

Burgess Hill

BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

BHBPA has been an affiliated member of the Sussex Chamber of Commerce for about two years now, and in turn we have a connection to the British Chamber of Commerce. One of the reasons we became an affiliate is to have influence at national government level and the two images here summarise how by being a member we strive to deliver results for our business community, in partnership with our friends at Sussex Chamber.

CHAMBER NETWORK BUDGET WINS 2021

WHAT WE CAMPAIGNED FOR	OUR WINS FOR YOU
EXTEND CORONAVIRUS JOB RETENTION SCHEME (CJRS) in place until a full reopening of the economy is possible.	CJRS EXTENDED until end of September.
EXTEND SELF-EMPLOYED INCOME SUPPORT SCHEME (SEISS) to provide support until a full reopening of the economy is possible.	FOURTH SEISS GRANT AVAILABLE FROM APRIL with a final grant available from late July.
DELIVER NEW LENDING SCHEME to sustainably support businesses through the recovery.	RECOVERY LOAN SCHEME AVAILABLE FROM APRIL with 80% government guarantee on loans of up to £10 million.
EXTENDED BUSINESS RATES RELIEF to prevent severely aggravate already diminished business cashflow.	100% BUSINESS RATES HOLIDAY THROUGH TO THE END OF JUNE followed by a two thirds discount with threshold for remaining nine months of the year.
INCREASED CASH GRANT SUPPORT to help firms facing a cash flow crisis.	RESTART GRANT SCHEME offering grants of up to £18,000 for firms in certain sectors.
INTRODUCE INVESTMENT INCENTIVES to encourage companies to invest, such as full expensing.	'SUPER DEDUCTION' INVESTMENT INCENTIVE For the next two years, companies can claim 130% capital allowances on qualifying investments.

CHAMBER NETWORK BUDGET WINS 2021 *(continued)*

WHAT WE CAMPAIGNED FOR	OUR WINS FOR YOU
INCREASE EMPLOYER INCENTIVES AND ELIGIBILITY PERIOD to help businesses create more high-quality learning opportunities.	APPRENTICESHIP INCENTIVES INCREASED TO £3K and extended to September 2021. £126m of new funding to increase number of traineeships.
INCREASE FLEXIBILITY OF ACCESS AND DELIVERY OF APPRENTICESHIPS to address fall in apprenticeship starts and enable rapid training and upskilling.	INTRODUCTION OF NEW FLEXI APPRENTICESHIP Individuals will be linked to an agency, instead of a single employer, and take on different jobs with multiple businesses in one sector.
SUPPORT FOR MANAGERS TO TRAIN AND DEVELOP THEIR WORKFORCE To help drive innovation and improve productivity as outlined by the Chamber Network Workplace Training and Development Commission	HELP TO GROW SCHEME A subsidised executive development programme, free digital skills training and 50% discount on approved software.
A ROUTE FOR ACCESSING SKILLED WORKERS FROM OVERSEAS that is light-touch, flexible and cost-effective.	VISA REFORMS FOR HIGHLY SKILLED MIGRANTS A new unsponsored visa and faster process to support fintech.

Despite a number of welcome announcements in the budget, there are still many businesses and individuals who have, through no fault of their own, been unable to access any government support since the start of the pandemic.

The BCC will continue to make the case for those who are currently excluded from government support to get the help they need to navigate a difficult few months ahead before the economy is able to reopen more fully.

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FIND OUT MORE

INSURANCE BROKERS & RISK MANAGERS

Enjoy Meeting the Locals

On watching the latest episode of "Meet the Locals" our regular interview feature, one member wrote to Steve Skinner and cc'd Martyn to say *"Just wanted to thank you for your interview, really interesting, especially since we have not met in person yet. A great insight into what you do, what has driven you, how you've got to where you are, and crucially, how you are planning to climb out of the pandemic / economic situation we are (mostly) in."*

[Enjoy meeting Steve Skinner...](#)

On the subject of locals, please remember to register



Summer BHBPA event at Ridgeview Wine Estate on 8th July.



Summer BHBPA event no.2 will be at The Woolpack with precise date to be confirmed.

[BHBPA events > scroll to July...](#)

International Women's Day recordings

Several of the recordings from our recent very successful International Women's Day event are now loaded on Vimeo or accessible from our website.

[Access the IWD playbacks...](#)



Lone Working Policies and safety for female staff

The appalling nature of what happened to Sarah Everard and the associated outpouring of frustration and anger from huge numbers of people about how women are routinely harassed and worse has thrown fresh focus for some on to the issue of 'lone working' and the safety of female staff.

Is this a topic that members feel would benefit from a group discussion? Interested parties could 'meet', consider the issues & best practices as well as devise some solutions and collaborative arrangements? Let us know what you think via martyn@bhbpa.co.uk

Also see the free Fire Safety training below...

Looking after your Nest Egg at this time of year

Of course, Easter is not very far away now, and in the latest blog from our friends at On The Spot Tax they remind us that it'll also be the end of the tax year. So they've rather helpfully prepared five tips to help you protect your precious nest eggs.

First, remember to check out how to best manage the Income Tax Thresholds regarding, for example, dividends and certain benefits e.g. child benefit. Second, be careful with your Pension Contributions and Charitable Gift Aid Donations. Next, remember to think about any plans you have to expand and invest. And finally, don't lose sight of trivial benefits and things like annual parties – they can all add up!



[On the Spot Tax blog...](#)

Photo by Annie Spratt on Unsplash

MSDC Grants - Hear it on the Radio

MSDC are very keen to ensure local businesses get the grant support available to them.

In addition to a More Radio campaign, Jonathan Ash-Edwards, MSDC's Council Leader has recorded a video encouraging businesses to apply for Council grants before the closing date.

BEIS have also released the Local Authority guidance on the restart grants - although these grants won't pay out before the 1st April 2021. Full details as sent to Councils is in 'More information' although instructions for businesses will be coming soon.



[More information...](#)

[Jonathan Ash-Edwards...](#)

[MSDC Grant approval](#)

EV Charging Point Meeting

So it turned out that Easter did scupper our original plans to meet before March month end to discuss best practice and how to make the right type of EV Charging Points more accessible for our business community.

That said, the meeting is now set for **Friday, 16th April at 1:30pm**. We have a good number of folks registered to attend – but if you haven't told us of your interest as yet and want to be there do let us know via martyn@bhbp.co.uk



Free On Line Course



Our friends at Rewards Training wrote in to offer BHBPA members access to a free course – albeit you'll need to move fast as the offer ends 31st March.

[Register your interest...](#)

A must for your Marketeers

As affiliate members of the Sussex Chamber of Commerce, Marketing Officers of our members might want to check out this event on **20th April**.

The Chamber's upcoming virtual forum will focus on Driving Business Recovery through a proven Marketing Strategy led by Matt Chambers, Director at Madison Solutions. Matt will cover:

- A proven Marketing Strategy to rebuild your business
- How to measure your return on your investment
- Website and Social Media integration

[More information...](#)

Local Full Fibre Network Update

As a follow up to the meeting we held with MSDC several months ago regarding the BH LFFN we have heard more from Chris Founds the Programme Manager.

In summary, the team is keen to brief the business community again fairly soon, and they are working to ensure alignment between the digital enablement that comes with the LFFN and the Council's soon to be produced Sustainable Economic Development Strategy.

The proposal is to hold a summit on fibre and digital connectivity across the district – once some of the immediate project milestones are completed.

In terms of progress, the majority of the Burgess Hill LFFN will be completed over the next few weeks (end March), including a new spur along Charles Avenue. The network will then be commissioned and available to start to deliver live customer contracts.

In terms of commercialisation, MSDC have engaged with CNI (Cooperative Network Infrastructure) to become members and have discussed with a number of telecom organisations their interest in moving forward with a wider market roll-out across our district.

They have also commenced work on the next part of the network – which is to connect rural communities and businesses between Burgess Hill and Brighton. The aim is to complete this work by year end 2021. Work also continues on the northern element of the fibre network from Burgess Hill to Haywards Heath and onwards to Horsham and Crawley - with this due for completion by July 2021.

While good progress is clearly being reported by the programme, BHBPA members interests are mainly in gaining access to competitively priced, superior quality services. More clarification is needed here, and having spoken to Chris on Wednesday, he is confident more information about this aspect will be ready for sharing before end April if not sooner.



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#ReclaimTheMask

Now that many of us go outside for a regular constitutional walk as part of our lockdown regime, we must all have seen the litter problem caused by people carelessly throwing away their face masks and PPE. Disposal of PPE can be even more of a problem if on an industrial scale at the workplace.

#ReclaimTheMask is a campaign launched by ReWorked, a Haywards Heath based firm, to help spread the core facts & importance of safely collecting used PPE and recycling it properly.

ReWorked want to collect as many disposable masks as possible to prevent damage to the planet & our fragile ecosystems. Experts say there are now more disposable face masks in the ocean than jellyfish – and we want to be a part of minimising those statistics.



ReWorked aim to do this by spreading awareness, provoking thought & making our mask collection services widely available & providing PPE recycling bins or boxes to businesses and locations that need them.

[More information...](#)

Yellow lines, Resurfacing & Roundabouts

We recently emailed about 30 businesses – members and non-members alike – regarding some proposed additional yellow lines on the Victoria Business Park. We have had positive feedback from several but will follow up with the rest in the coming week and advise more ASAP.

We are trying to find out more about some repairs and re-surfacing works said to be in the pipeline for the Victoria Business Park too, and again will advise further as soon as we can.

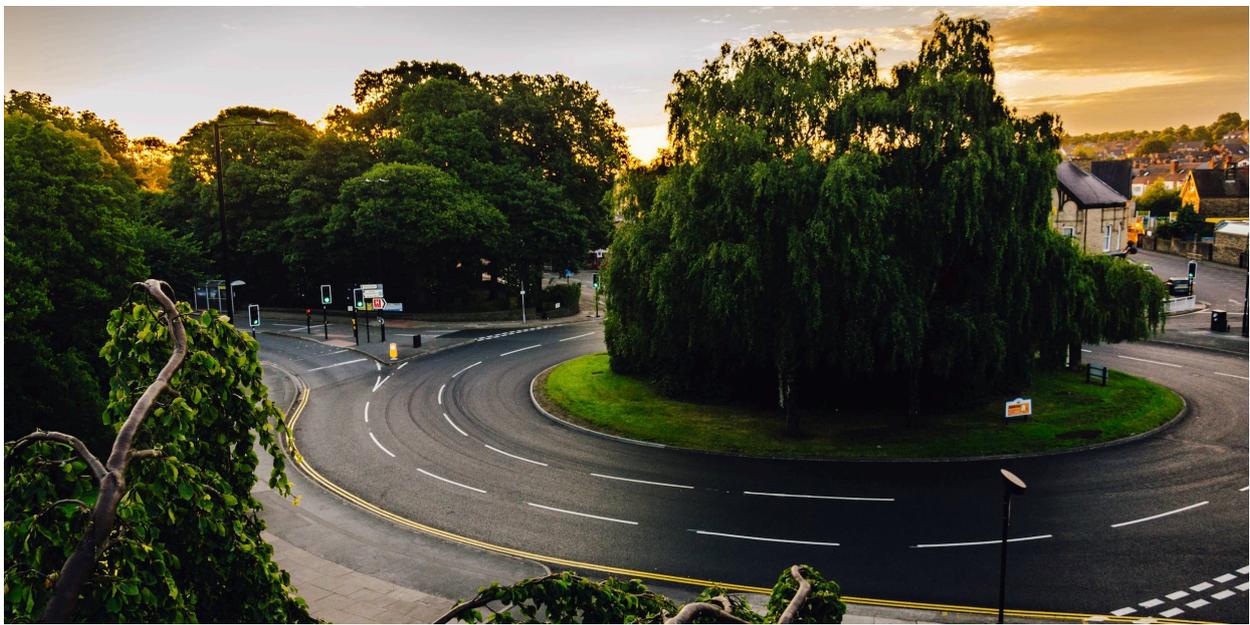


Photo by Shane Rounce on Unsplash

Sponsor a local roundabout - at about £3k pa the cost of sponsoring a local Burgess Hill roundabout is not as much as you might think. If you want to know the person to speak to it is Nigel Marks, Commercial Sales Officer, Contracts and Support Services at West Sussex County Council who you can reach on Tel: 03302 226836.

Interested in advertising in our Newsletter?

Several firms have approached us in recent months about wanting to know more about advertising in this newsletter. To be completely candid we have never really sorted out how many can advertise at a time, for how long and for how much etc etc. So we're putting on our thinking caps ahead of the current cycle of advertisement agreements lapsing in the summertime so as to be transparent about how advertising will work going forward.

So far we think there should be some principles including:

- Keeping the advertisements reasonably fresh;
- Giving the advertisers' some stability so as to build brand awareness and make the admin efficient;
- Only allow members to advertise;
- Opening the opportunity to advertise to more members;
- Avoid running competing adverts at any one time;
- Promoting businesses with a 'buy local' value proposition;
- Restricting the number of recurring adverts to three;
- Price the advertisements simply and reasonably.

We'll keep you posted. In the meantime, please let Steve Powell, our BHBPA Marketing Officer, know if you are interested in advertising in the newsletter – steve@freshdisplay.co.uk

BH Arts Centre Public Consultation



Have your say - Residents' Poll

Residents will have an opportunity to have their say regarding the project's funding and if they would like to see Burgess Hill Town Council apply for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board. The poll will be online and sent out via Royal Mail so that Burgess Hill residents can cast their vote.

Survey live from 22 March - 21 April

Many of you will have heard about the proposed Beehive Arts Centre for BH which is being led by the Town Council. Between 22nd March and 21st April there is a public consultation on the same so do let your voice be heard by taking part.

[Beehive Arts Centre...](#)

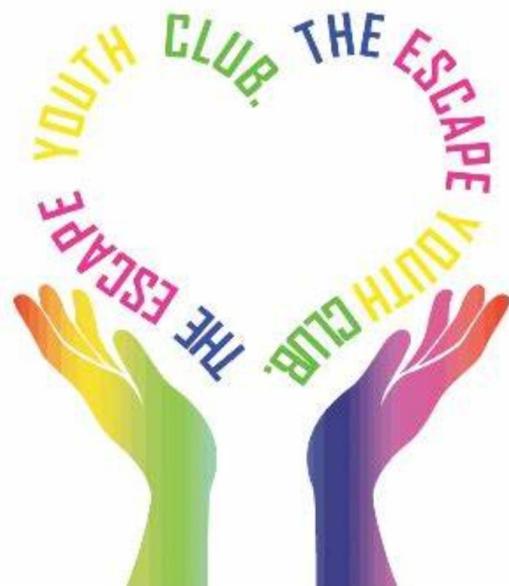
[Beehive Survey...](#)

New Youth Charity in BH

The Escape Youth Club is a new charity based in Burgess Hill whose primary focus is to help and support young people.

BHBPA members have already made important contributions. For example Mid Sussex Voluntary Action (MVSA) are staunch supporters since the inception while ABCOM IT Solutions are helping to connect the Club with contacts and assisting with their IT needs.

Karen Taylor, the chairperson for The Escape Youth Club explains: *"In 2018, a young lad of 15 in my daughter's year tragically took his own life. For someone to feel like there was no other way, at such a young age, was enough for me to do something about it. A few other parents and I decided - instead of just talking about it, something had to be done to help and support the youth of our community."*



The charity aims to support on three fronts: Health & Wellbeing; Education & Work and Community engagement.

Karen continues: "BHBPA members are an important network for us. We are not necessarily looking for funding, rather it's knowledge, experience, and other services that are definitely just as valuable."

[More information...](#)

Red Nose Day

It's Red Nose Day! Remember to email your photos to martyn@bhbp.co.uk

Closing Remarks

Sitting at my desk on Thursday I see the Census 2021 reminder form – so in addition to whatever fun things you have lined up for the weekend you can add completing your Census return on Sunday 21st March to that list!

While I've always had an interest, and hopefully a reasonably open-mind, regarding political argument, this week's events regarding the vaccine spat with the EU reminds me why I never wanted to be a politician. I just don't get it! While many European countries are frustrated with the EU Commission's handling of the bloc's vaccination roll out, they have also decided to stop using the AZ vaccine based on what appears to be (statistically) flimsy fears about an increase in blot clots. Yet at the same time, and still at the time of writing these remarks, the European Medicines Agency says 'carry on' using the AZ vaccine. Meanwhile the Commission decries AZ's tardy supply of doses, even though millions of already delivered doses are not being jabbed into people's arms. This itself seems partly due to the temporary suspension of the rollout, partly due to vaccine scepticism among significant tranches of the general population compounded by certain, less than helpful, comments by some European national leaders. Crickey! Who'd want to be a politician?

In comparison being involved with business is so much more reasonable! Enjoy that thought, and have a lovely weekend.

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

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