



WestChester
Commercial BID

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It has been a long time coming, but I am thrilled to announce that finally we have our CCTV and ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) system installed throughout the West Chester BID area.

This new technology will enhance safety, security and operations for our businesses and our visitors. One of the key topics from the beginning has been around SMART estates and what that could mean for West Chester BID.

During the delays obtaining planning permission, OneTek upgraded the system beyond our original requirements. This has created a robust data platform that many groups are interested in leveraging.

A hot issue today is achieving Net Zero carbon emissions, and our CCTV system can provide crucial data to help address that. This includes vehicle counts, carbon output measurements, fuel types, MOT/TAX status, vehicle age and European emission ratings.

The infrastructure needed to support the CCTV can also provide connectivity for IoT devices. We have already begun doing tests with air quality sensors too.

We owe thanks to those involved in getting the project finished. **Lee Donaghey**, CEO of OneTek, has taken the project from the initial two ANPR cameras, through his liaison with suppliers, to the hugely comprehensive system that is now live.

Each delay caused by planning or regulation has been converted by Lee into an opportunity to improve the quality and flexibility of the system. His forward thinking also means we now have the opportunity to provide very high speed internet connections to every business in the BID area.



Also worthy of mention is **Hugh Shields**, our BID Project Manager, for his invaluable support and coordination. His relationships and knowledge kept things progressing at every stage.

The CCTV system marks a major milestone for our BID and the businesses who call West Chester home. Please review the additional details in this newsletter outlining the features and functionality. And, as always, please reach out with any questions or input.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we innovate and improve West Chester BID.

Yours Sincerely,

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



NEW CCTV AND ANPR PROJECT NOW COMPLETE

Following several years of planning, and after overcoming a number of obstacles, West Chester Commercial BID is now home to a brand-new CCTV and ANPR system.

Comprising **54 CCTV cameras** and three specialist **ANPR cameras**, the infrastructure features in 14 different locations around the industrial estate, and was officially launched in September 2023.

Overseeing the project was OneTek, a Business IT, Telecoms and CCTV Solutions provider which has a head office on Winsford 1-5.

Using state-of-the-art equipment, all of the cameras are equipped with the latest AI technology to improve searching and monitoring capabilities, as well as gathering a significant amount of data to gain insight into the usage of the area.

Despite a number of delays to the project in relation to planning, OneTek have also been able to upgrade the system in a number of ways, notably with regards to net zero.

This means that a range of metrics can be captured and monitored, including:

- **The fuel types of vehicles using the estate**
- **The MOT/Tax status of vehicles using the estate**
- **The age of vehicles using the estate**
- **The European emission ratings of the vehicles using the estate**

All of this data will help the West Chester BID team formulate environmental strategies going forward as the race to net zero intensifies.

In another boost to the BID and its businesses, it is also possible for OneTek to deploy Ultra-Fast broadband using the same WIFI & Fiber networks that are used for the CCTV system.

This provides an alternative option to those businesses wherever the existing suppliers, such as BT, are not able to provide sufficient connectivity.

Commenting on the completion of the project, Chair of the West Chester Commercial BID Executive Board, **Jordi J Morell**, said:

“ *The BID has invested in a versatile platform that can lead to many more cutting-edge projects.*

Over the next year we are hoping to undertake engagement workshops with BID businesses, OneTek and other stakeholders to understand how these technologies and the data they gather can assist you. **”**

If you would like to know more about the project or have any queries in the meantime, please email BID Project Manager Hugh Shields via **Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk**.



IN NUMBERS: WEST CHESTER BID CCTV AND ANPR PROJECT

The new CCTV and ANPR system here on the estate will revolutionise safety and security, as well as helping to unlock opportunities with regards to sustainability and the environment.

Here we take a look at some of the key facts and figures underpinning its infrastructure.

54 CCTV CAMERAS



3 SPECIALIST ANPR CAMERAS



CAMERA RESOLUTION OF 20MP



AUDIO ANALYTICS



AI ANALYTICS



Another impressive feature of the system is that it incorporates triple redundancy recording too. This means everything is recorded locally within the camera, to the cloud and to the main servers which adds extra layers of data protection.

What they said about the project...

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, two individuals played a key role in the implementation of the project. Here's what they have had to say following its completion...

Lee Donaghey, Managing Director, OneTek



It has been a pleasure to engage with the BID board regarding this project. During the times we waited for various approvals, I was keen to maximise what we delivered within the approved budget. The result is not only a cutting-edge security system, but also a tremendous source of reportable information. There has also been a lot of interest in this project beyond West Chester BID. People are keen to see how we deploy these technologies to create a truly SMART place for West Chester BID and its resident businesses.

I am really looking forward to further engagement with businesses to discuss the endless possibilities large scale networked systems and artificial intelligence bring.



Hugh Shields, BID Project Manager



I'm thrilled that the CCTV and ANPR project is now complete. It has been a long process with numerous challenges to overcome along the way, but we now truly have a pioneering system that will benefit both the BID and its businesses for many years to come.

There will be a number of opportunities for businesses to engage with the BID in order to effectively understand and utilise the capabilities of the system, so please do get involved when the chance arises.



UPDATES FROM AROUND THE ESTATE

First Aid training

The BID team would like to remind all businesses of the importance of First Aid training. During a recent forklift truck training course, carried out by GHR Training, a trainee collapsed as the result of a heart attack. Putting his First Aid training into action, the instructor delivering the course began performing CPR and chest compressions until paramedics arrived. We're pleased to say that thanks to the instructor's quick response and lifesaving efforts, the trainee is currently recovering well. Stories like this showcase the importance of having staff First Aid trained – it really can mean the difference between life and death in an emergency. If you would like to take advantage of the BID-funded First Aid training sessions (free for West Chester Commercial BID employees to attend) please email stephanie.leese@groundwork.org.uk.

Coffee morning thanks

Jordi Morell of Obsidian would like to thank everyone who donated towards, and attended, their annual Macmillan coffee morning which took place on Thursday 5th October. The company was honoured to host the Lord Mayor of Cheshire on the day and introduce her to businesses. Speaking about the event, Jordi said: *"With your support, we raised £540 for Macmillan Cancer Support's vital work. These donations will help provide medical, emotional, and financial assistance to people living with cancer across the UK."*

LoyalFree App

Don't forget to download the Cheshire West and Chester Council LoyalFree app. The app aims to showcase vital area information for residents and visitors including a local guide, exclusive deals and loyalty schemes, fun local events and interesting trails. Businesses will benefit from advertising opportunities, customer insights and social media support. For more information, go to: [LoyalFree | UK'S No.1 App For Finding Local Deals, Events & Trails](#)

Energy Bills Discount Scheme

A new energy scheme for businesses, charities and the public sector was confirmed in January before the previous scheme ended in March. It means all eligible UK businesses and other non-domestic energy users will receive a discount on high energy bills until 31st March 2024. Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/3mkcV3N>.

King's Awards for Enterprise

Information regarding the King's Awards for Enterprise has been sent to all businesses and uploaded to the website. This is a prestigious award for businesses, recognising and celebrating business excellence across the UK. The recipients of the awards demonstrate outstanding success in their respective fields of innovation, international trade, sustainable development and social mobility. Find out more: www.gov.uk/kings-awards-for-enterprise.

Training

The BID's schedule of free training courses continues to grow and prove popular. If you are looking for training for your staff, please contact Stephanie.Leese@groundwork.org.uk to see what's available.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The UKSPF Business Support Programme is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, supported by Cheshire West and Chester Council and 4 delivery partners. The programme aims to support Cheshire West and Chester businesses to increase productivity by creating the conditions for businesses to start-up, scale-up and innovate. Find out more via: <https://bit.ly/48OKChH>.

Keep in touch

Got some news to share or promote? Please email BID Project Manager Hugh Shields via hugh.shields@groundwork.org.uk. You can discover more about the West Chester Commercial BID via our website: www.westchesterbid.co.uk/





WestChester

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The West Chester Commercial Business Improvement District is managed by the not-for-profit charitable trust, Groundwork CLM



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