

## Message from the Chair

**H**ello and welcome to the West Chester BID Autumn Newsletter.

Greetings to our new members who have taken premises since the last bulletin and a sad farewell to those that have ceased trading. We hope that better times are on the horizon for you.

So, it is Autumn 2021 and despite not even being back to post pandemic 'normal' we are beset with new crises with rising energy costs, staff shortages and supply issues all affecting our bottom line.

But all is not gloom. We do have some progress to share. This news bulletin contains more detailed information about the CCTV and ANPR project that has recently gone to planning. This is progressing well and the overall

benefit of the investment by your BID and OneTek is that West Chester BID will have the infrastructure to become one of the few Smart BIDs in the UK. Quite an achievement and one we should take pride in.

There are also more details of the landscaping that has continued to be developed through the summer. We also have an exciting new project; a recording studio and events space. In other news, our training courses are back up to full capacity, the details are in this bulletin and the wellbeing seminars provided by the council are still available online. So please research them and use them.

Christmas will soon be upon us. As we all take stock of where we are on the business spectrum, let us look



with hope to the New Year that we will experience a renewal of trade and allow us to return to the levels of business that we previously enjoyed.

May I wish you all a peaceful and hope-filled festive season.

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



# Plans to invest in CCTV and ANPR announced

**W**est Chester BID has announced plans to invest in the installation of CCTV and ANPR for West Chester Employment Park and Sealand Industrial Estate.

Earlier this year the BID board set up a sub group to discuss and review the option of having the security related features installed, and then put out to tender a proposal for the provision of CCTV and ANPR cameras.

The BID took this decision with a view to further investing in the safety and security of its businesses and their employees.

Following the tender process the board appointed Winsford-based OneTek to deliver the project whose design

approach has been successfully utilised on Winsford Industrial Estate and Gadbrook Park for almost a decade now.

Alpha Omega, who work in partnership with OneTek and the police, will monitor this system.

The approach they take is to look at the bigger picture on the estate and deploy technology that supports businesses in the area.

They have also identified an opportunity to deploy Ultra-Fast Fibre internet within the West Chester BID area which will support the connectivity element of the proposal.

OneTek are planning to build the WIFI connectivity as a precursor to deploying a fibre network. On Winsford Industrial Estate, businesses enjoy 500Mb+



broadband for £60 per month - they will replicate this onto the estate within its own commercial model.

The application for CCTV has now gone to planning.

# Know your neighbour: Plan Ahead

**P**lan Ahead Programme Management has seen sustained business growth in the last two years, enabling them to add to their incredible team both in their Chester Head office and the Derby and Bristol regional offices. Plan Ahead is currently recruiting for Admin and IT support staff as well as Planning Consultants.

They are a consultancy providing Project Planning, Project Controls and Dispute Resolution in the Construction and Engineering sectors worldwide. They also provide directional support to Project Directors/Managers advising the most effective sequence to build a project and keep them on time.

Plan Ahead are specialists, with all their team having extensive

experience on both sides of the fence with contractors & clients. Using this extensive experience, they face obstacles head-on and challenge the balance between cost and value, risk and benefit to deliver progressive solutions to their clients. They are committed and passionate about what they do to help their clients achieve success.

Whether their role is to lead or support resources, they integrate and work as part of the team, supporting the planning & project controls requirements to deliver projects on time, safely and within budget.

Where projects have not progressed 'as planned', Plan Ahead provide contractual advice along with Forensic Analysis & Dispute Resolution where required.



Their team have experience working on small tenders to projects in excess of £5 billion. To them, it's not the size of the project that matters; it's making a difference for the client. Find out more at: <https://www.planaheadpm.com/>.

# West Chester Commercial BID updates

## New businesses

With continued optimism, the BID team and the board would like to take this opportunity to welcome five new businesses onto the estate. The BID board wishes them success for their futures here on the business park. The businesses are:

- ▶ The Eclectic Lifestyle Company – Dee View
- ▶ AERTEC – Dee View
- ▶ Bewcraft Signs Ltd – Vantage Point
- ▶ The Lab – Vantage Point
- ▶ ELITE Flooring – Vantage Point

## Landscape projects

Three landscape projects that were in the action plan are now completed. They're located on Jupiter Drive, Sovereign Way and Bumpers Lane and were identified as areas in need of improvement in order to boost the aesthetics of the estate.

## Estate image

BID Manager Hugh Shields meets with Streetscene on a monthly basis who are now working to a schedule for estate maintenance.

January, February and March saw them litter picking, shrub pruning and mechanically sweeping the roads and paths, while April to August saw the team regularly cutting the grass and keeping on top of weed control.

As well as this, the planned work for Jupiter Drive, Bumpers Lane and Talbot Way has now been completed which has helped to improve the aesthetics of the estate for businesses, workers and visitors alike.

## BID team

Please remember that the BID team is here to help your business whether it is by giving advice, securing bigger premises, advertising job opportunities or sharing CVs for employees who are under threat of redundancy. We can also put you in touch with other businesses on the estate to look at ways in which you could potentially help each other out. Please email [Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk) with any queries.

## Free training

Training courses continue to be delivered free of charge by the BID team. If you wish to book onto a course or have any queries regarding training courses, please contact Stephanie on the BID team by emailing [Stephanie.Leese@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Stephanie.Leese@groundwork.org.uk).

## Job fairs

The BID team attended two job fairs that were held in Northwich and Winsford in September and hope to attend one in Chester. The BID has also promoted all of the employment opportunities that have been sent in by the businesses on the estate. If you want to recruit the right candidate and need help, simply send your job specification to BID Manager Hugh Shields and he will ensure it is advertised and promoted. Hugh's email address is [Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk).

## Welcome

The BID team and board would like to welcome The Eclectic Lifestyle Company who have just recently moved on to Dee View.

They distribute leading brands in the home fragrance, stationery and gift categories.

Their expert team have over 25 years' of retail experience and supply a wide variety of stores from independent boutiques through to mainstream high street companies. Please contact [sales@eclecticlifestylecompany.co.uk](mailto:sales@eclecticlifestylecompany.co.uk) if you would like to know more.

## Survey

The BID board would like to thank all of the businesses who filled in the annual survey. The feedback helps the BID team understand the needs of the businesses when putting together the business plan for the Park. Congratulations to SJA Motors who won the £50 voucher for completing the survey.

## Kickstart Scheme

The government's Kickstart Scheme is still available to businesses. It's a £2 billion funded project to create hundreds of thousands of high-quality 6-month work placements for young people, aged 16-24, who are claiming Universal Credit.

If you are interested in a 6-month government funded work placement, please visit: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/kickstart-cheshire-lancashire-and-merseyside/>.

Alternatively you can contact Jane Lannon on **07545 440666** who will be more than happy to explain the scheme and help you access it.





## Jeffrey's branch out to the UAE

**A** Europa Court based business has recently been showcasing their products on the other side of the world!

Earlier this year, Jeffrey's took part in the world's biggest food and drink show in Dubai and had a terrific response from local retailers in and around the region.

The exhibition has created some big opportunities for the company and they hope to be able to share some exciting news shortly.

A spokesperson from Jeffrey's said: "We love what we do and have always wanted to share that with as many people as possible.

"We want people to enjoy drinks the way we do no matter where they are in the world. Everybody deserves to treat themselves occasionally."

If you want to know more about Jeffrey's then head over to their official website: <https://www.jeffreysdrinks.com/>.

## Vacant warehouse to be transformed



**P**lans have been given the go-ahead to turn a vacant warehouse building into a state-of-the-art recording studio and 100-capacity event space here on the business park.

The proposal to turn the former plumbing trade supplies site on Hartford Way into a facility that "rivals anything in the North West" has been rubber stamped by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The building, which has been empty since 2016 and is in a state of disrepair, will be transformed to create four recording rooms, two rehearsal rooms and an office area, with the remainder of the warehouse becoming a multi-use event space aimed at mainly hosting musical

performances for bands, as well as art exhibitions, festivals and fashion shows.

The applicant - Adhoc Worldwide Ltd - has promised to "invest significantly" to renovate the property both internally and externally.

In the change of use planning application, submitted on the owner's behalf by Manchester-based Pinnacle Planning, it stated: "The vision for the studios is to create a state-of-the-art facility which rivals anything in the North West.

"There is nothing of its type in the Chester area, and would be available to encourage people of all ages and abilities to develop skills in music production."

## West Chester BID training opportunities

**W**est Chester Commercial BID businesses and their staff are entitled to attend one 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 and

include topics such as mental health and first aid.

If you would like to access any of the BID training for you or a member of your team then please contact Stephanie on **07519 019523** or via **Stephanie.Lee@groundwork.org.uk**.

## Wellbeing courses this autumn

**T**his autumn there are a range of free mental health webinars available for businesses and their employees courtesy of Wellbeing 4 Performance. These are delivered in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The upcoming courses, which run from 10am-11:30am, are as follows:

- ▶ Self-awareness and taking care of you - 4th November
- ▶ Looking after your physical health: Five simple steps to a healthier lifestyle - 18th November
- ▶ Toolkits for mental health and wellbeing - 24th November
- ▶ The importance of building positive relationships at work - 30th November
- ▶ Creating a positive workplace wellbeing culture - 6th December

To book onto a course, please visit:

<https://wellbeing4performance.co.uk/online-mental-health-sme-leaders/>.