



WestChester

CommercialBID

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I hope this message finds you well. As we navigate the current landscape of business and community support, I am pleased to share several updates and initiatives designed to strengthen our business community and enhance safety and innovation within our district.

Firstly, I would like to commend CIPFA Property for their recent achievement in fire safety. Following a successful audit for their BAFE SP205 accreditation, CIPFA Property has reaffirmed its commitment to fire safety excellence. With a focus on compliance with current legislation, they are an invaluable resource for conducting comprehensive Life Safety Fire Risk Assessments across various property types. I encourage those looking to ensure their fire safety protocols are robust to reach out to Jane Hughes at CIPFA Property.

We also wish to draw your attention to the upcoming Purple Tuesday initiative on November 12th. This global movement aims to improve the customer experience for disabled individuals. Participating organisations are encouraged to make a commitment to enhancing accessibility in their services. For any business looking to get involved, I highly recommend exploring ways to engage with this initiative.

Additionally, I am excited to introduce Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), a unique opportunity for businesses to innovate and grow. KTPs provide access to the UK's world-class knowledge base, helping businesses embed expertise, drive competitive advantage, and foster a culture of innovation. This initiative presents an excellent opportunity for businesses seeking to elevate their capabilities.

In the spirit of community and charity, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Elaine Thomas from Living Floors & More, who recently completed the Lake District Three Peaks Challenge, raising over **£2,000** for The Brain Tumour Charity. Elaine's dedication is a shining example of our community's impact.



Lastly, let us celebrate B&S Group's recent project win for the Vicarage Drove Solar Farm, showcasing our district's commitment to sustainable energy and innovation. We also acknowledge Obsidian's successful Charity Coffee Morning, which exemplified how we can blend business relationships with social responsibility.

I hope you will join me in supporting these initiatives and recognising the inspiring contributions of our fellow members. Together, we can continue to enhance our business landscape and foster a vibrant community in West Chester.

Yours Sincerely,

JORDI J MORELL,
Chair of the West Chester
Commercial BID Executive Board



CIPFA PROPERTY REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO FIRE SAFETY EXCELLENCE

CIPFA Property has recently reinforced its position as a leader in fire safety assessments following a successful third-party audit by SAAIB for their BAFE SP 205 accreditation.

In the wake of the Grenfell tragedy in June 2017, organisations across the UK have been re-evaluating their fire safety protocols. CIPFA Property stands at the forefront of this crucial initiative, offering expert services to ensure compliance with current legislation, including the Regulatory Reform Order (Fire Safety) 2005, Fire Safety Act 2021, and Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022.

These regulations apply to a wide range of properties, from business premises and public access areas to the common parts of residential blocks. They place the onus on responsible persons or duty holders to conduct “suitable and sufficient” risk assessments.

Jane Hughes, a representative of CIPFA Property, said:

Our BAFE SP205 accreditation demonstrates our commitment to providing top-tier fire safety services. We're here to help organisations navigate the complex landscape of fire safety regulations.

For those seeking to ensure their premises meet current fire safety standards, CIPFA Property offers expert Life Safety Fire Risk Assessments. Interested parties can contact **Jane Hughes** on **01244 394622** or by emailing **property@cipfa.org** for more information, sample reports, or to schedule an assessment.



THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS

Is your business looking for the inspiration and tools to innovate, help the company grow and develop new products and services? A Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) could be the answer!

Developed by Innovate UK, KTPs link businesses with range of the UK's world class knowledge bases to deliver projects which improve competitiveness, productivity, performance and profitability.

They are a 3-way collaboration between a business, a high calibre individual (KTP Associate) and a University to solve a specific, strategic business innovation challenge.

The KTP programme represents an extremely cost-effective means of introducing new skills into the workplace to resolve an ongoing challenge or issue, and the business is likely to be able to reduce costs further by claiming Research and Development Tax Relief.

Here are just some of the ways a KTP could benefit your business:

- Embed expertise, generate new knowledge, expand capability and foster a culture of innovation
- Drive competitive advantage through accelerated innovation and the possibility of creating Intellectual Property
- Gain privileged and cost-effective access to the UK's world-class knowledge base and resources
- Increase revenue/profits through access to new markets, new product development, increased productivity and better processes
- Benefit from the strategic input of a highly experienced Knowledge Transfer Adviser



If your business is interested in learning more about the KTP programme and how it could benefit your business, contact Maud Duthie – van der Venne via m.duthie@chester.ac.uk.



SCALING NEW HEIGHTS FOR CHARITY

Congratulations to Elaine Thomas, director of Living Floors & More, who successfully conquered the Lake District Three Peaks challenge in August.

Part of a team from Cockerill & Co – a national flooring group of which Elaine is a member – she undertook the gruelling walk to raise funds for The Brain Tumour Charity, a cause close to her heart following the passing of her father in 2017 due to a Glioblastoma brain tumour.

The group scaled Scafell Pike, Helvellyn and Skiddaw, raising **over £2,000** for the charity.



Living Floors & More has long been known for its quality flooring solutions, but now it's also recognised for its director's commitment to giving back to the community. Elaine's achievement has not only raised significant funds but also increased awareness for brain tumour research.

Well done to Elaine and the Cockerill & Co team on this tremendous achievement.



B&S GROUP SECURES COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PROJECT

B&S Group has announced a significant project win with European Energy UK Limited.

The contract – for Vicarage Drove Solar Farm in Lincolnshire – will see B&S delivering the full turnkey supply of both secondary transformer substations and the primary substation for the site.

With a proven track record for providing integrated and innovative power solutions, the company continues to enhance its reputation for being able to solve the challenges posed by modern energy demands, ensuring efficient and sustainable outcomes for clients.

Is your business embarking on a renewable energy project? Visit the B&S Group website today to see how they could support you: www.bsgruptd.com.



PLAN AHEAD WELCOMES NEW RECRUIT

Plan Ahead has reinforced its commitment to providing opportunities for the next generation of talent after announcing the latest edition to their team.

Ewan Hampson, who initially undertook a work experience placement at the company, has joined Plan Ahead as a Trainee Planner in the firm's Chester office.



A spokesperson for the business said:

His enthusiasm and performance during this period left such a positive impression that we're delighted to welcome him back in a permanent role.

As a Trainee Planner, Ewan will have the opportunity to learn from our team of experienced Planners, develop crucial skills in the planning industry, and contribute fresh perspectives to our projects. He will be based in our Chester office, integrating into our dynamic local team.

At Plan Ahead, we're committed to nurturing new talent, and Ewan's appointment reflects our dedication to growing our team with passionate individuals who share our vision. We're excited about the energy and potential Ewan brings to our organisation.

PURPLE TUESDAY RETURNS THIS NOVEMBER



A global social movement to help improve the customer experience for disabled people and their families returns on Tuesday 12th November this year.

Purple Tuesday was set up to inspire people to foster awareness, deepen understanding and implement solutions for enhanced accessibility in customer environments.

Participating organisations are dedicated to making public commitments each year to improve accessibility and practices, ensuring that disabled customers have a more inclusive and positive experience. These commitments involve initiating at least one new activity or initiative as part of the movement.

If your business would like to get involved for 2024, head over to the official website today:
<https://purpletuesday.co/>.

Please also let the BID know if you are participating as we can promote your involvement via our communication channels.

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 WEST CHESTER COMMERCIAL BID

FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

As a business based in Cheshire West and Chester, you're entitled to take advantage of a raft of free training opportunities, with topics including training, net zero, business growth.

LEARN MORE

NEW POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The BID Team recently held a productive meeting with the newly appointed **Police and Crime Commissioner, Dan Price**. A key topic of discussion was the improvement of the online crime reporting process for businesses, which is currently viewed as cumbersome and ill-suited for reporting business-related crimes. To address this, the BID team will gather feedback and present it to Dan for consideration.

THE GIFT OF HEALTH

Did you know that West Chester BID based employees and family members can get discounts through **Brio Leisure's WorkFit membership scheme**? A discounted rate of **£30** is available for a monthly membership, and if you sign up for the year you'll get two months free!

FIND OUT MORE

REPORTING FAULTS

If you would like to report a fault with Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) or Property Services, this can be done via the **CWAC website** or by emailing property.services@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

If you have not received a response please email customerservices@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

CCTV/ANPR

Representatives from Alpha **Omega Security, Onetek**, and the **BID team** met to improve CCTV system efficiency. They discussed streamlining footage reporting, expediting information delivery to security and police, and enhancing maintenance procedures. The BID team plans to introduce an app to further optimise the process.

GET IN TOUCH

For any general queries about the BID, whether as a tenant or a company looking to invest, please contact BID Manager Hugh Shields via hugh.shields@groundwork.org.uk or by calling **07921 055 039**.





Contact Us:

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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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