

Business News



Introduction

Welcome to the third edition of the Planning and Economy Business Newsletter.

During summer, the Council's Economic Development Team launched this year's Micro Business Grant Scheme. The scheme has proven to be successful and has so far supported 40 local businesses. More details on the scheme can be found on page two.

In line with the Economic Development Strategy 5-Year Action Plan, the team is exploring the potential for a Business Improvement District (BID) in Haywards Heath. A BID is a business led and business funded body which aims to improve the aesthetic and trading environment of its allocated area. Consultants Heartflood have been working closely with the Haywards Heath business community and have held surveys and workshops.

The outcome of Heartflood's work is being considered and if appropriate the next stage will be taken before Christmas.

Other notable activities include the progress being made with the Burgess Hill Strategic Growth Programme. In August, Lidl successfully relocated to its new store situated on Leylands Road. This is a key milestone for Burgess Hill.

In addition to Lidl's move, a second community open day took place in Burgess



Hill town held by NewRiver REIT. The open day showcased the revised plans for the Burgess Hill town centre regeneration. Details on these plans can be found on page two.

Further to the relocation of Lidl and community open day, work has begun on phase two of 'The Hub' development which will bring forward 5,000 m² of employment space for Roche Diagnostics. Construction works have begun on site and development is expected to be completed by the end of January 2020. The site will then be fitted out in summer 2020.

Finally, the draft of the Site Allocations Development Planning Document (DPD) has been produced and considered by Councillors at both the Scrutiny Committee for Housing, Planning and Economic Growth and by Full Council. The draft DPD's consultation period takes place from Wednesday 9th October until Wednesday 20th November. Further details on this document can be found on page three.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and look forward to providing exciting updates in the near future. For further information on content please contact: economicdevelopment@midsex.gov.uk

Micro Business Grants

During the summer, the Council launched the Micro Business Grant scheme which has returned for its third consecutive year.

This year the Council secured £72,000 from the West Sussex Local Enterprise and Apprenticeship Platform. Grants of up to £2,000 was offered on a 50 per cent match-funding basis to small businesses throughout the District. In addition to grants for new projects, a further £1,500 was made available to support the costs of recruiting an apprentice.

The scheme has so far attracted over £100,000 in match funding and received 43 applications. Of the 43 received, 40 have now been approved. In addition to project grants, the scheme has supported 5 businesses with apprenticeship grants.

Successful applicants share their stories:

Gary Nation, Company Director at Active 1st, who provide sports activities for young people, said:

“Active 1st are delighted to have received a grant from Mid Sussex District Council. It will make such a difference by enabling us to have a safe and state of the art facility which will enable us to attract and coach lots of budding gymnastic stars of the future. The grant will be spent on new gymnastic equipment and a much need renovation of the business space.”

Hannah Miall, Owner at Miall’s, suppliers of specialist artisan sorbets said: “I applied to the Micro Business Grant Scheme and requested a grant to support the costs of purchasing new equipment which will enable the safe transportation of my products.

Following the award of the grant, my business has achieved significant growth with the freezer making a real difference. I have been able to deliver my largest order and offered new opportunities which I would have had to turn down before receiving the grant. Thanks so much to Mid Sussex District Council for this amazing opportunity to grow my business!”

Burgess Hill Town Centre Regeneration

During the summer, NewRiver REIT held their second community open day to showcase revised plans for the regeneration project for Burgess Hill town centre.

The plans detail a mixed and improved offer at the town centre, featuring the combination of retail, leisure and residential facilities. This will include 25,000m² of commercial space, 171 residential units, a 63-bed Travelodge hotel, a 10-screen Cineworld cinema, a 16-lane Hollywood Bowl, as well as a new purpose-built library.

The revised application has been submitted and a planning decision will be made by the end of the year. To view further images of the regeneration plans: www.burgesshill.net



Site Allocations DPD

The Council's draft Site Allocations Development Planning Document (DPD) has been published for consultation as part of the commitment to meet the District's housing and employment needs up to 2031.

Alongside 22 housing sites, the document recommends allocation of seven new employment sites, totalling approximately 17.5 hectares. The allocations are for a mix of B1: Office, B2: General Industrial and B8: Storage and Distribution, and are spread across the district.

In addition to this, the document allocates land for a Science and Technology Park which has been proposed as part of the Burgess Hill Strategic Growth Programme. This 50 hectare site would accommodate a minimum of 2,500 jobs in high-tech and high-growth industries.

The Science and Technology park has been proposed north of the A2300 and will tie in with the wider connectivity improvement works which are due to come forward as part of the Place and Connectivity programme and A2300 widening project.

Following both the Scrutiny Committee and Full Council meeting, a six-week public consultation will take place on the document and will commence from the 9th October 2019.

To view the consultation draft Sites DPD and associated documents, including an update to the employment evidence base and how the sites were chosen (Site Selection Paper 4: Employment) www.midsussex.gov.uk/SitesDPD



Get ready for Brexit

Several workshops are being offered by the Department for International Trade (DIT) and Sussex Chamber of Commerce to support businesses in preparing for Brexit.

All workshop dates can be found here, however for businesses locally the closest workshops and dates are listed below.

Sussex Chamber of Commerce – Business Brexit Awareness Boot Camps

[14 October - East Sussex National, Uckfield. 3.00-5.30pm](#)

[21 October – Freedom Works, Manor Royal. 2:00-5:00pm](#)

[29 October – The Mercure, Brighton. 2:00-5:00pm](#)



Free Workplace Wellbeing MOTs

As part of a national drive to improve Health and Wellbeing in the workplace, the Wellbeing Team at Mid Sussex District Council are offering local employers the chance to support their employees by offering to come to your premises to carry out Wellbeing MOTs for you and your staff.

An unhealthy and unhappy workforce can be costly. Each year 140 million working days are lost to sickness absence in the UK, costing UK businesses an estimated £29 billion.

How can we help?

The Wellbeing MOTs are a great way for your staff to learn more about their health and ask any lifestyle questions of our qualified health advisors.

The MOT takes about 30 minutes and includes the following :-

- Weight and Body Mass Index
- Body fat % and Visceral fat % (Fat around the major organs)
- Bone mass and Muscle mass
- Hydration
- Biomedical age assessment
- A full print out of your personal results and measurements
- Discussion with a qualified advisor on your results and general healthcare

Please visit our [website](#) for testimonials, to access our promotional video and for further information.

To book either a healthy talk or to arrange a date for the free staff Wellbeing MOTs for your Workplace please contact Jan Lavis (Wellbeing Advisor)

janet.lavis@midsussex.gov.uk or telephone 01444 477362

mid sussex wellbeing

Looking to join a community of businesses?

Mid Sussex benefits from successful business associations. With our three key towns supported, joining couldn't be easier.

Please visit your respective town's association website to see how you can join now;

Haywards Heath – <https://hhba.co.uk/>

Burgess Hill - <https://www.bhbpa.co.uk/>

East Grinstead - <https://egba.co.uk/>



Burgess Hill
BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

EGBA | EAST GRINSTEAD
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

CONNECTING & SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

Business events

Events supporting businesses are taking place in the oncoming months. Please click the event of interest for further information;

16th October - Sponsored Networking Drinks with Haywards Heath Business Association

14th October - Networking Drinks with East Grinstead Business Association