

# Burgess Hill

## BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

The extremely encouraging news continued this week with regards the UK Covid-19 vaccination programme. Phenomenally well done to all involved! Hopefully all your 70 year old loved ones are now scheduled to either receive their first jab or have had it already.

Mims Davies website carries the latest updates that I am aware of for our district.

Mims Davies MP re Vaccinations in Mid Sussex

### Meet our new Chairperson

*"Hello, I am Mark Jackson and I'm honoured to have been elected as chairman of the Burgess Hill Business Parks Association board of directors at the AGM last month and I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself plus share my thoughts on how the BHBPA can best help our membership as well as the broader community.*



*HPC plc have been active members of the BHBPA for many years, and since joining HPC in early 2016 I have been actively involved in a number of events and focus groups all with the aim of encouraging the sharing of knowledge and helping other businesses.*

*In recent months I played a part in bringing together the group focused on the Brexit preparedness, working to support businesses with their transition plans and processes as well as our own at HPC.*

*I believe that the BHBPA offers a really valuable service to its members and the wider community by offering such support to local businesses on local business matters.*

*This has to include lobbying and influencing governmental policy makers to sustain and enhance Burgess Hill as a business-friendly location. The BHBPA needs to be an effective conduit between its members, our local authorities and MP, as we all seek positive outcomes*

from local and national initiatives.

*I look forward to working closely with the other Board directors and the new Steering Committee so as to support our common business needs, while making a positive impact on our local community.*

*I am also very keen that we nurture an inclusive attitude and want to see more members actively involved, and as both Susan Fleet and Martyn Carr said at the AGM, we are particularly keen to have more women leaders represented in what we do.*

*I look forward to meeting all our members and working together - albeit on screen for now!"*




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## New Website for BHBPA

Hurrah, our new website is now live – thanks ever so much to Wes Earp and the team at Preview for supporting us through the development stages and with the cutover which took place on Wednesday.

A key objective for the website is to showcase Burgess Hill as the business-friendly place it is, so please take a good look around - [www.bhbpa.co.uk](http://www.bhbpa.co.uk)

Of course, our Association is a wonderfully eclectic mix of businesses, from very small to huge, and we now have three new regular features on the website in order to celebrate successes from wherever they hail.

If you look halfway down the homepage, you'll find the features: **Meet the Locals, Innovation and Uplifting stories** – hover your computer's mouse over the images for each to either watch the video or read more.

Our first **Meet the Locals** interview is Martyn talking to Steve Willis of Steve Willis Training Centres based on the Sheddingdean Business Park. We hope you enjoy the video of our conversation, and if you want to nominate a local leader that you'd like to hear from on **Meet the Locals** please let us know - [martyn@bhbpa.co.uk](mailto:martyn@bhbpa.co.uk)

The second feature focuses on **Innovation** – the life blood of any dynamic business. Our first story is with Jenny Weller of Rapid Results PT who has combined new technology, new partnerships and fun in her quest for staying ahead.

In a week where we lost Captain Sir Tom Moore, we were reminded that many people do do some amazing things to help others. Unfortunately, these acts of kindness can sometimes go unnoticed, and yet knowing about them can inspire us. So, the third of our regular features is about sharing **Uplifting stories** with our first such story looking at the fabulous work of

BHBPA member Community Transport Sussex, better known locally as Bluebird.

We hope you like the new website. It's certainly cleaner, crisper and at last we can leave those awful grainy graphics behind us. New members can now apply on-line and old editions of the newsletter are easily accessible for at least several months. Constructive feedback and suggestions as always gratefully received.

Remember let us know if you have something to feature - [martyn@bhbpa.co.uk](mailto:martyn@bhbpa.co.uk)

## Events

Following the imposition of lockdown restrictions in 2020 and their continuation at the start of 2021, there are now glimmers of hope that these will progressively be eased as the vaccination programme unfolds.

So a team involving Emily Darnell, PVL, Steve Powell, Fresh Display and Martyn are now in the process of planning our BHBPA events for the year – albeit with a fair degree of uncertainty still.

Some early items are already posted on the Events page of the website, many of which are virtual events organised by the Sussex Chamber of Commerce. That's because our members are able to attend the Chamber's events at members' rates, and clearly some of the topics should be of interest to BHBPA businesses.

We would particularly draw readers attention to the new joint Chamber event on 24th March which offers networking across all Sussex Affiliated Chambers and Business Associations. You can register for this via either the Sussex Chambers own website or our website as if it were a BHBPA event, and we will pass your interest on to Sussex Chamber.



Photo by Olya Kobruseva from Pexels



## International Women's Day

Another event we would draw to your attention is planned for **Monday 8th March** - which is International Women's Day. This BHBPA event is in the process of being developed, but the gist of it is to hear from some of our local 'leading-light' women leaders to discuss how they have achieved what they have and their experiences, tips and learnings on how to challenge.

We hope this event may appeal to a fairly wide audience, especially people who may find themselves lacking a bit of self confidence at times or knowing how to challenge themselves and others. Do feel free to sign up, even if you are not a BHBPA member, and we'll do our best to be accommodating.

And finally, just so you know, we are also working with our friends at gdb to support a networking event that encompasses all the main local business associations with the likely date being 20th April. More to follow.

BHBPA Events

## Brexit follow-up

In the wake of the difficulties some freight movements were experiencing in January, we posed several questions to government, via Mims Davies our MP:

- Why are major international hauliers seemingly unaware of the grace period provision, and what is the Government doing to get this matter resolved?
- What is being done to resolve the problem of not having a fit for purpose Import and Export Control System, and when is any new system expected to be ready for use?
- Does the Government agree we need an Import/Export system metrics dashboard, if it doesn't already exist, so that ministers can identify problems and ensure corrective actions are being taken quickly?

Mims has, perfectly understandably, arranged for our enquiry to be passed on to the Department of International Trade to be flagged with their ministerial team. We expect to hear more once the relevant Minister has responded, probably in 6-8 weeks or so.

On the overall subject of information for importers and exporters there has been a veritable rush of materials and support details sent to us which is posted on our website.

[Information from HMRC...](#)

[Sussex Chambers of Commerce...](#)

[Post Transition Support from C2C...](#)

## Roads

Earlier this week Nick Broom, the Victoria Business Park rep on our new Steering Committee and Martyn met with WSCC Highways and Cllr. Andrew Barrett-Miles to discuss the Community Highway Scheme and Traffic Regulation Orders that we submitted towards the end of November. In summary there's some slightly encouraging news and some disappointing – albeit not altogether surprising – news!

The slightly encouraging news is that we are going to resubmit the TROs as 'yellow line only' requests at the same allotted sections of road but now as one rather four separate submissions. Doing this plus a tweak on how we present the design should, we believe, not get blocked albeit implementation will probably have to be funded by ourselves somehow, and it will probably take 18 months elapse in order to jump through all the procedural hoops.

The disappointing news is that the more expensive capital intensive CHSs are also unlikely to attract public funding. Which raises the fundamental question of how on earth our road network is ever going to be adequately maintained? Clearly the roads are appalling right now and it doesn't look like the CHS option will do any of the heavy lifting for us!

## HMRC Talking Points and Self Assessment

If you want to access the HMRC's latest talking points, follow the link.

As always, more information is available on GOV.UK.

[More information...](#)

[HM Government...](#)



## MSDC

This week we had a very useful and wide-ranging discussion with Sally Blomfield, Divisional Leader for Planning and Economy at MSDC along with members of her team.

There were a number of important points that came out of the meeting for BHBPA members to be aware of.



First of all, Sally confirmed that the Council is committed to preparing a new Sustainable Economic Strategy for the district the aim of which is to set Mid Sussex's direction towards a green recovery and to bring together the crucial workstreams of sustainability and economic development.

Second, we have agreed with Sally to meet her and her team on a quarterly basis commencing in April. This will hopefully coincide with the regular meetings being arranged for our Steering Committee.

And lastly, we will be collaborating with Sally on agreeing a common set of expectations of each other for inclusion in an SLA in support of the annual grant we expect to receive from MSDC in the new financial year.

[Link to MSDC business grants page...](#)



## C2C: Skills News & Resources

Further to the webinar held in December to launch C2C's Skills Strategy and Action Plan, there was a commitment to follow up with answers to any questions that weren't addressed during the session. The Q&A document is now available via C2C's website in the pink 'Related Resources' section.

[Coast to Capital Skills News & Resources...](#)

## Warehouse still needed

Our friends at St Peter & St James' hospice

are still looking for a unit with offices and a distribution centre capability.

The warehouse will be for the hospice's retail donations for their shops, the upcycling of furniture and their online retail team of about 20 people.

There is a budget to fund the right place.

The team thought they'd found the perfect solution but that opportunity has gone.



## St Peter & St James Hospice

*Hospice care in the heart of Sussex*

If you can help please contact Emily Cronin,  
Head of Trading at St Peter & St James  
Hospice on:

[ecronin@stpjhospice.org](mailto:ecronin@stpjhospice.org)

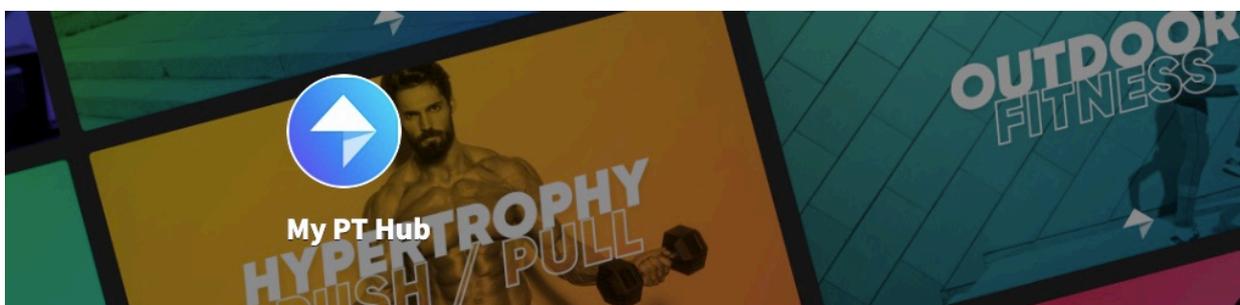



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## Is this of interest - Member to Member offers?

Several people have raised the idea of promoting Member-to-Member offers, not only between members of the BHBPA but across the Mid Sussex Business Associations – including our friends at East Grinstead and Haywards Heath Business Associations.

If this idea positively has appeal, or not as the case may be, do let us know your sentiments –  
[martyn@bhbp.co.uk](mailto:martyn@bhbp.co.uk)



## Careers Video for Local School

As previously reported Linda Dorgan, careers leader at Burgess Hill Academy wanted help

from a local company in order to bring real life into examples about product development so as to inspire her Year 11 students.

Our thanks to the team at MyPTHub for responding to the challenge and offering to at least explore some ideas with Linda.

BHBPA member MyPTHub is the developer of a leading business app used by many thousands of Personal Trainers across the world, as well as our very own Jenny Weller and her team at Rapid Results Personal Training.

MyPTHub...

## Can you help?

We were approached by a recruitment agent thinking that a job vacancy posted on Linked-in was for BHBPA - which it isn't. Can anyone shed any light on who this link belongs to?

Whose Linked-in link?



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## Closing Remarks

It has been another full-on week, mainly getting the new website launched on top of my normal activities. It is great to have the website out there as I believe it will give us a really good platform to develop new services and capabilities.

I am also very pleased to say we are virtually at the 75% "Confirmed" threshold so that we are able to proceed with registering the updated Articles of Association as discussed at the AGM - although there may be just a few replies to still round up. And if you want any bedtime reading, the AGM minutes and updated Constitution have been posted on to the About page of the website.

Hopefully the Covid-19 vaccination rollout will continue to hurtle along and will arrive at the over 60s age group very soon – sorry if I am being a bit selfish. The whole programme seems to be being a stunning success so far.

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend.

Questions, comments or contributions to share? Please email [martyn@bhbp.co.uk](mailto:martyn@bhbp.co.uk)

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*BHBPA Ltd. c/o Lea Graham Associates  
Hillcrest House  
84 Valebridge Road  
Burgess Hill  
RH15 0RP*

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