







WestChester
Commercial BID

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Has summer been and gone? We haven't had any hosepipe bans so maybe we have it still to look forward to!

Spring, summer or autumn, the work of the BID doesn't stop. The recent heavy rains have caused sporadic flooding in parts of the park, and I would encourage everyone to check their gutters and make sure they are clear of debris.

At the AGM on the 11th May, George Ablett from the Climate Change Team at Cheshire West and Chester Council gave a presentation. He said that the council has two targets for decarbonizing the borough, and that 11% of the borough's emissions come from smaller businesses. The council is offering funding and training to help businesses understand their carbon emissions and reduce them.

He spoke about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and how it can be used to reduce both CO2 emissions and energy costs. He said that the council will be offering advisory visits to businesses to help them identify opportunities to reduce their energy costs and emissions. A grant program will also be rolled out in 2023, 2024, and 2025.

The CCTV system, which has been a long time coming, has been going through the bureaucratic process. All agreements are in place, and we are just waiting for a contractor to connect the equipment into the power supplies. So maybe late August, early September we will have completed the project.

On to BID member news and QHP, a manufacturer of gas loaded Bladder, Piston and Diaphragm Accumulators, has invested £2 million into their main production site.



Elsewhere, Harlech Foodservice has won a three-year contract to supply the Welsh NHS with groceries, and we're also pleased to welcome two new businesses to West Chester - United Carpets and Beds, and Smashed Grapes.

I would ask you to take a close look at The Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS) which is a voucher-based scheme that provides eligible applicants with support towards the upfront costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle (EV) charge points.

I hope that you all have managed to plan some R & R to look forward to in the next few weeks and are able to relieve the stress we are all under.

Yours Sincerely,

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



NHS CONTRACT WIN FOR TOP WHOLESALER

Harlech Foodservice, which has a base here in Chester, says it is 'hugely proud' after winning a contract to help feed 11,000 Welsh hospital patients every day.

The three-year deal to supply the Welsh NHS with groceries will create nine new jobs and provide continued stability for the rest of the 200-strong workforce.

The firm, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year and has its headquarters in Criccieth, Gwynedd, will be delivering 450 lines of dry store products such as canned goods, pulses and rice to 120 locations across Wales, including general hospitals and community hospitals.

As well as its traditional customer base in the hospitality sector, Harlech also supplies schools across the six counties of North Wales and into the North West to serve up nutritious meals for 150,000 pupils daily.

In addition, Harlech is a major supplier to care homes across North and Mid Wales and has seen significant growth in that sector too.

As a result, the company is on course for record sales this year, and as part of its growth strategy, has invested £500,000 to increase storage capacity, reconfiguring the racking in its giant freezer and buying "bendy" forklift trucks to navigate the narrower aisles.

Health, Care and Education Director, Mark Lawton, said that winning the new business from NHS Wales was a major vote of confidence in Harlech.



"The fact that we have been chosen as a trusted supplier is a real badge of honour and shows that Harlech delivers the gold standard in terms of food distribution, that we are safe, secure and compliant enough to supply hospitals across Wales."

"It sends an excellent message to all our existing customers and prospective customers, giving them reassurance and peace of mind about the quality of our service."



Between its three locations of Criccieth, Chester and Merthyr Tydfil, Harlech Foodservice delivers up to 5,000 product lines to cafes, restaurants, pubs and public sector customers across the North West of England, Shropshire, the Midlands and the whole of Wales.

To read the full story, go to: www.harlech.co.uk/News.



AGM TAKES PLACE

This year's AGM took place on Thursday 11th May at Chester City Football Club, and it was great to see so many BID members in attendance.

The guest speaker was George Ablett from the Climate Change Team at Cheshire West and Chester Council who delivered a presentation on Net Zero. The BID board would like to thank George for his insightful and informative session.

Attendees also had the opportunity to hear about what the BID has delivered over the past year as well as being provided with an overview of what's in the pipeline for the next 12 months.

At the meeting, the proposed Executive Board was approved by all eligible companies present using the voting papers, with all approving the Executive Board members.

For the following year, the Executive Board consists of the following: **Jordi J Morell** (Obsidian), **Mary Murphy** (Proximo), **Elaine Smillie** (Living Floors), **Lexa Farthing** (Cheshire Library), **Mark Diaper** (Legat Owen), **Chris Leicester** (Sanctuary Housing), **Ceri Roberts** (Arco Ltd), and **Ann Rogers** (Deva Designs).



GROWTH PLANS FOR QUALITY HYDRAULIC POWER

It's exciting times at Quality Hydraulic Power (QHP) following a £2 million investment into their main production site, which is based on Minerva Avenue here on the estate.

This will facilitate the building of a new purpose-built welding facility and warehouse, which will secure employment and create new business opportunities.

On top of this investment, QHP are also expanding their digital marketing presence and have recently welcomed professional photographers and videographers in order to create content for their soon-to-be revamped website.

One of the world's leading manufacturers of gas loaded Bladder, Piston and Diaphragm Accumulators, QHP operate on a global scale and have numerous worldwide subsidiaries who they work with directly.

Their parent company, Hydac, is headquartered in Germany.

Want to keep up with the latest from QHP? Then why not follow them on LinkedIn via:

www.linkedin.com/company/quality-hydraulic-power-ltd



IT'S A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT

Huge congratulations to two ladies who work on West Chester Employment Park and Sealand Industrial Estate. Beryl Morgan, who works for B&S Group on Sovereign Road, and Sue Saunders who works with Halliwell Jones, completed the Manchester Marathon earlier this year.



The pair have also completed the Chester and London Marathons, with this most recent one in Manchester adding another medal to each of their collections respectively.

Well done Beryl and Sue on your fantastic achievements!

WELCOME TO WEST CHESTER

The BID board would like to welcome two new businesses to the West Chester Commercial BID.

United Carpets and Beds

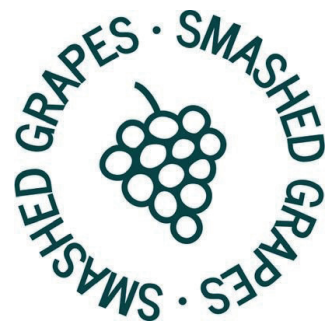
As a family-owned and run business, United Carpets and Beds pride themselves on offering value for money flooring and beds to everyone. From carpets and rugs to laminate, vinyl and even artificial grass, their product range is extensive, and they always offer excellent deals.



For more, go to: www.unitedcarpetsandbeds.com.

Smashed Grapes

Based at Unit 5 on Sealand Trade Centre, Smashed Grapes are passionate about wine and are dedicated to bringing you the best selection of wines from around the world. They believe that great wine should be accessible to everyone, which is why they've created an online wine store that's easy to use and filled with a wide range of wines to suit all tastes and budgets.



For more information and to learn about their upcoming 'Big Night In', take a look at their website:

<https://bit.ly/3DmkNXz>

WORKPLACE CHARGING SCHEME

The Workplace Charging Scheme is a voucher-based scheme that provides eligible applicants with support towards the upfront costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charge points.

It is available in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The scheme is run by the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles and is administered by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

If you'd like to know more, please see:

<https://bit.ly/3rylmus/>



UPDATES FROM AROUND THE ESTATE

Encampments/ASB

An invite will go out to John Dwyer, Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, to attend the next board meeting. The last meeting gave the BID board the opportunity to discuss crime, ASB, encampments and any other relevant issues that affect businesses on the estate. Recently, BID Manager Hugh Shields met with Inspector Murray and Chief Inspector Moss, as well as Crime Prevention officers, to discuss ongoing security issues and to look at ways to make West Chester Commercial BID safer for businesses and their employees. Please look out for updates on this.

King's Awards for Enterprise

Information regarding The King's Awards for Enterprise was 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 here: <https://bit.ly/3DjNnsP>.

Congratulations to our Business Team Co-ordinator

A huge well done to Business Team Co-ordinator Stephanie Leese who was voted Groundwork's employee of the year. Steff plays a huge part in the BID team through organising training, supporting the BID manager and helping the various different BID teams across Cheshire. Well done on your award Steff, it was thoroughly deserved!

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.

Defibrillator

A life-saving defibrillator has been provided by the BID to be installed outside Plan Ahead at the Quadrant. The decision was made to invest in the defibrillator to support the local community and everyone on the business park, as you never know when this vital piece of equipment may be needed.

Public Transport

Using public transport can really help to avoid congestion on the roads. If you are looking for ways to plan your journey that don't involve a car, check out the Traveline website – www.traveline.info/ - or the Cheshire West and Chester Council website: <https://bit.ly/3DmM3Fy>.

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/

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 – Joanne Pendry - joanne.pendrey@cheshire.police.uk – Make sure you contact 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) – Kelly.Rochell@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Alpha Omega Security (Bank Holiday Cover periods) – Control Room – **02170 258881** or Operations Manager Chris Strange – **07904 331031**





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Contact Us:

- ☎ 07921 055 039
- ✉ Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk
- 🌐 www.westchesterbid.co.uk

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



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