



WestChester
CommercialBID

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

-  REDUCTION IN CRIME
-  OBSIDIAN POWERS UP
-  INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I'm delighted to present the summer edition of our BID bulletin, brimming with positive news and exciting opportunities for our West Chester business community.

Sustainability takes centre stage

Obsidian's commitment to solar energy exemplifies the growing focus on environmental responsibility. By embracing renewable sources, businesses like Obsidian not only reduce their carbon footprint but also position themselves as leaders in sustainability. This aligns perfectly with the BID's vision for a thriving and environmentally-conscious business district.

Investing in our future workforce

Deva Designs' dedication to staff development and youth engagement serves as an inspiration. Their investment in employee training and student work experience programs empowers our local talent and fosters a skilled future workforce.

Supporting mental wellbeing

Mental health awareness is crucial. We're proud to offer Mental Health First Aid courses, equipping you to support colleagues and create a supportive work environment.

Upcoming events and resources

Employer Training Grant: Take advantage of funding to upskill your existing staff

The King's Awards for Enterprise: Nominate your business for prestigious national recognition

Stay connected

The BID team is here to support you. We actively promote job vacancies, showcase businesses through the LoyalFree app, and can assist with security concerns.

For more details on these initiatives and to access additional resources, please visit our website or contact the BID team.



Together, let's make West Chester an even more vibrant, successful, and sustainable business district.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Security investments lead to reduction in crime

The West Chester Commercial BID team is pleased to report that the Employment Park and surrounding estate witnessed a 66% decrease in reported crimes during the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period last year.

The figures coincide with the installation of CCTV and ANPR technology which have not only acted as a deterrent to potential criminals, but have also provided valuable evidence to law enforcement agencies.

Targeted security improvements have also been facilitated by the cameras, with the BID analysing data from UK Crime Statistics.

Concurrently, local police forces have been provided with crucial video footage of criminal incidents too, with the BID, business community, Alpha Omega Security and OneTek working in partnership to foster a safer environment for all.



WORKPLACE MENTAL HEALTH – WHERE TO START?

Did you know that Mental Health First Aid is one of the additional courses that the BID funds for businesses and their employees each year?

Those who attend the course will increase their awareness of common mental health issues which impact people every day – including anxiety, depression and stress – and also learn how to provide immediate ‘on the spot’ care to others while looking after their own mental wellbeing too.

Upon successful completion of invigilated assessments, attendees will receive an official certificate.

As an overview, the course will provide individuals and organisations with the following:

For individuals:

Awareness – Recognise mental health issues and early signs

Skills – Provide initial help and guidance to professional support

Confidence – Address and discuss mental health issues effectively

Stigma – Reduce mental health stigma

Growth – Enhance empathy and self-care

For organisations:

Work Environment – Foster a supportive culture and reduce absenteeism

Employee Support – Equip staff to support colleagues

Compliance – Mental health and safety obligations

Crisis Management – Respond to mental health crises appropriately

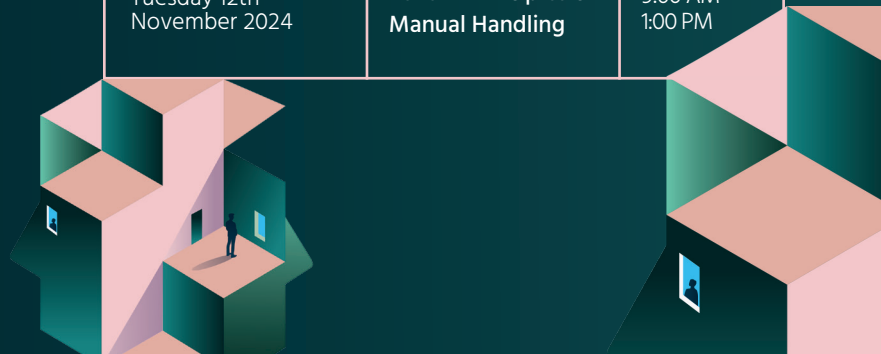
Community Impact – Promote mental health awareness beyond the workplace

Further mental health support and advice is available via the **Mental Health Foundation, Cheshire West and Chester Live Well, Samaritans of Mid Cheshire, and Kooth.**

And to see all upcoming courses over the coming weeks and months, please see the table below. For any queries, email **Stephanie.Leese@groundwork.org.uk**.

Upcoming West Chester Commercial BID Training Courses

Monday 9th September 2024	Fire Marshal - AM	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Monday 9th September 2024	Fire Marshal - PM	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Mon 23rd - Weds 25th September 2024	3 day First Aid at Work - Level 3	9:00 AM - 4:45 PM
Tues 8th - Weds 9th October 2024	2 Day Mental Health First Aid - Level 3	9:00 AM - 4:45 PM
Tuesday 22nd October 2024	Level 2 Principles of Working at Height	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tuesday 12th November 2024	Level 2 Principles of Manual Handling	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



OBSIDIAN POWERS UP WITH SOLAR INVESTMENT

Obsidian has taken further steps towards a greener, more sustainable future after investing in solar panels for its offices.

A trusted client of Obsidian’s, Green World UK installed the panels, which have already helped to reduce the company’s carbon footprint and energy costs.

Benefits realised by Obsidian after installing the energy-efficient technology include:

Reduced Energy Costs – By harnessing the power of the sun, Obsidian are significantly lowering their reliance on traditional energy sources, leading to long-term savings.

Sustainable Future – Solar energy is a clean and renewable resource, helping Obsidian minimise their environmental footprint and contribute to a net-zero future.

Investing in Tomorrow – The commitment to sustainable practices demonstrates Obsidian’s dedication to a greener future for all.

Obsidian owner **Jordi J Morell**, said:



We’re excited to embark on this journey towards renewable energy. By adopting solar power, we’re not only reducing our reliance on fossil fuels but also positioning Obsidian as a leader in environmental responsibility.



Read more here.



INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

A West Chester based business is investing in the next generation of professionals and nurturing the talent of tomorrow.

Two employees at Deva Designs – **Jack Garnham** and **Kyle Taylor** – successfully completed a Level 2 Supply Chain Warehouse Operative course earlier this year, funded by North Lancs Training.

Showcasing the company's dedication to helping its team progress, the course covered essential skills including handling techniques, packaging procedures, and warehouse safety protocols.



And in further demonstration of the company's commitment to youth development, Deva Designs also welcomed a student from Blacon High School, **Harrison Green**, to undertake a week-long work experience placement with the firm where he learned valuable insights into the professional world of employment.

Through initiatives such as these, Deva Designs is helping to shape the future of Chester's workforce and showing how businesses can play a crucial role in skill development.

Visit the Deva Designs **website** to find out more about what the company does and the services it offers.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: SALLY BEAUTY

Did you know that West Chester Commercial BID is home to a business which specialises in affordable, salon-quality hair care, colour, nail care, and professional styling tools that can be easily used at home?

Based at Unit 7-8 on Hartford Way, Sally Beauty caters for both consumer and professional customers, including hair, nail and skin salon owners and hair stylists.

Their unique teaching salon model, combined with a shoppable retail section, allows consumers to learn professional techniques and record their services which they can then playback at home to refresh their skills.

Want to know more? Visit the Sally Beauty **website** today.



PLAN AHEAD WELCOMES WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENT

West Chester's Plan Ahead has been helping to inspire the minds of tomorrow after hosting a work experience student from a local school.

Conor was tasked with completing a mock tender exercise, undertaking basic software training and reviewing site logistics plans. He even delivered a tender presentation to the team and gained an understanding of project constraints and methodology.



Plan Ahead were impressed with Conor's application and work ethic and hope to see him back in the future, possibly in a trainee planning role.

Learn more about Plan Ahead via their **website**.

BLACON HISTORY GROUP LAUNCHES POPPY APPEAL

Want to play a part in honouring veterans this Remembrance season? Blacon History Group is calling on businesses to sponsor poppies which will be going on display around the estate.

For £5 your company can sponsor a poppy to be placed on a lamppost or other suitable structure from October 2024 until after Remembrance Sunday.

Proceeds will go directly to the Poppy Appeal, and companies who get involved will be promoted on the Blacon History Group Facebook page.

For more information, email **Blaconhistory@gmail.com** or call either **07932 556 062** or **07854 681 886**.



UPDATES FROM AROUND THE ESTATE

Job vacancies

Do you have any job vacancies you're looking to fill?

Whether it's through the West Chester BID website, via Job Centre Plus, or at job fairs and employment initiatives, we can help find the right candidates for you by leveraging our resources and extensive contact network.

Email hugh.shields@groundwork.org.uk to get started.

Low crime

The May Bank Holiday weekend passed without incident on the estate thanks to security patrols from Alpha Omega Security and the police, but we must stay vigilant. Positively, overall crime has dropped on the estate in recent months, which is in part thanks to the CCTV coverage monitoring all traffic entering and leaving the estate. Indeed, the crime figures on the estate from January 2024 to April 2024 have decreased by 66% compared to the same period last year.

If you do see anything suspicious however, make sure you report it via the rapid text service – **01606 866826**. To join this free service, or if you require information or advice about Sealand Industrial Estate or the Employment Park – either as a tenant or a company looking to invest – please contact Hugh Shields via **07921 055039** or by emailing hugh.shields@groundwork.org.uk.

Employer Training Grant

Make sure you check out the Employer Training Grant – a scheme being delivered by West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce. Up to £2,000 is available for businesses for non-mandatory training to help upskill existing staff. Read more [here](#).

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](#).

The King's Awards for Enterprise

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: www.gov.uk/kings-awards-for-enterprise.

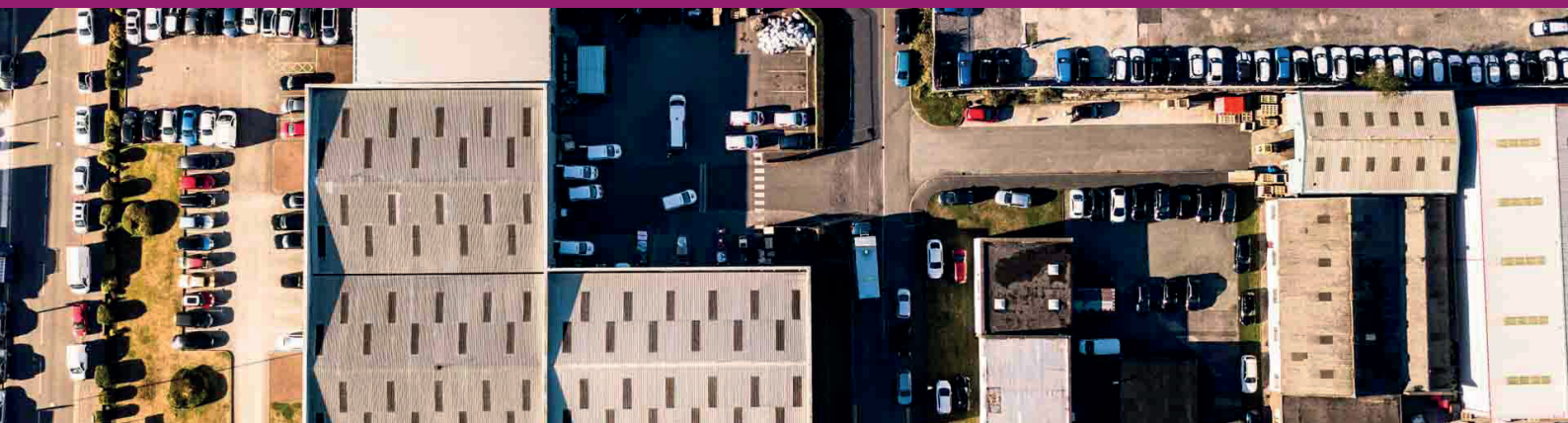
You can also receive help with your application thanks to The Lieutenant of Cheshire and her deputy. Register your interest [here](#).

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

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

CommercialBID

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



Summer Issue © West Chester 2024