




WestChester

CommercialBID

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024-25



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we settle into the cold grip of January, the post-holiday slump can make it difficult to get back into the swing of things. After the festive warmth and indulgence, the chilly mornings and dark evenings make motivation a challenge for many of us. But it's also the perfect time to reflect on the achievements of the past year and look forward to the opportunities ahead.

This quarter's newsletter is brimming with inspiring stories and updates that showcase the incredible work happening across West Chester. From charity events and community impact projects to exciting business milestones, there's plenty to celebrate as we move into 2025. Here's a glimpse of what's inside:

- Community Spirit in Action:** Obsidian's Charity Coffee Morning raised **over £400** while strengthening local business connections.
- 20 Years of Excellence:** Staunton Rook reflects on two decades of innovation, with their impactful work in tourism and community giving.
- Innovating Healthcare:** Health Diagnostics leads the way in preventative healthcare, partnering with local councils and charities to promote wellness.
- Meet Your Neighbour:** Protos Networks offers invaluable cybersecurity solutions, safeguarding businesses across Chester.
- Sustainability in Action:** B&S Group Ltd makes strides in renewable energy with their impressive E-House project.
- Transform and Repair:** LS Surface Repair is redefining cost-effective furniture and surface restoration services.



This edition also includes important updates on BID-funded training courses, mental health workshops, and the Council's ambitious plans to expand electric vehicle infrastructure across the borough. These initiatives highlight the vital role our business community plays in driving progress and supporting well-being across West Chester.

I encourage you to dive into the full newsletter to discover more about these incredible efforts and opportunities. As always, thank you for your continued commitment to making West Chester a vibrant and thriving place to live and work.

Let's embrace this new year with optimism, resilience, and the shared goal of building an even stronger business community.

Yours Sincerely,

Jordi J Morell,

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

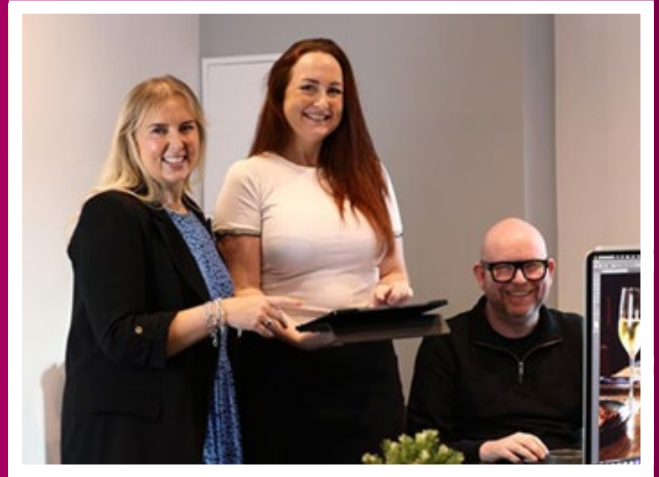


STAUNTON ROOK CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

Well done to marketing agency Staunton Rook which is celebrating 20 years in business.

The innovative company prides itself on community engagement, local development and making a meaningful difference to businesses in the region, and recently undertook an exciting project to further demonstrate its creativity and commitment to supporting initiatives on its doorstep.

This saw Staunton Rook producing new signage for the North Cheshire Rail Partnership and Cheshire West and Chester Council to promote tourism in Frodsham.



The response to the signage has been fantastic, with Cheshire West's Active Travel team now considering expanding the initiative to other locations which include the main high street.

If you would like to know more about Staunton Rook as they celebrate 20 years in business, head over to their website – www.stauntonrook.co.uk.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR: PROTOS NETWORKS

Did you know that there is an experienced network of security engineers on your doorstep who are ready to address the diverse security needs of businesses in the region?

Protos Networks offers a comprehensive range of services designed to protect and enhance digital infrastructure. These include:

- Managed security services
- Cyber security testing
- Certification support
- Information security risk assessment
- Compliance and governance support

The team also takes pride in adding value at every step for their customers whether that's integrating new solutions within existing systems or providing audit and assessment support to make sure your networks are as robust and secure as possible.



For more information on how Protos Networks could help your business, visit: www.protosnetworks.com.

Stay tuned for more 'Meet Your neighbour' features in upcoming bulletins, where we'll continue to highlight the diverse and talented businesses that make our community thrive.



B&S GROUP CONTINUES TO DELIVER INNOVATION

One of Chester's leading manufacturers, B&S Group, continues to demonstrate its expertise in innovation after its latest E-House was recently dispatched to a wind farm in Kilmarnock, Scotland.



The company's E-House solutions are ideally suited to a range of projects and are perfect for installing in segments across a range of industries including rail, renewable, data centres, energy storage, power generation, oil and gas, mining, and processing.

Three police vehicles ensured safe passage for the oversized load which further showcases Chester's contribution to renewable energy projects, and highlights the skill of the team at B&S Group as they continue to make a name for themselves in the sustainable energy sector.

Visit the B&S Group website today to learn more about the company's services.

www.bsgroupltd.com



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LS SURFACE REPAIR

Did you know that you don't always need to replace damaged surfaces and furniture?

That's because LS Surface Repair, based at Dee View, offer expert solutions for restoring surfaces to their former glory.

From minor scratches, chips, and burns, to wear and tear and damage to hard surfaces, the company's skilled technicians can handle it all, with their state-of-the-art spray booth allowing them to undertake everything from small touch-ups to complete surface refinishing projects. They also offer on-location services if you aren't in a position to take your items to their premises.

With years of industry experience and a highly-skilled team, LS Surface Repair are proud to serve a wide range of sectors and approach each project with care and attention to detail.



If you have something that needs repairing, make sure you get in touch with LS Surface Repair before you buy a replacement.

Visit their website today to find out more –

www.lssurfacerepairs.com

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: HEALTH DIAGNOSTICS

Based in The Quadrant on Sealand Road, Health Diagnostics create digital tools designed to promote healthier choices and drive outcomes in population wellbeing. Here, a spokesperson from the company explains more about their services and charity work.



At Health Diagnostics, we champion preventative healthcare as the foundation of community well-being and of a sustainable healthcare system. By identifying health risks early, and promoting proactive wellness measures, we help individuals lead longer, healthier lives – reducing the need for costly medical interventions.

We are based in Chester, and our partnership with the Cheshire Wirral Partnership (CWP) and Halton Borough Council (HBC) aims to advance population health improvements. Our innovative health check solution electronically transfers patient results to approximately 300 GP practices across Cheshire, Wirral, and Merseyside, ensuring seamless integration of preventative care data.

Together with CWP and HBC, we're building stronger, more connected communities to drive positive change where it's needed – a key priority of the new Government. This partnership exemplifies our commitment to creating measurable improvements in public health outcomes.

Beyond corporate initiatives, we actively support local health-focused charities. Of special significance is MOVE Against Cancer's '5K Your Way' (5KYW) program. 5KYW promotes physical activity during, and after, cancer treatment, through community-based 5K events. Our Project Manager, Ashley Terry, experienced the benefits during his cancer treatment, and subsequently established a local monthly event which has flourished for over two years.

Together with our partners and local charities, we are proud to contribute to a healthier, more resilient society. By empowering individuals with the tools and knowledge to take charge of their health, we believe we can create lasting change for generations to come.

Visit the Health Diagnostics website today to find out more –

www.healthdiagnostics.co.uk

COMMUNITY SPIRIT APLENTY AT OBSIDIAN'S ANNUAL CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

There was community spirit aplenty on the estate at the start of autumn last year when Obsidian hosted a successful charity coffee morning at their offices.

Taking place on Wednesday 25th September, the event provided a fantastic networking opportunity for West Chester's businesses and also managed to raise **£400 for Macmillan Cancer support**.

Attendees enjoyed coffee and conversation, while those not able to join in person were given the chance to donate via JustGiving.

Well done to all involved!



UPDATES FROM AROUND THE ESTATE

APPRENTICESHIPS

Looking to explore funding opportunities for training and development? Colin Stokes, Business Development Executive at Cheshire College - South & West's Ellesmere Port campus, can discuss potential funding options and provide detailed information about what support is available. Call **01244 656368** or **07789 288 003** to speak to him. To find out more about the college's apprenticeship program, visit:

www.ccs.ac.uk/apprenticeships

FREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Warrington and Vale Royal College is running a series of free team building & coaching/mentoring training sessions this February. Taking place Monday-Wednesday on 3rd, 4th, and 5th February, the sessions will cover communication, improving team performance, understanding change, equality & diversity, and tips for developing yourself in the role of team leader. Contact Faye Hennessey via fhennessy@wvr.ac.uk or **01925 494 283** for more information.

BID FUNDED TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The BID will be delivering a new suite of BID-funded training courses throughout 2025. To ensure we put on the courses that businesses require most this year, please let us know the type of training that you would like to see for your staff by [completing this survey](#).

If you have any questions, please email Stephanie.Leese@groundwork.org.uk.

ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS

Did you know that the BID runs a series of free mental health workshops for employees to attend? These hour-long sessions cover everything from stress or anxiety in the workplace to loneliness, grief support, and depression.

Take a look at which courses are coming up

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

The BID offers free of charge Mental Health First Aid training for employees who are looking to get trained up as their organisation's Mental Health First Aider. The course will look at raising awareness of mental health and developing an understanding on how best to support, reassure and signpost colleagues to professional support, as well as developing the knowledge, skills and confidence to actively promote positive mental health within the workplace. The training is accredited, with certificates valid for 3 years. To enquire about the next available date, please email

Stephanie.Leese@groundwork.org.uk.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Cheshire West and Chester Council has secured approval for its **£2,049,000 Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure scheme**. The project will deliver at least **800 public charging points** across the borough between 2025 and 2030, primarily supporting residents without off-street parking access. Installation will begin in Council-owned car parks before expanding to on-street locations. The scheme aims to reduce the borough's vehicle emissions while improving accessibility to EV charging.





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



Winter Issue ©West Chester 2024-25