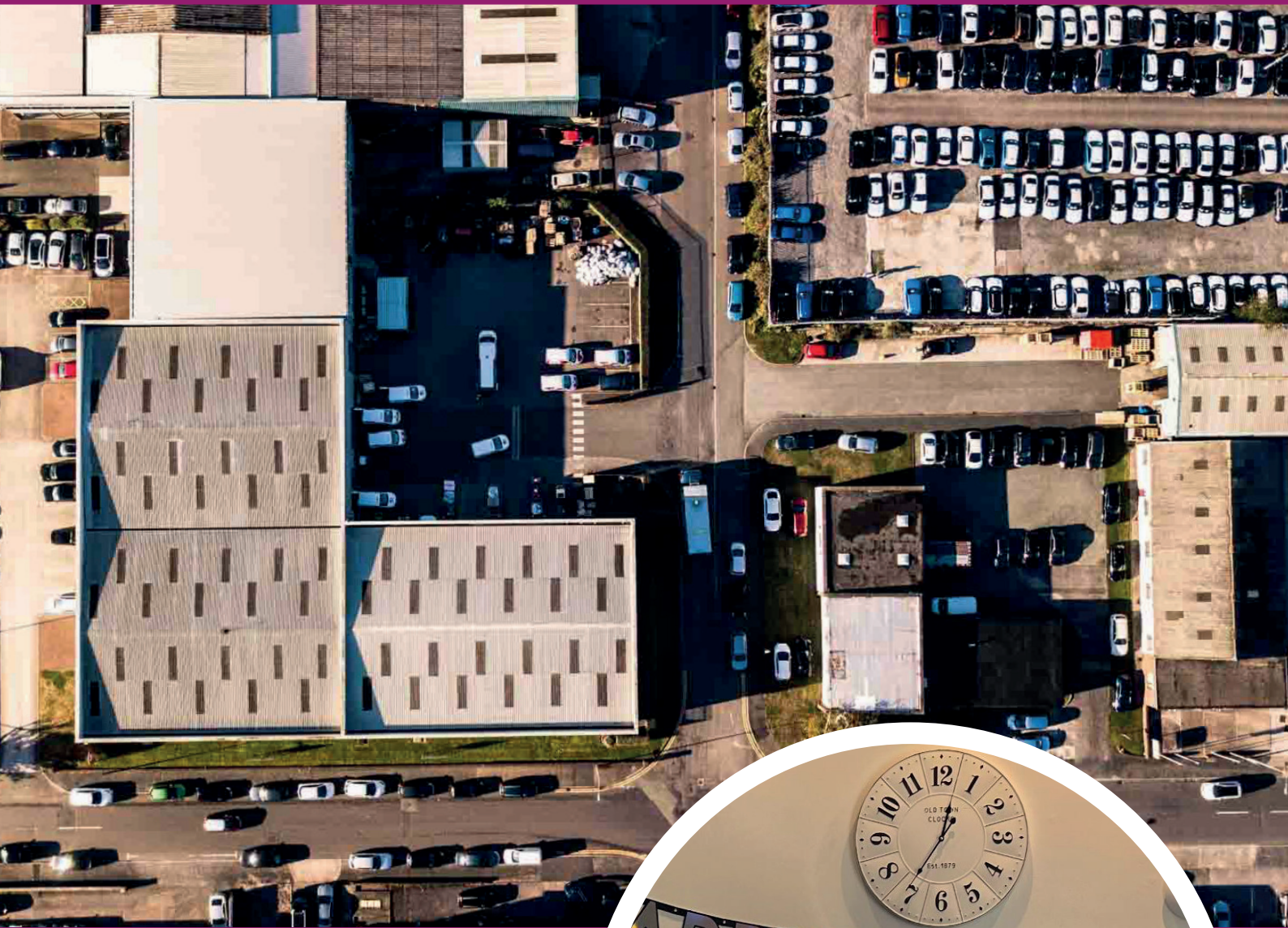




WestChester  
CommercialBID

# SPRING NEWSLETTER



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**Spring is upon us with all the hopes of new opportunities and exciting events that are emerging from the West Chester BID.**

On a personal note I am excited to celebrate a major milestone – Obsidian Group has reached its 60th anniversary.

In other news we must highlight the record-breaking sales of Quality Hydraulic Power and the recent launch of their website.

On the infrastructure front, B&S Group is involved in several exciting projects. These include the Gatwick Airport expansion, and nearer to home the expansion of Chester Zoo. They are also playing a role in Scotland's renewable energy future by supplying substations for battery storage facilities. We wish them much luck with these ventures.

I would also like to highlight the opening of a new INEOS Grenadier showroom on Sealand Industrial Estate, and make sure you check out National Plastics, a leading supplier of building materials located right here in the BID.

We're committed to supporting your business needs. Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming Electric Vehicle awareness event and explore funding opportunities from Innovate UK.

The LoyalFree app offers valuable connections with customers. The BID's free training courses continue to prove very popular too, and the uptake has been exceptional. Don't miss out as it is all part of what the BID provides for you.

We encourage all businesses to stay informed and take advantage of these valuable resources. As always, if you have any news to share or require further information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

On behalf of the West Chester BID Board, I wish you a successful and productive spring season!

**Yours Sincerely,**

**Jordi J Morell,**

**Chair of the West Chester Commercial BID Executive Board**

## A fond farewell to Ann Rogers

As many of you know, **Ann Rogers** will be stepping down from the West Chester Commercial BID Board after eight years of dedicated service. We at the BID want to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for Ann's invaluable contributions over the year. Ann's incisiveness at getting to the root of a problem has been instrumental in shaping the success of the BID.

Her tenure has had a lasting impact on our community. Ann has always been an influential and valuable member of the Board. Her approach and willingness to participate has fostered a spirit of collaboration and innovation which, together with her expertise, have made her an asset in many ways to the progress of the BID. We are incredibly grateful for Ann's dedication. We will miss her presence on the Board and we wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.



## A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS AS OBSIDIAN GROUP TURNS 60

A huge congratulations to Obsidian Group – the business turned 60 this year! Here’s a message from the company as it embarks on a year of celebrations to mark the milestone.

“ *Can you believe it? We’re turning 60! That’s six decades of smiles, success stories, and serving our amazing community, and we want YOU to be part of it!*

*From humble beginnings to where we are today, our journey has been incredible. We’ve seen it all – changing trends, evolving technologies, and most importantly, the unwavering support of our loyal customers like you.*

*To kick things off, we’re sharing a special glimpse into our past. Stay tuned for historical photos, fun facts, and heartwarming stories that capture the essence of our 60 years.*

*But this isn’t just about looking back. We’re also excited about the future! We’ll be sharing sneak peeks at what’s in store, exciting events, and opportunities to connect with us throughout the year.* ”

For more information and to get involved, make sure you’re following Obsidian on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/Obsidianofficeschester](https://www.facebook.com/Obsidianofficeschester).



## POSITIVE START TO THE YEAR FOR QHP

It’s been a positive start to the year for Quality Hydraulic Power (QHP) after the business launched a new website and revealed record-breaking sales statistics.

The website, which went live in February, features a promotional video, an upgraded design and refreshed content, making it the ideal place to learn all about the company and its services.

And following on from this development, QHP has reported that orders and sales for January and February 2024 were higher than the corresponding ones from 2023. This continues their upward trajectory after posting sales growth of 21% last year.

The good news doesn’t end there though, as QHP has also begun a campaign to further boost its online presence through their regularly updated LinkedIn page and an online newsletter which informs customers of exciting new company developments.

Everyone associated with the BID wishes QHP well for the remainder of 2024, and hopes the company’s success continues.

Check out their website to learn more - [www.qhp.co.uk](https://www.qhp.co.uk)



## NEW VEHICLE SHOWROOM OPENS ON THE BUSINESS PARK

A new showroom has opened its doors here on the business park.

The space, created by Halliwell Jones, showcases the INEOS Grenadier vehicle and features a sleek and modern design which helps to convey the rugged capabilities and cutting-edge technology of this highly-anticipated off-roader.

The BID team extends their warmest congratulations and best wishes to Halliwell Jones for this remarkable achievement and the launch of their state-of-the-art facility, which is located at Unit 1, Chelford Close.

Want to know more? Visit - [www.halliwelljones.co.uk/ineos-grenadier](https://www.halliwelljones.co.uk/ineos-grenadier).



# ALL SYSTEMS GO AT B&S GROUP

It's all systems go at B&S Group in 2024, with the engineering business currently working on a range of high-profile projects right across the UK.

Down at London Gatwick Airport, the company is supporting the travel hub's expansion with the installation of a new substation.

It forms part of the airport's scheme to unlock new capacity and eventually create a second runway which could serve 75 million passengers a year by 2038.

Closer to home, the B&S design team is working on a project at Chester Zoo as part of the tourist attraction's Heart of Africa zone.

This project again centres around the installation of a substation and associated infrastructure, with the tricky job of ensuring minimal impacts to public and the zoo's animals.

And up in Scotland, B&S is proud to be working with OMEXON Technologies after being awarded the supply of substations for Zenobē BESS projects as part of three battery storage facilities. Construction has begun on each site at Blackhillock, Kilmarnock South and Eccles north of the border, for a scheme that is progressing energy independence in Scotland and boosting the drive towards a zero-carbon National Grid in the future.

For more information about B&S Group and the unique projects they're working on, check out their website – [www.bsgroupltd.com/](http://www.bsgroupltd.com/)

## BE CONSIDERATE WHEN PARKING

A reminder to all businesses and their employees regarding parking on Sealand Industrial Estate and West Chester Employment Park.

There has been an increase of complaints from businesses regarding the ongoing issue of illegal parking on the estate, jeopardising the safety of road users and pedestrians.

Vehicles parked improperly obstruct traffic flow, block sightlines, and hinder emergency vehicle access, potentially leading to accidents and delays.

Consideration of parking regulations and increased awareness from businesses and staff are crucial in order to mitigate this hazardous situation and maintain a secure environment for all.

If you do see dangerous and illegal parking, you can report it to Cheshire Police as part of their Operation Park Safe project.

For more details, go to - <https://bit.ly/49BTFSj>

## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR: NATIONAL PLASTICS

In each edition of this newsletter we shine a spotlight on the different businesses which call West Chester Commercial BID home.

Here we focus on National Plastics – a leading specialist supplier of high-quality plastic building materials for both trade professionals and DIY enthusiasts alike.

# NationalPlastics

Specialists in plastic building products

Located on Chester Trade Park, National Plastics' range includes durable bathroom wall panels, stylish kitchen wall panels, low-maintenance fascia and soffit boards, efficient guttering systems, and a vast selection of trims and accessories.

They have an unwavering commitment to quality and competitive pricing, and strive to provide exceptional value for those with construction and home improvement needs.

You can rely on National Plastics to deliver the best in building plastics, helping to ensure your projects are completed with lasting beauty and functionality. Find out more here - [www.nationalplastics.co.uk/](http://www.nationalplastics.co.uk/).



# UPDATES FROM AROUND THE ESTATE

## Take advantage of training

The BID's free training courses continue to prove very popular, and the uptake has been exceptional. If you are looking for training for your staff, please contact [Stephanie.Leese@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Stephanie.Leese@groundwork.org.uk) to see what is available or to request a specific course.

## Net Zero and UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Don't forget to check out the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which supports businesses in Cheshire West by creating the conditions to help companies start-up, scale-up and innovate. Find out more: <https://bit.ly/48nyTpC>

## Electric vehicle awareness event

Cheshire West and Chester Council is holding an electric vehicle awareness event in Ellesmere Port on Tuesday 21st May. There will be a session for businesses from 8am-10am featuring information on vehicles, grants and charging installation. For more information and to secure a ticket, visit: <https://bit.ly/3vXcDV5>

## New business and collaboration

Interested in developing partnerships and collaborations with the public sector? Cheshire West Let's Talk Business is running an upcoming webinar on the topic. Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/49xidqA>

## Grants, investment and support

A range of funding opportunities are available to West Chester based businesses via Innovate UK. See if any catch your eye here - <https://bit.ly/3w0rCho>

## 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: [www.loyalfree.co.uk](http://www.loyalfree.co.uk)

## Bootcamp graduates

Are you searching for skilled Software Developers or IT Support engineers to join your team? Look no further! Through the Cheshire & Warrington Skills Bootcamps there is a pool of talented candidates who are ready to bring their expertise to your business. Simply email [gina.hilton@wearecodenation.com](mailto:gina.hilton@wearecodenation.com) for more information.

## Keep in touch

Got some news to share or promote? Please email BID Project Manager Hugh Shields via [Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk). You can discover more about the West Chester Commercial BID and how the BID can help your business via our website: [www.westchesterbid.co.uk](http://www.westchesterbid.co.uk)





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## Contact Us:

-  07921 055 039
-  [Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Hugh.Shields@groundwork.org.uk)
-  [www.westchesterbid.co.uk](http://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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