



WestChester
CommercialBID

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

-  ENERGY AUDITS AND TRAINING
-  NEW PADEL CLUB
-  AWARDS SUCCESS FOR PROXIMO



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello and welcome to the West Chester Commercial BID autumn newsletter.

I hope you've had successful autumn so far and are set to finish the year strong. Where has 2025 gone?

As ever we have another packed edition for you to enjoy which is full to the brim with positive stories, spotlights and useful updates.

I'd like to start with a note about sustainability and the energy audits and training courses which you can read more about on page three.

We have developed a package of initiatives and events – completely free to BID members – designed to help you and your employees really tap into greener and cleaner practices and ways of working which will benefit businesses in the long run. Please do have a read and get involved where you can as it's a great opportunity.

Elsewhere, it's great to read about the success of **Padel Sheds** which has really hit the ground running since opening a couple of months ago.

Padel is proving incredibly popular right across the country, and it's brilliant for the estate to have its very own venue. I'd encourage you to go along with your colleagues for a game if you haven't already.

Onto other news and it's rewarding to see two of our businesses recognised in their respective industries for their excellent work.

I won't give too much away as you'll need to read on to find out more, but well done to both **Harlech** and **Proximo** and their hard-working teams. Seeing our companies lauded regionally and nationally highlights the sheer amount of talent we have on the estate – keep up the good work everyone!



And finally, I know some of you won't like hearing the word Christmas yet but I'm sure there are plenty of readers who'll be pleased to hear that **Deva Designs'** big Christmas shop will be back in December.

Irrespective of your views on Christmas, please do make sure you check it out when it opens. Further details can be found towards the end of the newsletter.

That's all from me for now.

Enjoy the remainder of 2025 and have a great festive period when it arrives.

Yours Sincerely,

Matthew Flack,

Chair of the West Chester Commercial BID Executive Board



WEST CHESTER BID FUNDS ENERGY AUDITS AND TRAINING FOR BUSINESSES

West Chester BID is excited to announce exclusive opportunities designed to help local businesses tackle climate change, reduce operational expenses, and empower your workforce with practical sustainability knowledge. These projects are COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE for businesses to access with the ultimate aim of saving businesses money while helping the environment.

Energy Audits

Groundwork's Energy Audit service aims to identify cost and emissions savings for businesses by conducting an in-depth, on-site energy audit followed by a detailed decarbonisation report. This report will outline a partial carbon footprint as well as feasibility studies for carbon reduction initiatives including the adoption of renewable technologies, exploring efficiency increases through behaviour change and analysis of utility data. Previous projects have included a study of solar PV systems, Air Source Heat Pumps, LED lighting and process changes. This service aims to provide businesses with practical steps to reduce utility spend and emissions.

To book a service: [Register your interest here](#)







This autumn sees the launch of the Decarbonisation Pathways study for Sealand Industrial Estate and Chester West Employment Park.

Building upon the success of previous studies for Trafford Park and Winsford Industrial Estate, Groundwork are replicating the approach to identify how businesses can increase their resilience and adapt to the challenge of rising energy costs and reducing carbon emissions. The aim of the project is to facilitate the continued development of the estate and ensure it remains capable of supporting your business growth.

Phase 1 of the project will analyse the energy consumption for the estate and analyse how potential business growth plans may affect the supply of energy onto the estate to enable planning for future infrastructure growth. Over the coming weeks, all businesses will be contacted by the project team who are seeking energy consumption information and any helpful relevant information concerning your energy ambitions, e.g. are you planning to install Solar PV.



The project team will be asking for any information you are willing to provide in confidence, concerning:

-  **12 months' energy consumption**
(eg; gas, electric, fuel oil, LPG/propane)
-  **Type of business** (eg; retail, manufacturing, business to business, etc)
-  **Sector in which your business operates**
(eg; logistics & distribution, professional services, etc)
-  **Operational shift profile**
(eg; Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, etc)
-  **Building ownership**
(eg; freehold or leasehold)
-  **Types of business waste**
(eg; plastics, wood, food, oils, etc)

A Carbon literacy course is also being delivered in the new year, see below for more information:

Carbon Literacy SME Course – 10th March, Chester HQ

This 1-day Carbon Literacy course is for SMEs and offers accredited training which aims to educate staff on the topic of climate change and leave them feeling empowered on what they can do at home and in the workplace to make a difference. Businesses that opt for Carbon Literacy training can be part of a large global movement driving climate action and culture change and can work towards becoming a Carbon Literate Organisation. A carbon literate workforce can be innovative in thinking of new solutions for carbon reduction, improving the efficiency of operations and lowering operational costs.

For more information about the energy audits or training courses, please email:
Pratyush.shukla@groundwork.org.uk
or call **07790 801 035**.

To book a service, click **HERE** to register your interest.



NEW INDOOR PADEL CLUB PROVING A HIT

A new sporting venue here on the estate has proved a hit since opening at the beginning of September.

Padel Sheds – which features four top-quality indoor courts – had over 4,000 visitors during its first month and is proving a hit with people from all over Chester and beyond.

Operating on a simple pay-and-play basis, anyone can book a court to play with friends or colleagues, and the club offers sessions for beginners as well as coaching programmes to help people get into the game.

The site also features a stylish bistro café and sports bar, perfect for unwinding after a fast-paced match or even to simply visit and enjoy the atmosphere.

“We wanted to create something special for Chester – a place where people can play, relax, and socialise,” said James Doak, Founder and CEO of Padel Sheds. ***“The response so far has been incredible. We’ve had over 4,000 visitors in our first month, from complete beginners to experienced players. It’s amazing to see how quickly people are falling in love with the game.”***

For more information and to book a court, visit:
www.padelsheds.com



HARLECH EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Harlech Foodservice, based on Sovereign Way, has received national recognition after being nominated for the LACA Outstanding Supplier of the Year award 2025.

The accolade celebrates excellence in school catering and those nominated are selected directly by LACA members highlighting the high regard in which Harlech is held by school and education caterers across Wales, the Midlands and beyond.

Harlech focus on delivering quality products at great value, all while providing a dependable service their customers can trust. This nomination is testament to the company's expertise and the hard work of their employees, and the BID would like to congratulate the business on this recognition.

You can learn more about Harlech by visiting:
www.harlech.co.uk



OBSIDIAN WELCOME SHARPEN YOUR FITNESS TO THEIR OFFICE COMMUNITY

Obsidian has welcomed a new business into its office community. Here they reveal more...



We're thrilled to welcome George Sharpe, founder of Sharpen Your Fitness, into our offices as an in-house client.

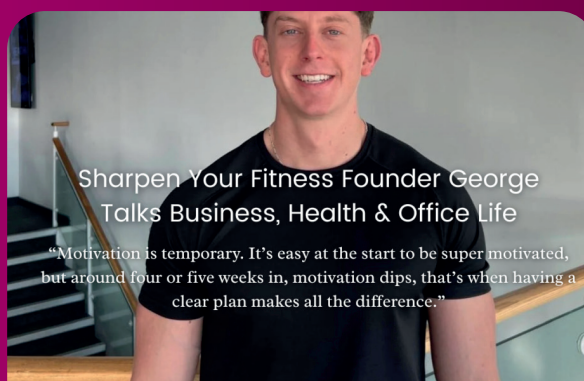
George has built an inspiring business focused on helping people make fitness a natural part of everyday life, without the unrealistic goals or extreme routines that often-put people off.

His approach is all about building strength, confidence, and habits that actually stick, whilst trying to stay active during a busy office day.

We recently had the chance to sit down with George for an engaging chat about staying healthy when most of your day is spent at a desk. He shared practical, no-nonsense tips that anyone can use right away to move more, stay focused, and feel better at work.

Check out the full interview on our blog [**HERE**](#)

We're excited to have George on board!
Visit his website now: www.sharpenyourfitness.com



PROXIMO CELEBRATES AWARDS SUCCESS

It was a successful night for the **Proximo** team at the Northern Contact Centre Awards as they were recognised for their customer service, leadership and teamwork.

First up, **Abbey Howarth** was crowned Customer Service Agent of the Year, before **Georgina Chadwick** then took home the title of Hero of the Year. Both had impressed the judges with their commitment, positivity and genuine care for customers.

The celebrations didn't stop there however as **Complete Vehicle Support** were named finalists for Frontline Team of the Year, while **Emma Burgess** also earned a finalist spot in the Customer Service Agent of the Year category.

The BID commends all at team Proximo for their fantastic work and achievements.

DESERT DYNAMO COMPLETES EPIC CHARITY CHALLENGE

Huge congratulations to **Matthew Flack**, Chair of the BID Board, who has just completed an incredible 100km trek across the Sahara Desert as part of Team Sandy!

Matt – Founder of Plan Ahead – alongside **Peter**, a Regional Planning Consultant from Liverpool, successfully completed this amazing challenge in aid of **St David's Hospice** at the beginning of November.

If you'd like to support their efforts and help them reach their fundraising target, please click the link below where you'll find more information about the trek and details of how to donate.

[DONATE HERE](#)



BIG CHRISTMAS SHOP RETURNS TO THE ESTATE

Deva Designs has announced that its popular Christmas shop is returning for the festive season and will be open to all employees across the estate.

Here's everything you need to know:



Location: Chelford Close, CH1 4NE



Opening hours: 9am-4pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-2pm on Fridays throughout December until Tuesday 23rd



Payment: Both card and cash accepted

The shop will stock wrapping paper, gift bags and other seasonal treats. Make sure you pay it a visit this festive season!



UPDATES FROM AROUND THE ESTATE

Skills bootcamps

Did you know that **Enterprise Cheshire & Warrington** provides skills bootcamps designed to help local people gain valuable, in-demand skills, and support businesses in the county to grow? Follow the link below to find out more.

[READ MORE](#)

Mental health support and contact details

24/7 support:

- **NHS 111** – Urgent Mental Health Helpline:
Press option 2 for immediate support
- **Samaritans:** 116 123
- **Cheshire East Carers Hub:** 0330 022 5448

Daytime Support:

- **Cheshire West Carers Trust:** 0300 102 0008
(Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm)

Specialist Support Lines:

- **Anxiety UK:** 03444 775 774
- **CALM** (Campaign Against Living Miserably):
0800 585 858
- **Mind:** 0300 123 3393
- **No Panic:** 0844 967 4848
- **Cruse Bereavement Support:** 0808 808 1677
- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline:** 0808 2000 247
- **Abuse Support:** 0808 2000 5000

Across Cheshire, the Involvement, Recovery, and Wellness Centre also offers an inclusive and accessible service focusing on mental wellbeing and personal recovery. Check out the below link for more information.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Useful transport information

Electric vehicle charging points, for info:

[CLICK HERE](#)

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

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





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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