

# Burgess Hill

## BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

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As the focus shifts more and more to recovery, we've got plenty of news this week about local initiatives to boost business and drive growth in a post-lockdown world.

In particular this week we have news for the retail sector including an exciting new Retail Hub launching in West Sussex to help local businesses prepare for shifts in society as unlocking continues. There are also some great webinar opportunities included this week and a chance to have your say about the transport plan for the county.



Only three weeks to go until our summer social at The Woolpack Pub on Wednesday July 28th. You'll have the opportunity to catch up with other members over a delicious hog roast and a pint in their lovely beer garden.

[Register for networking at The Woolpack](#)

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## West Sussex Retail Hub Launches

The West Sussex Retail Hub will launch on Monday 12th July. It's a joint initiative being delivered collectively with other Local Authorities in West Sussex to support independent retail businesses.

The event will include an overview of the West Sussex Retail Hub and the opportunity to hear from each of the learning module presenters as well as special guest Mark Smith, Chief Operating Officer at Sweaty Betty.

[Register for the Zoom event here](#)

[Register for the Training Hub here](#)

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## WSSCC Unveils Transport Plan 2022-2036

West Sussex County Council is preparing to publish its Draft West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-2036 for consultation from Friday 16th July to Friday 8th October. The plan will update the County Council's approach to managing and investing in the transport network, and they want your views. There will be two webinars for the consultation where officers will be available to respond to questions. Hosted on Microsoft Teams, the sessions are on Thursday 22 July 10am-11:30am and Wednesday 8 September 2pm-3:30pm.

If you would like to attend, email [lt@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:lt@westsussex.gov.uk). Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

[View the council report from the survey about local transport here](#)

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## Government Incentives For Apprenticeships

Employers can now receive £3,000 for new apprentices of any age who have an employment start date of 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021. This is in addition to the £1,000 employers already receive for hiring an apprentice aged 16 to 18 years old or under 25 with an education, health and care plan.

[Find out more here](#)



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## Learn About Advanced Engineering

The University of Brighton has teamed up with Gatwick Diamond Business for a webinar

series showcasing leading developments in industry together with cutting-edge research from the University's Advanced Engineering Centre. The webinars also include relevant government policy insights, and funding opportunities. The second webinar in the series will present recent insights and industrial applications of innovation in thermal management. The Zoom webinar will take place on Friday 23rd July from 12:15-13:45pm.

Register for webinar here

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## Learn About Social Media

New research commissioned by Facebook reveals that consumers are likely to shift away from shopping on their local high street as restrictions completely lift. Despite 81% of people sharing a passion for supporting the businesses on their doorstep, and over two thirds (68%) citing this passion grew throughout the pandemic, more than half (55%) admit larger chains may creep in as time becomes limited (29%) and they are commuting to and from work again (21%). That's why Facebook is offering UK small businesses free 'Boost with Facebook' digital skills training in July to help them grow their business and reach new audiences.

The initial sessions will be held 12.00-13.30pm on Wednesday 21st July and Wednesday 28th July on their [Facebook for Business Page](#). They will be streamed live on the day but will be recorded so that they can be watched back at any time. The first session will cover how to establish your presence and build awareness of your business online, and the second will explore how to reach new audiences and build customer loyalty.

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## Learn About Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Only four places remain for the Sherrards Law 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' course, running on Thursday 15th July. The course has been designed to help HR Professionals and line managers across all industries to understand why it's good business practice for organisations to promote equality and diversity, how the law impacts on all aspects of equality and diversity in the workplace and how the opinions and prejudices of individuals can influence those around them.

Book today by visiting [www.sherrardsacademy.com](http://www.sherrardsacademy.com) or email [sarah@sherrardslaw.com](mailto:sarah@sherrardslaw.com)



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## Help Hospice Care Bloom!

The Open Garden season continues this weekend with [The Old Coach House Sayers Common](#) - come and explore this country garden, take a stroll around the woodland before enjoying refreshments on the lawn.

On the weekend of 24th/25th July they have 9 gardens in [Ringmer](#) to explore, come and meet the owners of these beautiful gardens who kindly open their gardens in support of the hospice.

There are larger gardens in the programme this year with the [Old Mill House Plumpton](#) and [Beeches at Barcombe](#) in July, whilst in August, there are [Ham Cottage](#) and the beautiful moated garden at [Newtimber Place](#) to enjoy.

To keep everyone safe and comfortable, each of the lovely gardens on offer this summer will be ticketed.

For more information or if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch by calling 01444 470713 or email [fundraising@stpjhospice.org](mailto:fundraising@stpjhospice.org).



The full programme of Open Gardens is available

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## Closing Remarks

With the 19 July looking more promising for unlocking society, we really are on the home straight. With cases still rising though, the next few months will no doubt be tricky to navigate for a lot of businesses as we all try to move back towards some semblance of normality.

We'll continue to share all the advice and tips we receive to help with recovery and as ever, we're keen to shine a spotlight on our members, just email your story to; [newsletter@bhbpa.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@bhbpa.co.uk)

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