

Image enhancement and security updates

The West Chester Commercial BID board and Groundwork have completed a number of feasibility assessments into image enhancements and more recently a CCTV project for the estate following the offer of a grant towards a system from Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The CCTV system proposal for a camera at the entrance to the BID linked into the local authority's borough wide CCTV system has not been approved as it did not demonstrate value for money or an effective solution for tackling issues around crime.

The offer of the grant from the Council is still in place for a time limited period, and the Board with Groundwork are developing options for a lower cost ANPR system similar to the types used on other estates in Cheshire. A decision about the ANPR system will be taken during September and reported to businesses in November at the AGM.

Since the start of the BID, a priority has been tackling challenges around the image of the estate. The BID has delivered a number of successes in the first couple of years of the BID including litter picks, new street name plates and working with Cheshire West and Chester Council to improve the standards of cleansing and upgrading nameplates. In addition there have been some highway improvements on Sovereign Way. The Board and Groundwork however recognise that much more can be done to lift and enhance the image of the estate in the next three years of the BID.

During the last 6 months, proposals for three image enhancement projects have been developed, however due to the complexity of statutory services entering the West Chester Commercial BID area these projects are having to be modified before implementation. The BID Board also committed in their most recent meeting in August to deliver a wider spread of smaller scale image

enhancement projects and more pro-actively tackle the opportunities for improvements across a wider mix of public / private land that makes up the BID area.

The first step to deliver this is already underway, with small scale improvements at sites being scoped out during August and September. The next step will be the development of a portfolio of small scale image enhancement projects that we expect to present at the AGM in November and begin implementing over the winter period.

If you are interested in discussing any of the above projects, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the BID team at Groundwork on 01606 723175.

Greville Kelly, Director at Groundwork.



Message from the Chair



We have at last seen a bit of summer appearing, although it seems to have been very short lived and just at the end of the holiday season.

Activity from the BID might seem to have stalled but like a swan gliding calmly on the water a lot of work has been going on under the surface. Please read the article by the Director of Business at Groundwork, Greville Kelly, for the information on some of the under the surface activity that has been taking place.

We finally appear to have the Sovereign Way road surface cleared of all subsidence - this has been an action that the BID has been pursuing since its inception and it is very satisfying to have it resolved.

Dee View Business Park was opened for business in July and we welcome

Moments Candles Co. and Jeffrey's Tonic as new BID members. The units achieved the BREEAM excellent rating and they are part of the Support and Workspace project by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

MicroLearn courses are an interesting concept providing short courses online, giving the administration directly to individual businesses. I hope you will all try some of the demo courses available and provide feedback to the BID Board. If there is enough interest, we will purchase the licences needed and offer the service to all BID members. The license includes access to training in Microsoft Office products like Excel and Word.

Our website is up and running and the board minutes, previous newsletters and other information is now available, but there is still a considerable amount of development yet to be done. The

aim is to have the site as an interactive tool to enable BID members to communicate with potential clients and suppliers in the park. Please login and see for yourself and report any problems or suggestions.

Please make sure that this newsletter is distributed as widely as possible within your own company. Further copies can be obtained by contacting Mark Henshaw by emailing Mark.Henshaw@groundwork.org.uk.

Jordi Morell
Chair - West Chester Commercial BID

Customer care visits on the estate

Over the summer, West Chester Commercial BID Officer Mark Henshaw carried out customer care visits around the estate.

This took place to ensure that the BID team has the correct contact details for

businesses and that everyone is aware of the different services that the BID provides.

Mark said: "It has been nice speaking to familiar faces and meeting new businesses whilst out and about and

also to understand a bit more of what each business does."

If you have a query for Mark or want to know more about the services that the BID offers, please email Mark.Henshaw@groundwork.org.uk.



West Chester Commercial BID continues to expand

The West Chester Commercial BID continues to expand and develop following the opening of new units named 'Dee View Business Park.'

The development features over 20,000 sq.ft of brand new industrial space and offers tenants flexible accommodation with office content and staff facilities.

On top of this, every unit adheres to BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) standards of sustainability and benefit from natural light from translucent light panels in the roof and high level lighting.

Earlier this year they were opened by Cllr Richard Beacham, Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and Growth at Cheshire West and Chester Council.

He said of the development: "Bringing this project to fruition has required a great amount of effort and

co-operation from a number of organisations. This partnership approach has resulted in these really impressive workspaces.

"The companies we are supporting range from one person operations to those trading internationally. By providing the business community with high quality workspaces, the Council is achieving one of its aims to support local economic growth."

Some of the units have already been let and the West Chester Commercial BID would like to extend a warm welcome to Jeffrey's Tonic and Moments Candles who have each taken one.

The Director of Jeffrey's Tonic, Steve Frehley, has said of his business and the move: "Only authentic ingredients are used in the making of our various tonics and we're looking forward to a bright and successful future within the West Chester Commercial BID."



Moments Candles went live this summer too so don't hesitate to pop in and have a look round.

With units filling up fast, make sure you get in touch with Gareth Joyce from Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) by emailing Gareth.Joyce@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or by calling 01244 977176.

You also can also speak to CWAC's Property Management team direct by calling 01244 977171.

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 and right for upcoming courses.

Award in Health & Safety in the Workplace - Thursday 6th February 2020

Fire Marshal Training - Wednesday 13th May 2020



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

Make use of the West Chester Commercial BID website



Don't forget that as a business you can take advantage of the West Chester Commercial BID website and everything it has to offer.

Firstly, on the site you can read all of the weekly news bulletins that have been published. These are uploaded each and every Friday and are a great way to keep up-to-date with the latest news from around the estate. You can view them here: www.westchesterbid.co.uk/news.

On top of this, you can also raise

awareness of offers or incentives that you're running.

All you have to do is forward your news and information to Mark Henshaw and he will then organise for this to be uploaded to the website under the 'Amenities and Benefits' section.

Remember that you can use the site via your own personal login details to advertise any job vacancies your organisation might have too. Since the start of the year the careers page is the

third most visited on the whole website so it is definitely worth adding any vacancies you have if you're looking for more employees.

Visit the website today: www.westchesterbid.co.uk.

New software could help train West Chester Commercial BID employees

A new piece of software could be rolled out across West Chester Commercial BID to help businesses and their employees learn new skills and develop their current ones.

At the moment the West Chester Commercial BID Board is discussing the potential introduction of a programme called MicroLearn which provides cutting edge e-learning resources for companies across a range of different industries.

BID funded training would be provided via a range of different formats including animated videos, case studies, infographics, workbooks and fact sheets to name but a few.

The extensive MicroLearn library is split into two different sections

with a range of topics falling under each one including Equality & Diversity, Health & Safety, Social & Corporate Responsibility, Workplace Wellbeing, Teamwork, Personal Development and Communication & Social Skills among others.

All courses are designed to help employees gain new skills which could benefit them and their company on a day-to-day basis. Head to the

MicroLearn website to get a taste of the different courses and what they entail: www.microlearn.com/library.

Free of charge for West Chester Commercial BID employees, if you and your company think that MicroLearn could benefit your organisation please email Mark.Henshaw@groundwork.org.uk to let the BID know that you'd like to see the software introduced.

