

Burgess Hill

BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

Opening remarks

Proud of 'Made in Burgess Hill'

Every week I devote my Wednesdays as much as possible to visiting members and generally making contact with everyone in the association. This week Angela Gill and her team showed me around Bio-Productions. The company has witnessed significant growth in the last few years and has already returned to pre-pandemic levels of activity. There was a real 'one big family' vibe about the place and their staff, They have a real commitment to the community and they wear their sustainability credentials with great pride. I've asked them to share their insights in achieving ISO14001, the environmental standard. You'll hear more on that in a future newsletter.

Bio-Productions is a company that exports worldwide, when I asked which countries they are not present in, they were a little stumped as they cover markets in Asia, Australasia, Africa, the Americas and Europe, I noticed on their labels: 'Made in Burgess Hill'.

Community engagement

Later that afternoon I went to lunch at CAE where they train business jet and helicopter pilots in 16 giant simulators. This is a multinational business that nevertheless wants to engage with our local community and has expressed significant interest in participating in our programme of STEM events, schools career events and the like, which will be part of our new year calendar. They also asked about EV charging points for their car park. Please get in touch if you'd like to know more for your own business, I'm currently reviewing some future-proof EV charging propositions.

Our town centre - we need your business perspectives

MSDC's recent Beehive announcement is good news (see below). This is moving Burgess Hill's town centre forward again. Nevertheless, there is much to rediscuss regarding the future of our town centre.

Identified as a key stakeholder, BHBPA has been asked to participate in a Retail Study to inform the District Plan Review. This will enable planners to better understand how best to help support our high streets to flourish, including viewpoints from people who work, live and shop in the area. As businesses, please pass your points to me. All views will be extremely valuable.

richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk

Steve Willis Training achieves 'GOOD' rating at first official OFSTED visit



Ofsted inspectors conducted a thorough inspection of the Burgess Hill & Portchester centres, overseeing classes, meeting teaching staff, support staff and inspecting the facilities. Ofsted inspectors found Steve Willis Training to be performing at a high standard with the overall effectiveness being graded 'Good' with a particular emphasis on behaviour and attitudes grading as 'Outstanding'.

Steve Willis Training has recently taken on additional apprentices to support the increased demand from employers looking to invest in talented young people looking to enter a trade. With over 450 apprentices enrolled across the Burgess Hill & Portchester centres Steve Willis Training works with just under 300 employers across the South East of England to provide quality and specialist training.

Jake Gibbons, Apprenticeship Manager, said: 'The recent inspection was a fantastic milestone for Steve Willis Training. I am proud that the passion and commitment of the team has been recognised. The reassurance our learners are provided with a quality experience in a supportive and safe environment gives us a great foundation to build on. With thanks also to both learners and employers, we now have a great opportunity to continue to improve and move onto the next level.'

Ofsted inspectors found 'Apprentices thrive in the calm and respectful environment, arising from the high expectations their trainers have of them, both inside and outside training sessions.' They also found the centre benefitted from heavy investment, with well-equipped facilities that reflect the current industry requirements.

Steve Willis, Managing Director, noted: 'I want to thank the whole team for their hard work which has led us to achieving this goal. As a company we aim to provide quality training and education, so it's great to see this recognised by the Ofsted inspectors. Going forward, we have an opportunity to continuously improve and develop our offering even further.'

For more information on apprenticeships or short courses at Steve Willis Training call 01444 870860/02392 190190 or visit stethewillis.com

Beehive Loan Application gets the thumbs up!



Burgess Hill's proposed Beehive community centre and arts venue has received a massive thumbs up as the Town Council has now received approval for the £4.8m loan

Earlier this year the Council consulted widely with the residents of Burgess Hill and received overwhelming support for the project to go ahead. An application for the £4.8million was lodged with the Public Works Loan Board and approval for the first tranche of £1.68million has now been received. Provided satisfactory progress is made further tranches will be approved and released as the building is constructed.

Mid Sussex District Council is currently considering amendments to the original planning approval which will allow demolition of the old British Legion building in Cyprus Road to commence, and their decision will be known in the near future. A bat survey has been undertaken and showed that no bats were present on the site. The application for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to manage The Beehive has been approved by the Charity Commission and a professional team has been appointed to manage the demolition and construction.

Leader of the Council, Robert Eggleston commented, "this is tremendous news for Burgess Hill as approval of the £4.8m loan gives us the financial muscle power to deliver this key community project for the town. We can now also begin to look for other sources of funding so that we can either reduce the amount we borrow or look to deliver Phase 2 of the project at the same time as Phase 1. Whilst there is still a long way to go we can begin to look forward with real confidence that The Beehive can and will be delivered."

[Find out more here](#)

Why not support your local hospice on Christmas Jumper Day.

On the 10th December don your Christmas jumper and make a donation to St Peter & St James. Working from home, that's not a problem, just share your picture on social media with #stpchrismtasjumperday

You could even set up a JustGiving page to easily collect the donations.



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Meed's Job Club - Proud to be part of Woodlands Meed School

We are very excited and pleased to announce The Meed's Job Club (MJC) was officially launched in October. The MJC will deliver the Woodlands Meed Careers Programme and is developing and delivering a progressive and meaningful programme of learning, working with employers and external partners. Woodlands Meed's has also made a commitment to gaining

The Quality in Careers Standard by summer 2022.

The MJC wants to help and support local businesses become more diverse whilst enabling our students to reach their full potential. We are keen to talk with any businesses who are interested in:

- Providing work experience opportunities such as a visit to premises or workshops
- Giving a talk about your business to our students
- Offering formal work experience.

I am responsible for developing and implementing a local and national employer engagement strategy for the MJC. I will work closely with businesses and key stakeholders supporting the development of meaningful and robust relationships between the students and their next step to help them achieve their career goals.

Diane is responsible for delivering the MJC's Employability Programme to students and for co-ordinating the use of Vocational Profiles, as well as the Work Experience programme. She also collaborates with local further education and training providers to prepare students for transition and maintains the Alumni engagement programme.

We have also started planning for our Careers and Transition on 15th March 2022 – please save the date! Formal invitations and more details will follow.

To keep up to date with all our news and celebrations you can follow us on LinkedIn .

Looking forward to working with you in future!

Alex Watts



Find out more - contact us

Alex Watts
awatts@woodlandsmeed.co.uk

Diane Goddard
dgoddard@woodlandsmeed.co.uk

Fully funded new innovation support service

Innovation for new business development (RISE Programme)

- 25 November, 9.30am-4pm
- Innovation Centre (Ricardo), Shoreham-by-Sea

The Innovation for new business development workshop will introduce the important questions, strategic challenges and critical issues involved in new business development.

This workshop aims to provide solutions for businesses that are interested in a cost-free, low-risk and efficient route to developing a new product or service. Or at taking a fresh look at how they might can improve their competitive edge or become more resilient and agile.

Working with an innovation expert, who has more than two decades of experience in innovation research and working with SMEs, businesses will:

- Go through the activities and decisions needed to progress new ideas into value for their business
- Explore new strategies

- Create a roadmap identifying how to more effectively use the resources available to them to ensure maximum return on investment.

Workshops are delivered by our team of university business innovation experts. This flexible series will build your knowledge and confidence to drive innovation in your business.

Small to medium-sized businesses (SME) based in West Sussex could be eligible for innovation support, workshops and up to £5,000 worth of university expertise at no cost to them or their business as part of the RISE project.

For more information about this workshop or the RISE project, talk to our team at rise@brighton.ac.uk

[RISE - Unlock your innovation potential with RISE \(rise-innovation.uk\)](#)



A message from the Chief Fire Officer of West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Sabrina Cohen-Hatton



Today West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has launched a public consultation around our proposals for our Community Risk Management Plan 2022 – 2026.

This document sets out the direction of the service over the next four years, and as part of this we have six proposals that we are seeking feedback on.

We are very keen to hear not only from residents living in our communities, but also the businesses that make up our thriving local economy. I would like to invite you and members of your partnership to view these proposals and take part in our public consultation.

You can find these proposals, along with the survey to take part, on our dedicated Community Risk Management Plan website [here](#).

The proposals include:

- Enhancing our retained (on-call) operating model

- Weekend protection, prevention and response improvements
- Improving protection, prevention and response performance in rural areas
- How WSFRS should deal with false alarms from automatic fire systems
- When we should review our Emergency Response Standards
- How WSFRS proposes to undertake a review of our specialist appliance requirements to consider current and future risks to firefighter and public safety

This is a key opportunity for our communities and all partners to have their say on our proposals, and we will assess all of the responses and use to inform our final CRMP which we intend to publish in spring 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you and your members to visit the consultation homepage and take part in our consultation.

The closing date for responses is Friday 21 January 2022.

You can find more information on the six proposals and take part in the consultation [here](#).

Warmest regards,

Sabrina Cohen-Hatton
Chief Fire Officer
West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Upcoming BHBPA Events

Would you like to give a presentation at one of our general networking events?

We are always interested to hear from you if you have a 15 minute presentation covering a pertinent business topic. To discuss this in more detail contact richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk

Additional events for January and February are currently being finalized. Meanwhile, we have two upcoming events, book your places now:

- 15th Dec from 4.30 to 6.30pm - BHBPA Christmas Networking Event at The Woolpack
- 23rd Feb from 8.00 to 10.00am - BHPBA Networking & Site Tour at Bio-Productions

If you have never seen the fabulous Christmas decorations at The Woolpack...if you have never sampled their home made mince pies and sausage rolls...then it's time to study your calendar and make sure you have the early evening free on the 15th of December for our annual Christmas get together. Free for all our members, we have a dedicated space inside this glorious festive venue from 4.30-6.30.

We hope to see you in December, and to avoid disappointment - book early for our February event.

See the links below to book your places or visit our website bhbpa.co.uk-events

[Book your place on our Christmas Event](#)

[Book here for the Bio-Productions event](#)

The Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)



The Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)

LSIP Business Survey

We ask for your involvement in this important fact finding mission to help widen perspectives and gain further insights into the key skills issues facing businesses across Sussex.

The deadline to complete the survey is Friday 26th November

Please be part of this very important skills gaps analysis. However small or large your business, and in whatever sector you operate, your input will be invaluable.

The survey only takes 5 minutes to complete - click the link below

[CLICK HERE and complete this 5 minute survey](#)

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Mid Sussex Voluntary Action (MSVA) moves to new premises

Mid Sussex Voluntary Action (MSVA) is delighted to announce it has recently moved to the Cherry Tree Centre in Burgess Hill which has until now been run by Age UK.





Mid Sussex Voluntary Action

MSVA has also recruited a new Community Development Co-ordinator for the Burgess Hill and surrounding area – Nicola Brewerton.

Nicola's role is to support groups with advice on charity law, funding, training, volunteering and also to link together organisations in the voluntary, statutory and business sectors. Nicola supports a diverse range of groups which provide vital services in the area, for example Neighbourly Care, Riding for the Disabled, The Escape Youth Club and Hurst Hedgehog Haven.

Currently, MSVA is developing a long-term sustainable strategy that will allow them to offer the Cherry Tree Centre as a place for community activities but also for things like exercise classes, counselling and advisory sessions, cookery training or hot-desking for a day.

In October, MSVA hosted an Open Day at the Cherry Tree Centre - inviting local groups, residents, and friends to come and see the Centre over tea and cakes. There was a great turn out and an opportunity to gather views about what the local community needs.

Overwhelmingly people asked for a Community café for residents to gather and share time over coffee and cakes.

Nicola says: "We are really excited to announce that with thanks to a local resident's kind donation, from January we will be opening a Community Café which will run on Thursday mornings here at the Cherry Tree Centre."

MSVA is currently recruiting new trustees and are particularly keen to develop links with the business community in Burgess Hill. Please contact Nicola if you would like to find out more about MSVA's work in the community and how you might get involved on 07780 744253 or email nicola.brewerton@msva.org.uk.

Free webinars from HMRC

News and guidance brought to you by the office of Mims Davies MP

Don't delay in booking your place on these popular webinars - spaces are limited



HM Revenue
& Customs

Support from HMRC



From paying workplace expenses to providing a birthday treat, we'll guide you through the conditions to make sure you get it right.

Join our live webinar, during which you can ask questions using the on-screen textbox.

Expenses and benefits for employers – phones, internet and homeworking

This webinar uses examples showing how to deal with tax and National Insurance when you provide a mobile phone, broadband or homeworking expenses for your employees.

[Register here](#)

Expenses and benefits for employers – trivial benefits

This webinar also uses examples and looks at what counts as a small or trivial benefit,

[Register here](#)

Expenses and benefits for employers – if your employees have more than one workplace

This webinar looks at permanent and temporary workplaces, depots, business journeys, and homeworking.

[Register here](#)

You can also try our '[Expenses and benefits from employment toolkit](#)' – useful for both agents and employers dealing with the completion of forms P11D.

Growth Hub Activity

Coast to Capital Growth Hub

An update from our Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) - Coast to Capital

Growth Relationship Advisers

The Growth Relationship Team are central to the service that Coast to Capital offers growth potential clients. They are the route in to many other services that Coast to Capital offer clients including strategic business reviews, funding opportunities, funded specialist consultancy, routes to business support organisations and specialists. The team are totally impartial and have access to 250 business support programmes, organisations and specialists.

The Burgess Hill and surrounding area Growth Relationship Associate is Karen Tyrell.

Karen will be happy to meet with you to update you in detail on the support provided and explore collaborations.

To arrange a meeting:

- Complete the [Contact Form online](#) or
- Leave a message on the office number on 01293 305965 or
- Send an email to growth.hub@coast2capital.org.uk with your name, contact details, postcode and request details

FREE Digital Champion support in West Sussex

As an immediate follow up to the WSCC Recover & Rise Digital Accelerator online workshops, the Coast to Capital Growth Hub provides fully funded access to specialist digital business consultants.

Attendees at any of these online workshops receive up to 8 hours of FREE specialist support, fully funded by the Coast to Capital Growth Hub. Clients can benefit from the support from one of our seven-strong team of digital and business experts to help them to implement the knowledge and ideas learnt from the webinars. The Coast to Capital Growth Hub also provides a DNASix review as part of the support.

A selection of the key programmes running in the Coast to Capital Area

- [The Hothouse Programme](#) – included grants, start up support and growth business support.
- [LoCASE](#) in Sussex – grants for businesses with a grant of up to £10,000 for investing in environmental benefit
- [Innovate UK Edge](#) – support for innovation
- [Internationalisation Fund](#) – support with exporting
- [BRITE](#) - Brighton Research Innovation Technology Exchange
- [RISE](#) - help for businesses to innovate and grow
- [Help to Grow](#) - 12 week management course and 1:1 support delivered by accredited Business Schools
- [LSIP](#) - work with employers and employer representative groups, to identify the local needs and solutions to address in key sectors

New French Bakery and Coffee Beans Stalls Create a Buzz in Burgess Hill !

Discover a fantastic burgeoning street market Wednesdays on Church Walk in Burgess Hill.

Here you can already find La Boulangerie Du Marché French bakery and now joining them from Wednesday 24th of November, Flavour Art Coffee, another wonderful stall supplying a large range of freshly roasted coffee beans ground to customers specification alongside hot chocolates and instant coffees all served with a friendly smile and knowledgeable staff.

On Flavour Art Coffee's stall you can choose from the likes of Blue Mountain, Vietnam White Dragon, Colombian Excelso and many more beans alongside flavoured instant coffees such as French Vanilla, Amaretto, Hazelnuts, Baileys Irish Coffee and amazing Belgian real hot chocolate flakes including Black Forest, Salted Caramel, Dark Orange.

.. and on the Boulangerie Du Marché stall not only delicious breads and patisseries fresh from the ovens of Brighton's award-winning Real Patisserie but also fragrant lavender direct from Provence, luxurious Marseille Soap, vintage art prints, café music and more; just in time for Christmas.

Rendez vous Church walk in Burgess Hill Wednesdays!

Church Walk – Burgess Hill - RH15 9DU – every Wednesday - 9am to 4pm.



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Closing Remarks

We want to hear from you

We are keen to hear your stories, awards won, apprenticeships completed, sustainability improvements, your involvement with local schools and all and everything going on in the various business parks around the town.

Let's celebrate your successes and achievements!

Contact me directly - richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk

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