

Message from the Chair

As I write the signs are hopeful and positive, but other countries have been this near and yet are now back in lockdown. So many lessons still to be learnt, I do hope the future will indeed be bright and covid free. Many of us have had first hand experience of this awful pandemic.

We may have lost someone dear to us or be close to a sufferer of Long Covid. Whether we have or not, none of us can remain detached from the awful effects that this virus has left us with and despite the relaxation of the restrictions we must continue to be vigilant. As we open up our premises and resume trading, we have to be careful, not just to protect our staff but our clients too. There really is no room for complacency.

Although many of the West Chester BID projects have had to be put on hold, some have finally got through the planning stages and others have in fact been implemented. Training courses

have restarted with First Aid and Fire Marshal already happening. You can read about these in the bulletin.

The annual survey will be sent out soon and it is more important than ever that we complete and return it this year. For many of us our requirements have changed considerably. We will be trading in different ways and maybe even with different products. The more information the BID team has, the better they will be able to support us and be effective.

The timely advice from the BID team has proved very useful in alerting us to the opportunities for financial help and support. However, not all our fellow BID members have seen their trade languishing and having to rely on Government grants to stay afloat during this last year. Some have been able to provide help in supplying much needed equipment. Others have established themselves in Europa Court. More details in the bulletin.



We are in a new era in terms of our working environment; home working is a reality for the future for many and Brexit is causing other changes. So let us embrace new beginnings and new opportunities with positivity and enthusiasm and with a shared hope that we all can become profitable again.

Yours Sincerely,
Jordi J Morell,
Chair of the West Chester Commercial
BID Executive Board



West Chester Commercial BID project updates

Despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19, there has still been lots going on in the West Chester Commercial BID area.

Please see below for a summary of the key developments.

New signage

The West Chester Commercial Business Improvement District has agreed to fund three new image enhancement projects over the last year. These will help make the estate a more attractive place for businesses and employees to work, and also make it more accessible to customers and suppliers.

In line with this, the BID approved funding for two large signs to be installed. One will be situated on the land at B&S Group on Sovereign Way and the other is located on land at Bromborough Paints on Bumpers Lane.

Landscape projects

There are another five landscape projects that have been agreed in the action plan and these should be completed within the next few months. They are planned for Jupiter Drive, Sovereign Way, Bumpers Lane, Sealand Road/Bumpers Way and Talbot Way, with the overall aim of improving the aesthetics of the estate for both workers and visitors alike.

CCTV/ANPR

The board has asked for a review of CCTV and ANPR requirements for Sealand Road Industrial Estate and Chester West Employment Park as security is of utmost importance for businesses and their staff.

The aim is to establish the best technical solution for the installation of an estate-wide CCTV and ANPR system for the whole West Chester BID area.

Consultants will now be tasked with reviewing the complete area and establishing a system that not only supports with the prevention and detection of crime but, if legally allowed, also links into other stakeholders' solutions.

This could include Cheshire Police, Cheshire West and Chester Council or the businesses that are located on the estate. We will ensure that the proposals provide best value for money and a return on investment for the business community.

Free training courses

The BID team sent out a survey to all businesses to establish their training needs for the coming year. There was a good response to the survey with 26 businesses and 102 of their staff looking to take up the offer of free training provided by the BID. The most popular courses have been First Aid at Work, Health & Safety and a new course added this year called Mental Health First Aid.

Estate maintenance

The schedule for the maintenance of the estate has been ongoing since January. This includes litter picking, mechanical road/path sweeps and shrub pruning, which are all being carried out on a monthly basis.

The BID team has also put in a request for the Highways team to address the potholes on the estate and, following

discussions, the double yellow lines and the white lines at the Quad on Chester West Employment Park are now on Cheshire West and Chester Council's schedule for repainting.

The BID team

The BID team continues to provide support and advice to companies on a day-to-day basis. Topics include growth (secure bigger premises), advertising jobs, traffic management, inter-trading opportunities, sharing CVs for employees who are under threat of redundancy and checking availability of grants for businesses. With Coronavirus restrictions having now eased somewhat, we will be looking to do more face-to-face engagement in the near future.

Job vacancies

If you want to recruit the right candidate and need help, please contact BID Manager Hugh Shields on Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk.

Simply send your job specification to Hugh and it will be uploaded to the website, sent to JSP and forwarded to all local work hubs.

Survey

The BID annual survey will be sent out to all of the businesses in the coming weeks. Please take the time to fill it in as it is your chance to have your say.



WestChester
CommercialBID

Europa Court continues to welcome new businesses

The BID Board would like to welcome all of the businesses in Europa Court and hopes to see more companies expand or move to the site.

These include syrup and handcrafted cordials, prestige candles and fragrances, specialist hard surface repairs, laundry equipment, solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity systems, air conditioning systems, tricycles and carts and bespoke packaging and wood products.

New enquiries have continued too over the past months with Cheshire West and Chester Council supporting business growth and receiving a lot of interest for the remaining properties.

This is great news as Units 1 – 21 in Europa Court are now fully let.

The 10 new 2,000 sq. ft. units are built to BREEAM Excellent standard and there are now only a couple of 4,000 sq. ft. industrial/trade counter units available via Legat Owen who can be contacted by calling **01244 408200**.

For businesses looking for new premises for a start-up or expansion, the Council's team can offer help and advice.

Please email business@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or visit the Let's Talk Business website for access to training opportunities, business

grants and links for other business support: <https://www.letstalkbizcw.co.uk/>.



Arco helps local companies and frontline responders

Arco, the UK's leading safety company, has played a key role in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

With a core purpose of keeping people safe, the company responded as soon as the pandemic was declared. Within 48 hours, they increased to a 24/7 operation to help make sure frontline responders and those working in critical businesses were properly protected.

Arco's product and supply chain specialists worked quickly to source, procure and distribute over 140 million face masks, 18 million gloves, over 50,000 coveralls and 5,000,000 hygiene products to the NHS, ambulance services, other public health bodies, local authorities and critical industries.

In our region, Ceri Roberts and the team from Arco's retail store have helped local companies by offering expert advice on how to manage the virus and supplying critical PPE, sanitising and cleaning products throughout the pandemic.

However, the team's commitment to supporting our local community in Chester went even further. On hearing about frontline responders' shortages of PPE, they took bags of PPE that would protect against Covid-19 to the Countess of Chester Hospital, Crabwell Hall Care Home and Stone House Residential Home.



Enterprise staff show support for colleague

Enterprise staff on the West Chester BID estate are supporting their colleague Darrel Amrani-Roshier who has been fighting stage 4 Neuroendocrine, which is a rare form of cancer, since May 2020.

Darrel's family and friends are aiding his courageous battle by raising money for the one charity (Neuroendocrine Cancer UK) that has continued to be there for Darrel and his family.

To reinforce this effort, the staff at Enterprise held a Darrel Day on 26th March where all the employees dressed in black and white and sent as many donations as possible to Neuroendocrine Cancer UK.

Over £11,000 has been raised so far, and if you can help them reach the target please donate via the following link: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/darreladay2021?utm.



Getting to know you – Spectrum Interiors

Who would have thought that a high proportion of the UK's new washroom cubicles for motorway service stations would be manufactured here on the West Chester Commercial BID estate?

Spectrum Interiors have recently been working on several large projects for Moto and Extra, with the aim of transforming the image of motorway service areas and washroom facilities and encouraging people to return post-lockdown.

The company also carries out office refurbishments and fit-outs and washroom and reception area upgrades for the commercial and public sectors.

Most of their work is carried out in the surrounding cities of Manchester, Chester and Liverpool, but Spectrum have also undertaken projects nationwide for a variety of clients.

If you would like to know more about the services that Spectrum offer, including

details of their commercial interior and washroom fit-outs, please visit: www.spectruminteriors.co.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.

- ▶ Cheshire Police – PCSO Martin Quick – martin.quick@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
- ▶ Cheshire Police – Joanne Pendry – joanne.pendrey@cheshire.pnn.police.uk – Make sure you contact either Martin 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 – www.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 – **02170258881** or Operations Manager Chris Strange – **07904331031**
- ▶ 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**