

Photo by Annie Spratt on Unsplash

Burgess Hill

BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year. Just as the tail end of 2020 saw the global pandemic's second wave scarily gathering pace, so we also received some tangible reasons for positivity about 2021.

First, was the commencement of the UK's vaccination programme, including the approval of the Oxford/AstraZeneca jab, and second was the ratification of the UK/EU trade deal. Back in March there was good reason to believe neither would be achieved by year end, yet they both have been!

Now that we are in national lockdown, there's huge interest and considerable anxiety about the timings for vaccinations and the longed for easing of restrictions.

These two things are likely to be quite some weeks and months away from even partial delivery. Transparency around planning is vital as businesses and families need to know ASAP when the local GP practices will be up and running with dispensing Covid-19 vaccine jabs in Burgess Hill.

To that end, a couple of sources for updates are MP Mims Davies' website and her Facebook page.

[Mims Davies website...](#)

[Mims Davies FaceBook page...](#)



Photo by Daniel Schludi on Unsplash

As to Brexit, news and materials continue to flow out of Government to help ensure businesses are compliant with new regulations – some are referenced in this newsletter.

Across the pond Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have (finally) been officially certified by Congress as the next president and vice president of the United States. If we'd thought the divisiveness of US politics had been toxic last year, 2021 has already topped that in a very ugly way!

In the UK and locally here in Mid Sussex the Government and the local authorities are striving

to support businesses with various grants.



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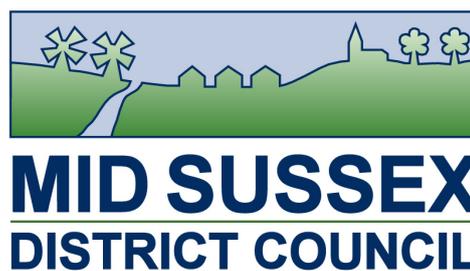
UK
BROKER
AWARDS
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MSDC Grants Available

Understanding what grants are available has become rather overwhelming and difficult to keep up with. So use the link for slightly more information.

In summary there are:

- Additional Restriction Discretionary
- Lockdown Restriction Grants
- Covid-19 Recovery Grants



[More information on current grants...](#)

Additional Restriction Discretionary Grants are available to all businesses. For example Businesses operating from home or from a rateable or non-rateable property, where income has been significantly reduced due to the current pandemic can obtain assistance with ongoing business expenditure. Business expenditure can include rent, insurances, business loans, utilities and vehicle cost. We will include an allowance for working from a home office and home storage (business use) where appropriate. The Additional Restriction Discretionary Grant is open now. Businesses can apply for multiple schemes. Applications are through

<https://midsussex.grantapproval.co.uk/>

Lockdown Restriction Grants are specifically for Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Industry while **COVID-19 Recovery Grants** is funding available for businesses with projects primarily to support recovery and growth activities.

If you have any enquiries, please contact us at businesssupport@midsussex.gov.uk.

Understanding how previous grants were used

You may have received a request to complete an online MSDC survey, regarding the gathering of feedback about how businesses used previous grants funds during the pandemic. If yours was one of those businesses, here's the link again:

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/forms/?form=39484&w=1>

The closing date is currently 11th January 2021, although we're told this might be extended a little.

Mid Sussex Site Allocations submitted

MSDC has formally submitted its Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and the accompanying documents to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The submission will now be subject to an independent public examination by a planning inspector. As part of this examination process the Planning Inspector will hold public hearings, anticipated to be held in Winter-Spring 2021. Once confirmed, all details relating to the examination process will be advertised, made available online and sent to those people who asked to be notified of the examination.

For more information: <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/development-plan-documents/site-allocations-dpd-evidence-library/>

Should people have any queries relating to the Site Allocations DPD, they can contact the Planning Policy Team by e-mail planningpolicy@midsussex.gov.uk.

If members feel the Association should collect and channel questions on behalf of the Membership please let us have your thoughts.

UK New Start / Brexit Stuff

Some BHBPA exporters have been asking for information about what is known as "*Long Term Manufacturer Supplier Declarations*". The best suggestion to date is to consult the Gov.uk website

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-a-suppliers-declaration-to-support-a-proof-of-origin#types-of-suppliers-declarations>

Other headline points businesses may benefit from being aware of include:

- **'Notice to exporters 2020/21'** provides updates about open general licences. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notice-to-exporters-202021-open-general-licences-updated>
 - **Hauliers heading for France** strongly urged to get Covid-19 tested before travelling to ports and reminded get their **Kent Access Permit** as well as being familiar with and following the correct Covid Protocol rules when travelling. [gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-hgv-operators-and-drivers-crossing-an-international-border](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-hgv-operators-and-drivers-crossing-an-international-border)
 - Clarification on HGV and trailer documents for international haulage is available: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vehicle-documents-required-for-international-road-haulage#mot-extension>
 - And information about **Driver Qualification Card (DQC)** arrangements are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-temporary-changes-to-driver-cpc-requirements>
 - Lastly, you may also wish to consult: <https://www.bhbpa.co.uk/news/>
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Brexit Transition Materials for Small Businesses

Now the UK/ EU Free Trade Agreement is in place, there are new rules for business with effect from 1st January 2021 which require immediate action. Failure to comply with the new rules could risk interruptions to business operations.



The Government has provided details of actions that it says must be undertaken to ensure compliance – there's a Part A and B.

- Part A provides an overview of key actions for businesses by topic as well as supporting guidance, helpline numbers and FAQs.
- Part B lists the top five actions for businesses in each of the following sectors: aerospace, automotive, chemicals, construction, consumer goods, electronics and machinery, life sciences, metals and materials, professional business services and retail.

As previously reported, there is also the checker at [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) – a tool to quickly identify the actions that any business needs to take.

Businesses can also sign up for other support measures via [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) - including newsletter and webinars. For more go to: <https://www.bhbpa.co.uk/news/>



Gatwick Diamond Youth Hub Digital Employer Launch

Wednesday 3 February
11.30am-12 noon

Come and join us to find out more!

Help us to create opportunities which will support our young people to:

- Fill the future skills gaps
- Drive the local economy and shape the future workforce
- Bring innovation to the workplace.

To register your interest please visit:
www.eventbrite.com/e/gatwick-diamond-youth-hubs-launch-event-tickets-13382482659



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As we all know young people are disproportionately impacted during periods of economic stress, so please look into the new Youth Hub for employers and sign up for the launch event on February 3rd.

[Register on Eventbrite...](#)

Association News

Members received a members-only bulletin earlier this week confirming the date of the AGM and a link for registration.

We are very keen to hear from members who are potentially interested in filling one of the several roles on either the Board or the Steering Committee. Do read about the roles and think about how you or a rising star in your business might contribute.

The deadline for expressions of interest is 13th January 2021.



<https://www.bhbpa.co.uk/2020/12/17/bhbpa-board-steering-committee-roles/>

Invoices will be issued quite soon for 2021 membership fees. At the same time, we will be asking members to confirm their approval of the updated Articles of Association following the new Constitution agreed in November. This is a legal requirement but will not be an onerous task we promise!

Website update and request for testimonials

Our new BHBPA website is coming along quite nicely in the background and we hope to launch it towards the end of January, as soon after the AGM as possible.

We really could do with some fresh testimonials from members. Admittedly, 2020 was a horrible year for normal activities as an association, but hopefully there were still some positives that you'd be happy to share and comment on in the form of a short testimonial.

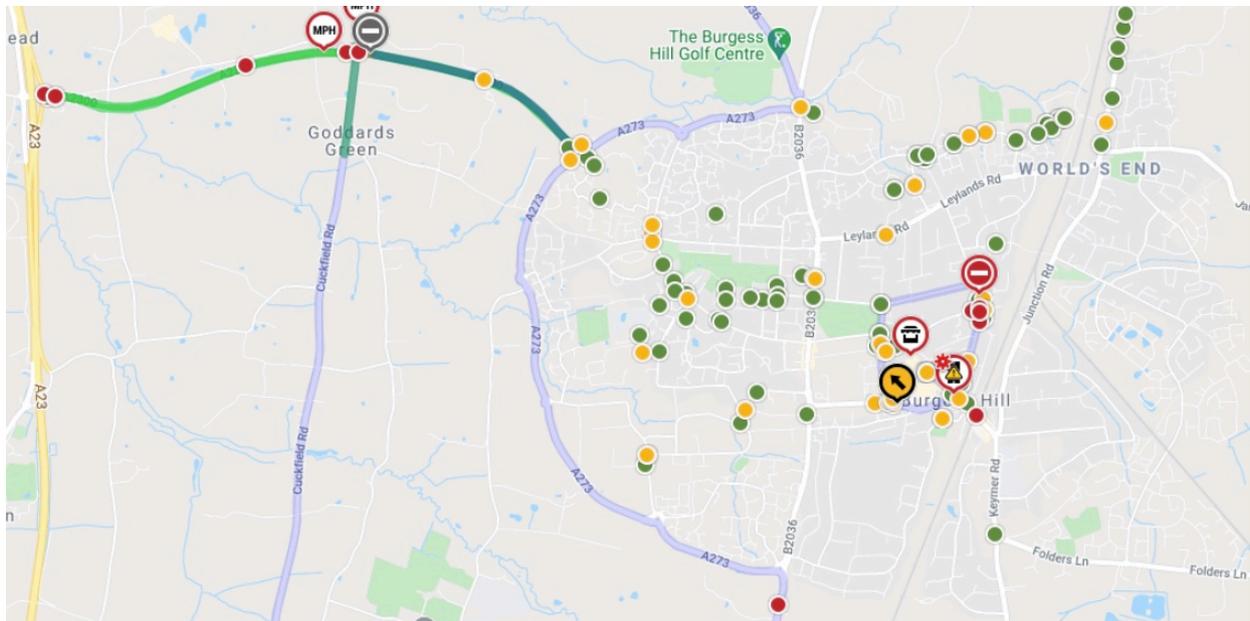
We could also do with more images of Burgess Hill and where you work so that the website feels 'like home'. Please do let us have some photographs of your location or your teams or indeed anything else that represents the essence of business in Burgess Hill from your point of view.

Testimonials and images to martyn@bhbpa.co.uk

Roadworks next week

Not a lot of 'red dot' roadworks for next week, but many many 'green dot' sites - explained below.

Thanks to Southern Gas Networks we received an update about the long-running gas related roadworks affecting Mill Road. Apparently, engineers working on the site discovered a leak on the old gas main requiring the full closure of Mill Road for safety reasons. All being well, the expectation is that the full road closure will end on the 15th with the whole works to be fully completed by Wednesday 27th January – the original date.



From	To	Road	Traffic Control
5th Nov	27th	Ongoing - Mill Road & Crescent Road	Multi Way Lights
7th Dec	15th	Ongoing – Mill Road	Road Closure
4th	15th	Keymer Road	2 Way Lights
14th	18th	London Road, Hassocks	2 Way Lights

NB: The large number of 'green' roadworks relate to laying fibre for broadband.

Community Highway Scheme

There's no update as such on the CHS applications, suffice to say the meeting planned for the Monday before Xmas was postponed due to torrential rain on the day and Covid restrictions.

gdb News

Jonathan Sharrock, Chief Executive of Coast to Capital LEP, is due to deliver an update at gdb's 'Ask the Expert' event on 13th January, from 10.00-11.00. Jonathan is heavily involved in leading the strategic and operational response to the economic impact of COVID-19 on our regional economy.

To book your place (free for gdb members or £10 ex VAT for non members) use the Event Brite link.

gdb have also issued their latest e magazine - see the link.

[Event brite registration...](#)

[gdb's e-magazine...](#)



Fundraising Boost for Sussex Charities

Charities across Sussex have received a boost to their income, thanks to the work of a local charitable foundation founded by chartered accountants MHA Carpenter Box. As we know, many charities and voluntary organisations have faced fundraising challenges in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, so the support provided by the Sussex-based firm, which has offices in Worthing, Brighton, Gatwick and Chichester, is particularly welcome at this time.

Among the charities to receive a share of £10,000 raised this year through the foundation are the West Sussex Mediation Services, Sussex Community Foundation Crisis Fund, Turning Tides, Crawley Open House, Circus Starr's Winter Tour, Care for Veterans and the Down Syndrome Development Trust. The foundation has also continued its support for Lizzie Williams, a Worthing-based wheelchair athlete.

Robin Evans, Partner and Head of Charities, Not-for-Profit & Academies at MHA Carpenter Box, commented: *"These are difficult times for everyone, so we are very proud of the way that our people have rallied round to help local grassroots organisations meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable members of society. In total, the foundation has now raised £230,000 for local good causes since it was formed."*



MHA Carpenter Box was one of the first businesses in Sussex to set up a charitable arm with a focus on supporting smaller local organisations that often find it difficult to raise funds. The foundation is run by staff and partner trustees, who together decide on donations and grants.



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Congratulations to BHBPA members...



[More information...](#)

First of all congratulations to our friends at PVL UK Ltd who won the "*Community Investment Business of the Year*" award at the prestigious Gatwick Diamond Business Awards 2020.

And congratulations also go to our friends at Ridgeview who have been awarded "*Sussex Success Story of the Year for 2020*".

THE Virtual Business Awards
SUSSEX
CONGRATULATIONS
SUSSEX SUCCESS STORY
AWARD WINNER 2020
Ridgeview Wine Estate

RIDGEVIEW
WINE ESTATE

**Congratulations to the team at Ridgeview.
WINNERS OF THE SUSSEX SUCCESS STORY AWARD**

Flexibility Matters announces webinar series for Q1

A series of webinars about work readiness and working smart have been announced by our friends at Flexibility Matters for the start of 2021. For more details go to: <https://www.flexibilitymatters.co.uk/events-and-trainings/>



Here's a thought...

Let St Peter & St James Hospice whisk you away on a virtual trip to paradise and join in on a virtual bike ride this February. Pedal the equivalent distance of the Mauritius (177km) or Mauritius and Reunion coastlines (384km) over 28 days and help us provide expert and compassionate hospice care to families in the local area.

They will send you a virtual boarding pass and an update each week letting you know where on the island you would be. Experience paradise from the safety of your own home and, better still, no packing a suitcase, no expensive airport parking and no cramped airline seats, all we ask is that you try and raise £80 for St Peter & St James Hospice.

Don't have a bike? Why not take on the challenge on foot and walk or run your way around the island? Either follow the link or call 01444 470208 for more information.

[More information...](#)

Closing Remarks

Whenever I down tools for a few weeks and don't produce a newsletter, the first one after the break is a bumper edition. I hope there was something in here for you.

As I finish these Closing Remarks I have just watched the Prime Minister, Sir Simon Stevens, Head of the NHS in England and Brigadier Phil Prosser lead on Thursday's Covid-19 Briefing from No. 10. No doubt different people will have different views, but I have to say I thought they were very impressive in their collective stepping up to the massive challenge that lies ahead with an air of confidence amid recognition of much risk and uncertainty. I like a good plan - it builds confidence, and more optimism albeit no room for complacency.

Have a good and very safe weekend.

Questions, comments or contributions to share? Please email martyn@bhbp.co.uk

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