

Message from the Chair

This is actually the winter edition of the newsletter, yet all around me I see signs of spring.

Are we seeing the beginning of the end of the Covid pandemic? I truly hope so, but I realise it will take a long time for everybody to return to 'normal' and stop feeling overcautious when meeting people.

Many seem to have realised that retirement isn't that bad after all and have left the ranks of the employed. This leaves businesses with a loss of their more experienced employees and increasing labour costs driven by skill shortages and rising prices when they attempt to replace the lost staff.

The BID board has also lost a member of its team with Steve Potts deciding to step down after many years of dedication. His expertise and insightful knowledge will be sadly missed.

The proposal for BID 2 is underway and the formal notification for a renewal

ballot has been sent to the council. The Board has expanded the number of members that can participate in the board to allow for an easier handover to a refreshed team to take the BID through to 2027.

So far there are almost 30 responses to the consultation survey however we need more if we are to produce an accurate Business Plan.

With regards to Net Zero, the board is examining potential areas to look at. Ideas could include: businesses looking at their own carbon footprint and then setting net zero action plans, Carbon Literacy training courses for employees (BID funded), Net Zero Awareness sessions, car sharing and business resilience training for extreme weather conditions.

The CCTV system, which has been a long time coming, hopefully will all be in place before I step down and as you can read elsewhere, we are nearly at the end of the planning stage, and



the first stages of installation should happen before the summer.

On a different note, we are looking at how West Chester BID can best mark the Queen's platinum jubilee and would like your input. Please chat to your teams and let us have your ideas.

I wish you all a speedy upturn in your businesses, creating a successful spring 2022.

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



Vote coming this year – West Chester BID 2

As has already been communicated via email, the current West Chester Commercial BID comes to an end this year on Wednesday 31st August 2022.

Because of this, the Executive Board are now working with the BID team to develop a successor BID, BID 2, which will be voted on by member businesses in due course.

You should by now have received the BID 2 consultation via email which gives you the opportunity to outline any issues that you currently face and provide details about what you would like to see delivered on the estate over the next five years.

The consultation only takes around 10 minutes to fill in and helps the BID team gather crucial information, so please fill it in if you haven't already. It can be accessed here: surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WestChesterCBID2.

Significant improvements have been made to the overall trading environment on the business park since the inception of the BID. Below are just some of the key achievements that have taken place so far:

- ▶ **Promoting a safe and secure working environment** – the BID supports rapid text services, security at weekends, DNA property marking kits and is facilitating the introduction of CCTV/ANPR which has now been approved.
- ▶ **Image improvement** – the BID has organised clearing, planting and maintenance at key areas on the industrial estate along with the implementation of new signage.
- ▶ **Training and skills** – the BID provides a wide range of work-related training courses such as Health and Safety, First Aid, Manual Handling, Fork Lift Driving and Mental Health First Aid.



Businesses will be asked to vote for BID 2 in the summer and more information will be provided in due course.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact either Jane Hough on **01606 723175** or jane.hough@groundwork.org.uk, or Hugh Shields via **07921 055039** or hugh.shields@groundwork.org.uk.

West Chester BID training update

Training has once again been enjoyed by workers from all over the business park who took part in the various sessions that were held in 2021.

As you are aware, all companies who are based on West Chester 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 as

they are funded by the BID. Last year saw a range of courses delivered to businesses by the BID and these include Level 3 Emergency First Aid, 2 Day Mental Health First Aid, 3 Day First Aid at Work, Fire Marshal Training and also Fork Lift Driving.

If you require any of the core courses for your staff this year please contact Stephanie Leese on **07519 019523** or via Stephanie.Leese@groundwork.org.uk.



Do you want help growing your business?

Do you want to embrace new technologies? Get to market quicker and cut costs? Reduce down-time? Well, if you are a maker then Made Smarter can help!

What is Made Smarter?

Made Smarter is a programme backed by world-renowned businesses and the

UK government. Their aim is to connect makers like you with digital tools that will transform the way you work.

BID manager Hugh Shields has been linking up with the Made Smarter team and is already working with eleven businesses on the estate to look at the opportunities available to them.

If you would like more information on this opportunity, please contact Hugh on **07921 055039**.

**MADE
SMARTER**

Updates from around West Chester Commercial BID

Be vigilant

There has been an increase in unwanted activity on the estate recently with both security and the Police having been alerted. Consequently the BID Team organised extra security patrols for the estate and Employment Park from 24th December to 4th January. If you see anything suspicious please make sure you report it. Together we can make the West Chester Commercial BID as safe and secure as possible for everyone.

Roadworks

After trying to establish who was responsible for a collapsed drain on Hartford Way since July 2021, the BID Team finally tracked down the right organisation and were given a date of when the work would be carried out. Unfortunately the road had to be closed for two weeks for the repairs, but we are pleased to report that this work has been completed and the road has been resurfaced.

Covid-19 booster toolkit for employers

Public Health England has produced a wide range of resources for employers to inform their staff of the importance of getting a booster vaccine.

The resources include web banners, posters, videos, social media assets and audio files that are free to use, and we encourage employers to make use of them however possible to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Please follow the link to find out more: <https://bit.ly/32N3tMK>.

Get fit for less at Brio

Give yourself the gift of health this year and get fit for less with a 20% discount at Brio Leisure centres. If you sign up for a WorkFit Membership, which has no joining fee, you will receive the discounted corporate rate of £26 per month. If you sign up for the year you get two months free! With a WorkFit membership you



get full use of gym facilities at Brio's eight centres, casual swimming and access to over 475 weekly fitness classes. Visit www.brioleisure.org/workfit for more information.

Springboard

Springboard Cheshire provides free one-to-one personalised support from expert employment advisors to unemployed people so they can quickly start their new career. Advisors work with participants to build their confidence and skills so they can apply for jobs as well as providing practical support and training on elements such as CV development, interview techniques and digital skills. Please email Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk for more details.



Big Yellow helps to create Christmas magic

It's been yet another record breaking year at the Big Yellow Self Storage store on Sealand Road as the target of receiving 2021 donated toys and gifts was smashed, enabling several local children and family charities to receive a bumper donation in time for Christmas.

In what was another difficult year due to the pandemic, Big Yellow staff set out with one aim; to turn 1 toy into 2,021 in time for Christmas, and that's exactly what they achieved.

Jeff Banks, Business Development Manager and Toy Appeal co-ordinator praised the local area for their efforts, saying: "On behalf of the store, I'd like to say a particular thanks to everyone at Morrison's Saltney, Chester FC and

the Chester Community Trust, Upton High School, Co-Op Westminster Park, CWU North Wales and the Marches branch members at Royal Mail Chester Mail Centre along with the North West Central Amal and staff from Warrington Royal Mail terminal for their support and involvement with the Toy Appeal. Every donation received has gone to a child or family in need. My sincere thanks go to everyone that has helped us in what has been another very successful appeal."

Charities such as The Countess Charity, Save the Family, KidsBank Chester, North Wales Superkids and other local charities all received several full boxes of toys and gifts to help provide under privileged children and families with presents to open on Christmas Day.



Planning for the 2022 Christmas Toy Appeal is now underway and if you or your business would like to get involved, please contact Jeff Banks at Big Yellow Self Storage Chester on **01244 399993** or by emailing chester@bigyellow.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 Pendrey - 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 Commercial 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 - **02170258881** or Operations Manager Andy Taylor - **07904331031** or **07900988748**

Defibrillators

Defibrillators can be found at the following locations:

- ▶ B&S Group on Sovereign Way, Monday - Friday, 08:30am-5:00pm - **01244 390215**
- ▶ Nicol Hughes Food, Monday - Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm - **01244 390929**
- ▶ Columbus McKinnon Corporation Limited on Knutsford Way, Monday - Friday 8.00am-5.00pm - **01244 391106**
- ▶ Rybrook Volvo, Monday-Friday, 8.30am-6.30pm, Saturday, 9.00am-5.00pm and Sunday, 11.00am-4:00pm - **01244 393909**
- Sanctuary Housing on Sovereign Way, Monday-Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm - **01244 305561**
- ▶ Graham's Machinery Sales, Deva House Knutsford Way, Monday- Friday, 8.00am-4.00pm - **01244 376764**
- ▶ Crane Bank Garages on Hartford Way, Monday - Friday, 8.30am-5.00pm - **01244 317191**
- ▶ Halliwell Jones on Sealand Road, Monday-Friday 8.30am-6.30pm, Saturday, 9.00am-5.00pm and Sunday 10.00am-4.00pm
- ▶ Knutsford Way, Monday-Friday 7.30am-18.00pm, Saturday, 8.30am-12.30pm - **01244 396600**