

Business News



Introduction

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

As we enter a new financial year, we would like to reflect on all the important activities the Planning and Economy Team have been working on over the last year.

The Team successfully launched the Economic Development Strategy last June. Following its launch, more promotional activities have been taking place throughout the District to promote the strategy and its priority themes. Events include our annual 'Open4Business' event held in March and hosted at the former Hayward's Heath College site. The event attracted over 120 delegates on the day, including a variety of local, national and international businesses. More details on this event can be found on page two.

Other activities that have taken place over the last year include the launch of the second year of the Micro Business Grant Scheme. Approximately £72,000 was awarded to 40

businesses over the last year. The funding supported a wide range of business growth activities for small businesses in Mid Sussex. We are delighted to announce the return of the Micro Business Grant scheme for this year. More details can be found on page two.

In line with the Corporate Plans objective to deliver sustainable economic growth, the last year has seen developments in our three main towns Burgess Hill, Hayward's Heath and East Grinstead, as follows:

- In Burgess Hill, the new Lidl site in has been under development over the last few months. The store is situated on the former gas holder site on Leyland's Road and will provide a new modern retail space for local residents.
- On 'The Hub' employment site, Phase one of the employment site has been completed and has delivered a new 4,000m² warehousing facility for DPD. Planning permission has been approved for phase two of the development and will deliver over 5,000m² of employment space for Roche Diagnostics.

For further information on projects in Burgess Hill and the Burgess Hill Growth Programme, please visit: www.burgesshill.net



- In Hayward's Heath, work is underway on Perrymount Road to develop new residential and commercial space. The development will include 145 new residential units (30 per cent of which are affordable) with commercial floor space and new car parking facilities.

In autumn 2018, the site of the former Perrymount House was demolished to make way for the development of a new 78 bed Premier Inn hotel. The hotel presents a great opportunity to invite business visitors into Mid Sussex by offering well located accommodation with a variety of shops, restaurants and travel in one location.

- Development is also well underway on the £24 million investment to redevelop the former Martells building on Queens Walk, East Grinstead. Works on this development are now at an advanced stage, with the application for phase two of the redevelopment approved in December. Phase two will provide shops, residential apartments, cycle storage and amenity space.

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@midsussex.gov.uk

Open4Business: Skills and Apprenticeships Success



On 14 March 2019, the Council hosted its annual Open4Business event. This year's theme was 'skills and apprenticeships' and was held at the former Haywards Heath 6th form college site on Harlands Road.

The event offered an exhibition, speaker programme and featured a popup student café, managed by students and staff at Crawley College. The speaker programme included a variety of talks from expert speakers, many of whom were local businesses or enterprises. Topics included busting myths about apprenticeships, the importance of STEM skills, meeting the skills challenge, and much more.

Open4Business also gave the Chichester College Group an opportunity to discuss their plans to re-open the college to offer post-16 provision in Mid Sussex. This provision will offer a variety of further educational pathways including; A-Levels, T-Levels, Apprenticeships and the opportunity to progress into Higher Education. The proposed opening is September 2020, with much work underway to meet this target.

For further information on what took place at Open4Business, please see the [website](#).

We would like to thank everyone who supported this year's event and look forward to hosting similar events in the near future.

Micro Business Grants

Micro Business grants are returning for the third consecutive year. Building on the success of previous years, funding has been secured for business grants that aim to support small local businesses in their growth and development.

This year the Council has again been awarded £72,000 from the West Sussex Local Enterprise and Apprenticeship Platform.

Grants of up to £2,000 are available 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 is available to support the costs of hiring an apprentice.

Bids will be assessed against four key criteria and to be eligible for the scheme, bids must demonstrate that the project will result in one or more of the following:

- Creating new sustainable employment, this can include recruiting an apprentice
- The development of new business lines
- Creating a wider customer base
- Delivering wider community benefits.

The step-by-step application process is as follows:

Step 1	Businesses submit applications. Officers may request further information if needed
Step 2	An officer will undertake a due diligence review of your business to ensure it meets the eligibility criteria
Step 3	Officers will make a recommendation to the Council's Cabinet Grants Panel who will make a decision on your application

For further information on the scheme and where to apply, please visit our [website](#)



Independent Retailers' Training Scheme

In 2018 the Council launched the Independent Retailers' Training Scheme. The scheme offered independent retailers throughout the district an opportunity to attend workshops dedicated to developing skills as a high street retailer and improving business. The scheme was very successful and offered training opportunities for independent retailers in Mid Sussex.

Workshops covered a range of subjects, including visual merchandising, retail marketing, sales, customer service, inventory and stock management.

Retailers who completed at least one workshop were then eligible to receive one to one sessions from training partner, Martec International. The scheme delivered 6 workshops from November 2018 and welcomed 49 attendees into training.

In addition to the workshops, twenty one-to-one sessions were conducted with retailers interested in understanding where they can develop from a personal business perspective.

Feedback from retailers included:

"We were taking an average of £600 to £700 a day... Then, after the Martec workshop this week we had sales of £2,000 the next day! We'd almost tripled our previous daily takings."

– **Tom, Tina Bucknell Fashion, Burgess Hill**

"I must say that I thought the training was very helpful, and I hope that I will be able to attend the remaining sessions. It's great that the local council is supporting an initiative such as this."

– **Charlie, Fine Baps Haywards Heath**

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 Nick Hurley (Wellbeing Team Leader) nick.hurley@midsussex.gov.uk or telephone 01444 477047



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;

Hayward's 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;

10 June – [Sponsored Networking Drinks with EGBA](#)

25 June – [Sponsored Networking Drinks with Hayward's Heath Business Association](#)

21 August – [Summer Party with HHBA, BHBPA and EGBA](#)