



WestChester

CommercialBID

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026

PLUS:
KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR:

**FORTITUDE
GYM**

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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

The first half of 2026 has been a productive one here on the Estate and there are no signs of our businesses slowing down now that the warmer weather is here! Far from it in fact, especially when you read through the inspiring stories in this edition.

I'm always blown away by the achievements of the many companies and organisations who call West Chester Commercial BID home, and it makes me proud to play a small part in helping to drive the Estate forwards alongside you all.

Take Britannia Cestrian as an example, which has recently been involved in an international project to move a much-loved exhibition from a museum in Liverpool all the way to Canada. That must've taken some serious planning and organisation, and shows how well-respected the business is in the logistics sector.

Elsewhere, RAS Limited have been making a name for themselves with a prestigious award win, while at Plan Ahead we have been celebrating after reaching a landmark operational milestone. Well done all for continuing to put West Chester on the map!

In other news it's great to see the showroom at Living Floors back up and running with an exciting new look. A lot of hard work has gone into the refurbishment and it's never easy to keep business operations flowing smoothly while projects of that nature are being undertaken, so hats off to the team for their dedication and perseverance.



Also in this edition we shine a spotlight on Fortitude Gym which has really made a name for itself by doing things slightly differently to its competitors; there's news of an epic charity challenge over at Proximo Group; and we share details of new electric vehicle charging points which have recently launched. To say it's a jam-packed newsletter would be an understatement!

Rounding things off we have the ever-important updates section too – make sure you check it out as there's details of schemes and programmes in there which could be very beneficial to your business.

Right, that's all from me for now. Have a great summer and don't forget that your BID team is always on hand no matter your question or query.

Yours Sincerely,

Matthew Flack,

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



BRITANNIA CESTRIAN SHOWS INTERNATIONAL PROWESS



Britannia Cestrian, specialists in professional removals and storage services, have demonstrated their international transportation capabilities after helping to relocate a unique art exhibition from the North West right across the Atlantic.

The company, based at Obsidian Offices, supported with the removal and transport of an installation at the World Museum Liverpool over to Ontario in Canada.

Entitled '**Bees: A Journey of Survival**', Britannia Cestrian oversaw the whole moving process of the exhibition which included the use of bespoke shipping containers, meticulous packing techniques, and detailed logistical coordination.

The project highlights the skills and expertise of the employees at the specialist firm, showing that they can be trusted to move items and exhibits wherever their clients require them to, within reason!

To find out more about Britannia Cestrian or to enquire about a job, head over to their website via the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

RAS LIMITED WINS PRESTIGIOUS CHEMICALS NORTHWEST AWARD

There's been cause for celebration at RAS Limited after the process and technical safety consultancy scooped a prestigious title at the 2026 Chemicals Northwest awards.



The independent, woman-owned business won the **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Award**, triumphing over a number of businesses from across the region.

Operating in the engineering industry, in which on average only **15.7%** of workers are female according to Engineering UK in 2024, **65%** of the employees at RAS are women which stands in stark contrast to the sector as a whole and demonstrates the progressive, people-first culture the company fosters.

While engineering workforces across the country remain predominantly male, RAS acts as a powerful example of what is possible when an organisation puts culture, values, and people at its core.

[READ MORE ABOUT RAS LTD](#)

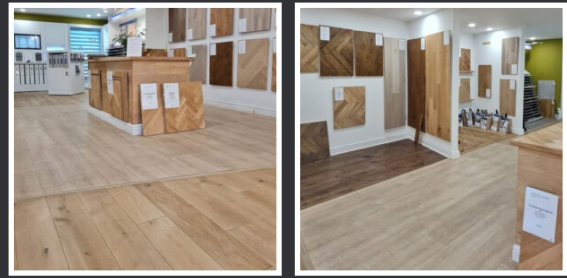


LIVING FLOORS OPENS EXCITING NEW SHOWROOM

Living Floors has entered an exciting new phase of growth after announcing the opening of its new showroom on Bumpers Lane.

The transformation has brought expanded displays, fresh inspiration and a curated selection of stunning new wood flooring collections, providing customers with a revamped visitor experience in which to explore the quality and craftsmanship of the ranges on offer.

Despite the potentially disruptive nature of the work, the Living Floors team remained fully operational throughout the renovation, handling enquiries, orders and consultations without disruption, highlighting the professionalism of the company's employees.



So whether you or someone you know is in the early stages of planning a project or is simply looking for some ideas, the newly refurbished showroom is the perfect place to visit, and the Living Floors team will be on hand to provide impartial advice and support.

Head online via the link below to browse the ranges available and to book an appointment, or visit the showroom in person to see the new space firsthand.

[BROWSE FLOORING OPTIONS](#)



PROXIMO GROUP MARATHON RUNNER RAISES VITAL FUNDS FOR CHARITY

A Proximo Group employee has raised over **£1,500** for charity after completing the London Marathon.



Tony Lewis, who works in the company's Motability Team, undertook the challenge with the aim of securing vital funds for **Pancreatic Cancer Action**, the Group's Charity of the Year.

Months of training, determination and resilience led to race day, with every mile helping to raise awareness and funds for a cause that means so much to colleagues across the business.

Tony didn't disappoint, crossing the line in a very respectable time of **5 hours, 25 minutes**, and was supported by colleagues, friends and family every step of the way.

Reflecting on the run, Tony said:



I've never felt pain like it! Every single muscle in my legs felt like they were falling off the bone! But despite that I've already thrown my name into the ballot for next year. It's amazing!



Penny Bower, Group Head of HR & Customer Experience, added:



This is an incredible achievement, not just for Tony, but for Pancreatic Cancer Action and everyone across Proximo Group. The support shown by colleagues demonstrates what can be achieved when people come together behind a cause that means so much to us, particularly as we remember one of our colleagues.



The BID would like to congratulate Tony on his fantastic achievement – well done and good luck for next year!

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR: **FORTITUDE** **GYM**



Did you know that the Estate is home to a gym that stands apart from the normal fitness hubs out there?

Knutsford Way's Fortitude Gym focuses on helping people feel better, move better and get as much as they can out of life.

It's not all about pumping iron and protein shakes, the team there take a hands-on approach with fitness, nutrition and clear goals working in harmony to deliver results.

Every age and fitness level is catered for too, and everyone is made to feel welcome whether it's their first time trying out the gym or they're a seasoned work-out fanatic.

To see how Fortitude Gym could help you, and to book a free consultation, visit the company's website via the link below.

FIND OUT MORE





PLAN AHEAD CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN BUSINESS

The Quad's Plan Ahead, a management consultancy specialising in providing planning and project controls, has reached a key milestone after celebrating 20 years in business.

What began with Matthew Flack's vision has grown into a thriving business of nearly 50 employees – a testament to the dedication and expertise of everyone who has been part of the journey.

To mark the achievement, the team and their partners enjoyed an evening of food, drinks, music and laughter at Chester Cathedral – a fitting way to celebrate.

The company has been built on culture, loyalty and togetherness, and with those principles at its heart, we're sure the future will continue to be bright.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT PLAN AHEAD](#)



PLUG IN AND POWER UP!

A brand-new InstaVolt ultra-rapid EV charging hub has arrived at Sealand Industrial Estate, located at Stokers Furniture on Bumpers Lane.

With twelve charging points on offer, it's the perfect opportunity to top up your charge while you shop, work, or pass through the Estate – making electric vehicle ownership that little bit more convenient for everyone on and around Sealand.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

INSTAVOLT



UPDATES FROM AROUND THE ESTATE

UK THREAT LEVEL

The UK National Threat Level has been increased from **Substantial to Severe**, meaning an attack is highly likely. While there is currently no intelligence to suggest any threat or risk to Cheshire, this is a reminder to businesses to be vigilant and ensure all staff know what to do if they see suspicious activity or in the event of an incident.

SECURITY ADVICE

KING'S AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE 2027

Applications for the **King's Awards for Enterprise 2027 are now open** across the five categories of Innovation, International Trade, Sustainable Development, Promoting Opportunity, and Young Founders. Winning a King's Award brings prestigious recognition and lasting value, strengthening your organisation's reputation for quality, credibility, and leadership within your industry. Follow the link below to find out more and to submit an entry.

ENTER NOW

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Have you heard about the **Made Smarter programme**? It supports manufacturing SMEs in adopting digital tools to improve efficiency and modernise operations. The programme is fully funded and offers technology advice, grant funding, leadership training, and fully funded technology internships, with no time restrictions for eligible businesses.

Grant funding typically provides up to **50% match funding**, capped at around **£20,000** per business, supporting investments such as automation and robotics, CNC machinery, cloud-based ERP systems, IoT sensors, and 3D printing technologies.

LEARN MORE

CAN YOUR BUSINESS OFFER WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES?

Jobcentre Plus is keen to work with local partners to offer work experience placements for people with little or no experience in a particular sector.

These placements are a great way to support individuals – particularly young people or those returning to work – by helping them build confidence, develop skills, and understand the routines of working life. In turn, participants can bring fresh perspectives and transferable skills to your organisation.

Suitable people will have little or no relevant work history or not have specific skills in a sector; be motivated and demonstrate a willingness to work; and be motivated to get work experience in a sector that is new to them.

Placements are flexible; can last between 1 and 8 weeks; and are open to people of all ages who are motivated to gain experience in a new field.

If your organisation could offer a work experience opportunity, please contact:

Jenny Wood (JCP)

☎ **01606 318200** or

✉ jenny.wood1@dwp.gov.uk

Tanya Veevers (Disability Employment Adviser)

✉ tanya.veevers@dwp.gov.uk





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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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