald, on Friday the 12th of June many returned to generate new business and forge partnerships with others having exhibited at the 1st Falkirk Business Fair in 2008.

Those returning included design consultancy, The Eden Consultancy, Macdonald Inchyra Grange and MetTECH and those exhibiting for the first time included CeeJay Software, Earls Gate Park and AHA-Architects.

Cllr Craig Martin, Convener of Economic Development, who opened the event, said: "As well as being a fantastic place to meet prospective new customers The Falkirk Business Fair is also about meeting other Falkirk based businesses and sharing ideas and looking for opportunities to collaborate. This year's event has grown with more exhibitors and more visitors than the first one last year, which is great for the Falkirk area particularly in the current economic climate."

And the evening before The Business Fair, Jim Mather MSP, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism on Thursday the 11th visited the area where he was presented with an update on the My Future's in Falkirk economic development initiative at the new Forth Valley College Campus at Earls Gate Park in Grangemouth. The Minister then chaired a discussion and held a 'mind mapping' session with the Falkirk business community.

Maureen Campbell, Director of Community Services at Falkirk Council said: "The Minister was very complimentary about the My Future's in Falkirk economic development initiative and the hard work being carried out by everyone in the Falkirk

area. In particular he was very impressed with the positive attitudes and how they had changed over the last five years.

“As part of the discussion a number of other positive aspects were highlighted including the change in young people’s views of the area, the relationships between the private and public sectors and the benefits the central location brings, in particular, its links to the rest of the country and to Europe and beyond through the port at Grangemouth. However, the discussion did also raise a number of concerns from the Falkirk business community, in particular the need to improve the connections at the Avon Gorge.”

Ends

Issued on behalf of My Future’s in Falkirk by Wave PR Ltd. For further information please contact Jonathan Kennedy on 0141-303-8390 or 07799-768968.

Notes to editors:

- **My Future's in Falkirk** is an innovative 10 year economic development initiative which is transforming the Falkirk area into a diverse and modern economy and a desirable place to work, live and visit. The area already makes a major contribution to the Scottish economy through its position as the hub of the chemicals industry, its extensive transportation links and its growing reputation as a tourism and leisure destination.
- To date the initiative has generated a commitment of £750 million of private sector investment into the area - significantly ahead of its original target of £200 million by the end of 2012.
- My Future's in Falkirk is a partnership between Falkirk Council, BP, Scottish Enterprise and INEOS