



# Media Release

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**media opportunity – see below**

## **Local Businesses Go Green**

Businesses as diverse as brewers and stationery suppliers have signed up to become more environmentally friendly – and more profitable in the process.

Over 20 local companies have now joined Harrogate Borough Council's Green Business Club, which was up in March this year. The club aims to provide small and medium sized businesses with free environmental consultancy, including an environmental audit and action plan.

The club is a partnership between Harrogate Borough Council, York and North Yorkshire Business Environmental Forum, Business in the Community, Yorkshire Forward and Harrogate District Action for the Environment.

Councillor Brian Lumsden, Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, who supports this project said: “This initiative provides an excellent opportunity for businesses to receive free support to reduce their environmental impact and reduce costs through improved efficiency. I am looking forward to hearing about the benefits achieved when the companies involved have had time to implement the action plans.”

Two of the council's own suppliers, Jespers Stationers and Platinum Print, have joined the club. Jespers of Oxford Street, Harrogate, is one of the first companies to receive consultancy help under the scheme.

Peter Jesper, Managing Director, said: “We wholeheartedly endorse the aims of the Green Business Club and would urge other companies to join. Just small changes can make big differences and when many small firms are struggling to keep their heads above water, anything that can be done to help them balance the books has to be a good thing. And, of course, there is the double benefit of knowing we are reducing the damage we may do the environment.”

Jespers are already an environmentally friendly firm. In 2002 they set up an ink jet and cartridge recycling scheme for their customers, which includes the council. The funds raised are donated to St Michael's Hospice. Jespers raised £1400 in the first 10 months, which shows the benefit of recycling.

Any business who would like to know how to save money, and become more environmentally efficient, can contact Katie Harvey of the York and North Yorkshire Business Environmental Forum on 01904 656769.

**Note to editors:** The other companies who have joined up include : Claro Precision Engineering Ltd; Peter Jackson Carpenters & Joiners; Dorways Ltd; Joe Manby Ltd; Argos Sports Ltd; Sarnatech: BNL Ltd; D Kitching & Sons Ltd; Platinum Print Ltd; Synthotech Special Products Ltd; FB Jesper & Son Ltd; Belzona Polymerics Ltd; Lambert Engineering Ltd; Treves UK; Harrogate District Community Transport; Starbeck Primary School; Boroughbridge Primary School; Ripon Select Foods; WE Jameson & Sons, l'Anson Bros Ltd, Taplanes of Harrogate Ltd and Nidderdale High School

**Photo opportunity-** 9.45 am Wednesday 28 April Jespers Stationers, Oxford Street, Harrogate. Hamish Johnstone, Consultant with Rosewood Management Services will be meeting Peter Jesper to carry out an environmental audit of the company and their premises.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** Councillor Brian Lumsden is available for comment on 07952 764706. Further technical information is available from Jane Money Local Agenda 21 Officer on 01423 556801