

How to save money through the BID

As a BID, we are always looking at ways in which we can help and support the businesses on the estate to make the day-to-day running of companies more efficient and cost effective.

We are therefore keen to remind you of our partnership with Power Solutions. The Chester based organisation is able to offer a free energy review service to businesses which may help you save money.

Power Solutions have previously worked with a number of other Business Improvement Districts including CH1

in Chester, where businesses have reported great savings.

Regardless of the size of your business, as a BID levy payer you are entitled to use this free service that the West Chester Commercial BID is providing.

David Harrington-Wright, who is the Director of Old Port Spa Aesthetics and Director & Chair of Chester Football Club, has seen huge benefits from working with Power Solutions.

“As a Director of two local businesses, one being Chester FC, I cannot recommend highly enough the services of Power Solutions UK. They have saved

us over £1000 on our gas contracts with more savings to follow on the electric usage.

“The customer service is excellent, they constantly monitor your contract and rates and will advise if things can be found cheaper. Other than a signature from us they handle everything else. Brilliant when you are busy, as it is a job you know should be done but rarely have the time to do.”

If you want to see how Power Solutions could help you, simply call Christine Scott on 01244 391 512 or email her on christine@powersolutionsuk.com.

Safety and security in the BID area

To help keep businesses, their employees and the environment they work in safe and secure, the West Chester Commercial BID team are constantly working on a range of initiatives to this affect.

Firstly, the BID team have liaised with Alpha Omega Security to ensure that they will be patrolling the estate over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend from 6pm on Thursday 18th April until 6am on Tuesday 23rd April.

They will also be present on other Bank Holidays throughout the year including Christmas and New Year to deter potential criminals.

The security patrols make up just one element of the BID’s safety provision which also includes the Rapid Text Service and regular contact and surgeries with Cheshire Police where businesses can raise any issues or concerns that they might have.

As well as this, the BID has not only provided businesses with Selecta DNA Advanced Forensic Marking Kits but have also arranged for Selecta DNA signage to be installed onto 50 street lighting columns throughout the BID area.

The signage will act as a deterrent and hopefully discourage anyone from trying to vandalise property or break into premises.



West Chester Commercial BID Winter Newsletter 2019



Further investment comes to the West Chester Commercial BID

The West Chester Commercial BID continues to expand thanks to funding from Cheshire West and Chester Council’s Property Reinvestment Programme (PRP) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The development, which is at the former Central Depot on Bumpers Lane, features a number of different units and will meet a gap in Chester’s current industrial market.

One facility, known as Block B, is part funded by both PRP and ERDF and is a circa 20,000 sq ft development of 10 units which will be suitable for small and medium enterprises in the energy, advanced manufacturing and technology sectors.

These high quality, BREEAM excellent units are ideal for start-ups or those looking to move to something new.

Two other sections, Blocks E and F, are solely funded by PRP and feature 5 x 4,000 sq ft trade counter units, further enhancing the facilities here on the West Chester Commercial BID. The construction work is being undertaken by contractors MPH and the first three blocks are due to be completed this month.

Both parts of the development have already received strong interest from potential tenants via CWAC’s Property Management Team.

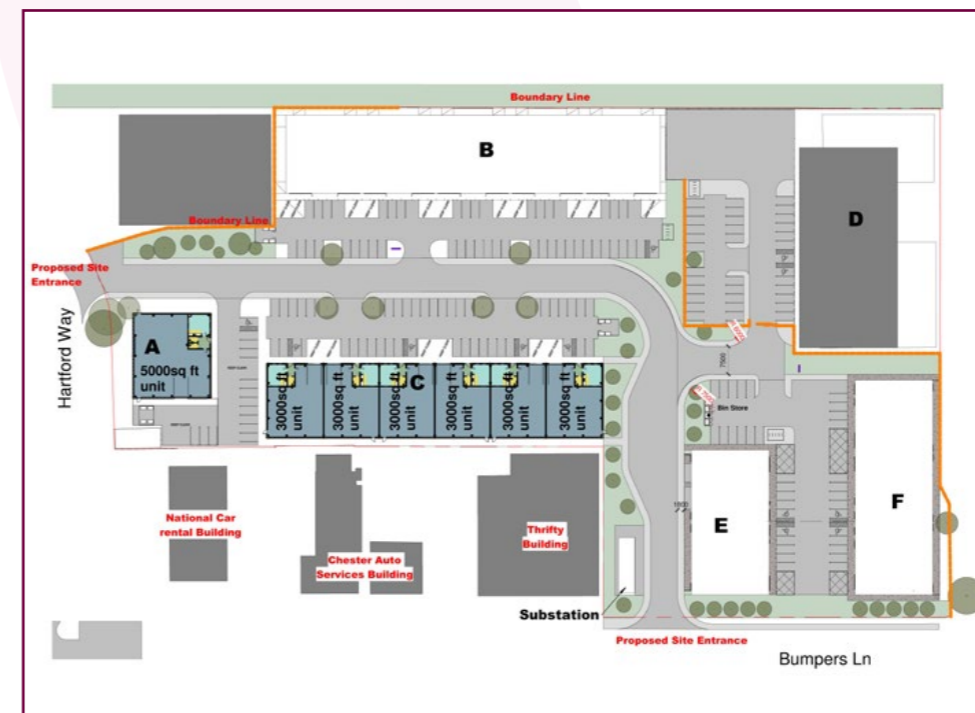
If you have any questions about the units, or would like to enquire, you can contact Sally Flitter on 01244 977523 or speak to CWAC’s agent, Legat Owen, by contacting Mark Diaper on 01244 408236 or 07734 711409.

Due to the amount of interest already shown in the aforementioned units, PRP is bringing forward the second phase of the development which will see the construction of Blocks A and C.



Block A will be a standalone 5,000 sq ft unit with yard area while Block C will consist of 6 x 3,000 sq ft units – both are due to be completed by the end of August 2019.

After this, the PRP team will take a look at market demand and only then will they make a decision on how and when to bring forward the development of Block D.



Message from the Chair

At the time of writing, we are in the middle of our winter with roads, schools and airports being closed. For me, the snow and cold means that spring is not far away and with it the real start to the new year. Like the snowdrops just pushing through, we are at last beginning to see some of the results of the long months of auditing and lobbying that mean we now have baseline agreements for the council's maintenance of the BID area and the improvements are already visible.

The DNA Selecta signs are also at last beginning to appear on the street lighting - it has been a lengthy process with lots of red tape and permission required as is the work the BID has been doing with various departments of the Council in order to have signage and landscaping done at three areas (Bumpers Lane, Hartford Way and Sovereign Way).

Good news, the Rapid Text Service is at last linked in with PCSOs and the Crime Prevention Office at Blacon Police. So even more reason to ensure that you are signed up for the Rapid text service. The Security cover was again in place during all the Bank Holidays over Christmas & New Year and the level of crime is dropping.

Provision of Ultra-fast broadband to the members of the West Chester Commercial BID

In January, a survey of the BID area by MJ Quin to provide a Full Fibre Network was completed. The next stage will be a schedule of works and pricing for the installation of the full fibre network for all businesses currently residing in the BID area.

The proposal is that by combining the installation under a single project, the full cost of the work will be met by the DCMS Gigabit Voucher Scheme. More details about this project and costs as we get them.

Training Courses

The training courses have continued being very successful. They have already restarted, and details will be emailed to you as usual and they are also listed in this newsletter. Remember that these are high quality 'no cost to you' courses and I would encourage you to book your staff on the courses as soon as they are published as demand is always high.



The BID website

Although this is now available it is still in development and I'm sorry to say of limited functionality, so it is an opportunity for you to affect the priority of the road map for its development by making your voices heard. Please use the contact form at <https://westchesterbid.co.uk/contact/> to let us know what you would like to see on the site.

The near future

As well as the regular work of audits and administration, the next few months will see the BID management team concentrating on getting our new signage and the CCTV on Sovereign Way approved and installed.

Jordi Morell
Chair - West Chester Commercial BID

Keeping the West Chester Commercial BID clean and tidy

Following lobbying of the Local Authority on behalf of businesses by the BID, senior management officials from Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) have provided assurances that baseline agreements with regards to cleanliness will be regularly met.

The first element of this is the scheduled visit of a road sweeper through the West Chester BID geographical areas.

Although this will normally take place in the early hours of the morning and at weekends, please make sure that, where possible, you inform colleagues and staff to not park on the roads in order to allow the sweeper to have as clear a run as possible.

In addition to the sweeper passing through on the first full weekend of each month, a litter pick will also take place on those dates.

This will be further enhanced by a weekly site visit from CWAC's Street Care Team who will also litter pick and remove fly tipping if there is any.

On top of this, the maintenance of bushes, trees, weeding and grass verges will also be undertaken throughout the year to ensure a sufficient level is maintained.

And finally, following audits on the estate, the BID requested new street name plates from Cheshire West and Chester Council and they have now been installed. They add a more professional feel to the BID area and give a better impression to visitors.



Future training courses with West Chester Commercial BID

All companies who are based within West Chester Commercial BID are entitled to attend any of the many training courses that the BID runs throughout the year. The courses are free of charge to any employee who wishes to attend as they are all funded and delivered through the BID.

The courses are designed to cover as wide a variety of topics as possible, ranging from Health & Safety to Fire Marshal Training - all important aspects

in keeping your work environment safe and running as smoothly as possible.

Please see below for a full list of upcoming courses:

Emergency First Aid at Work - Monday 18th March 2019

Fire Marshal Training (two half day courses) - Wednesday 8th May 2019

Emergency First Aid at Work - Tuesday 11th June 2019

For more information, or to book onto a course, please contact Stephanie Leese on Stephanie.Leesse@groundwork.org.uk.

Useful Contacts

If you have a problem, issue or request relating to a matter within the BID, there are a number of contacts and organisations you can get in touch with.

Please check out the full list below and make a note of them for future reference.

- ▶ **Cheshire Police** - PCSO Hannah Templeton - Hannah.templeton@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
- ▶ **Cheshire Police** - Joanne Pendry - joanne.pendry@cheshire.pnn.police.uk - Make sure you contact either Hannah or Joanne for any issues surrounding ongoing crime matters, police advice or to report on-going dangerous/obstructive parking.
- ▶ **West Chester BID Rapid Text Service** - 01606 866658
- ▶ **Cheshire West and Chester Council** - 'Your Streets' portal - <http://westcheshireyourstreets.co.uk/> - 0300 123 7036
- ▶ **Cheshire West and Chester Council** - Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officer (Local Authority) - dawn.taylor@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- ▶ **Alpha Omega Security (Bank Holiday Cover periods)** - Control Room - 07816 834217 or Operations Manager Matthew Wellington - 07855 815846
- ▶ **Defibrillators** - B&S Group Sovereign Way, Monday - Friday, 08:30am-5:00pm - 01244 390215 - Nicol Hughes Food, Monday - Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm - 01244 390929