Burgess Hill
BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

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Weekly Newsletter - Every Friday Morning

Opening Remarks

Business Advice
A review of the big changes in company car tax. Achieving your growth potential as a business. We explain a quick check that can be done regularly on your cybersecurity protocols.

A severe drought is declared for Sussex, we have tips for businesses to alleviate the strain on water supplies.

Member News
A networking event offered in Haywards Heath with an interesting speaker. A new cohort of accountant trainees joins the profession.

Education and Business
A local secondary school is looking for partners in an ambitious work experience scheme. We want to hear from all who participate, please share stories about this important contribution that many businesses can bring to young futures.

Events
There is a wonderful joint event organised between ourselves, HHBA and St Peter & St James Hospice. This will be in addition to our own Christmas event, both this and our November event will be announced very soon.

This month we have a site tour at HPC, one of Burgess Hill's longest established engineering firms. **Book Events.**

Become part of the most purpose driven business group in Sussex: **Join Here**

Network, Give Back & Get Festive!

HHBA & BHBPA are teaming up with St Peter & St James Hospice for a Christmas networking experience with a difference!

Fancy swapping the usual festive networking for a few hours of teamwork, meeting new people and doing something genuinely good for your local community?

On **Friday 4 December**, the Haywards Heath Business Association (HHBA) and Burgess Hill Business Parks Association (BHBPA) are joining forces with St Peter & St James Hospice to bring local businesses together for a special day of Christmas volunteering and networking.

Join us for just two hours, or stay for the whole day!

You'll work alongside other local businesses, get involved in some festive volunteering, discover more about the incredible work of St Peter & St James Hospice and, most importantly, meet some of the amazing people who make it all possible.

It's a chance to build new connections, give something back and see the difference your local business community can make when it comes together.

And because no Christmas networking is complete without a little festive cheer... we'll round things off with a festive drink!

So, come along, bring your team, meet some new faces and help make a difference this Christmas.

Want to get involved? Find out more and sign up by emailing:
fundraising@stpjhospice.org

Can't make the date but still want to get involved? We have flexible opportunities which can work around you and your team - please email and we'll be in touch soon with ideas.

Come for the volunteering. Stay for the networking. Leave feeling festive!

St Peter & St James Hospice
Hospice care in the heart of Sussex

Lilly John
Relationship Fundraiser
01444 470 713
www.stpjhospice.org

Achieving your business growth potential

Working harder but not seeing the rewards? UK Growth Coach and HSBC invite owners to take a fresh look at our free seminar

When you've poured your time, energy and ambition into a business, it can be frustrating to find that stronger profits, and more time for yourself, still feel out of reach.

To help owners move forward, UK Growth Coach, in partnership with HSBC, is hosting a free workshop: Achieving your business' growth potential: small improvements and stronger profits.

- **Monday 9 November**
- **9am–12pm**
- **Sandman Signature Hotel, Crawley**

The session will explore how improvements across people, systems and commercial activities can reduce wasted effort and strengthen profitability.

Business coaches Joanne South, Tim Rylatt and Henry Laker will help attendees identify their greatest opportunities and leave with a focused action plan, alongside time to connect with fellow owners who understand the pressures.

You've put a lot into your business. Give yourself a morning to explore how it could give more back.

Find out more and book your free place:
https://tr.growthcoach.co.uk/product/achieving-your-business-growth-potential-small-improvements-and-stronger-profits/

Joanne South
Director: UK Growth Coach
Tel: **01444 440500**
Email: **jo@growthcoach.co.uk**
www.tr.growthcoach.co.uk

Work Experience Partnership

As a community school we are keen to foster closer links with local businesses and companies.

We would like to establish partnerships with business to expand our curriculum offer so that groups of our young people benefit from extended workplace learning opportunities.

For some young people in our community, the academic curriculum does not fully meet their needs. Many thrive when given practical, real-world experiences that help them develop responsibility, resilience, communication skills, and when they experience success.

Our approach also reflects a growing acknowledgement that vocational experiences and learning are just as valuable and aspirational as academic outcomes, as Prime Minister Burnham has stated that Britain needs to build an education system that;

"...Values the hard hat every bit as much as the graduation cap... For too long in this country, students have been told that you must take the academic path to do well and to be respected. The whole school system has been built around it and that has let down young people..."

We are seeking local employers who may be able to offer placements ranging from one afternoon per week to full days each week over a half term, depending on the needs of the business and the young person.

We hope that businesses can play a direct role in developing our young people. Many of our students possess huge potential and practical talents that could flourish in your workplace environment. We hope that this could be a potential route for successful recruitment of young people who have the values, skills and experience to benefit your company.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how your organisation could become involved by initially contacting myself at **sadams@downlands.org.** Whether you are able to offer a placement, a workplace visit, or simply an initial conversation, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Yours faithfully
Mr Simon Adams
Deputy Head

Downlands Community School
01273 845892
office@downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk
Dale Avenue, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8LP

Microsoft Secure Score

Microsoft Secure Score: A Simple Way for Burgess Hill Businesses to Strengthen Cybersecurity

Many businesses in Burgess Hill rely on Microsoft 365 every day, but fewer know how secure their environment is. That's where Microsoft Secure Score comes in.

Microsoft Secure Score is a built-in security measurement tool that assesses your Microsoft 365 environment and provides a score based on how well your systems are configured and protected.

It reviews areas such as user identities, devices, applications and data, then recommends practical actions to improve your security posture.

Think of it as a health check for your Microsoft 365 security. The higher your score, the more security best practices you've implemented. However, achieving 100% should never be the goal. Instead, businesses should focus on the recommendations that reduce their greatest risks.

Simple improvements such as enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA), removing legacy authentication methods and strengthening access controls can significantly improve protection against common cyber threats.

For Burgess Hill businesses, Secure Score provides a clear and actionable way to identify vulnerabilities before attackers do. It turns complex cybersecurity requirements into practical steps that can be prioritised and addressed over time.

Not sure where your Microsoft Secure Score stands?
Speak to your IT provider or get in touch with Extech Cloud. We can help you assess your current security posture, identify practical improvements and ensure you're making the most of the security features already included in your Microsoft 365 investment.

extech cloud Microsoft Solutions Partner

extechcloud.com
Talk to us on **01444 443200**
email us on **info@extech.co.uk**

Company Car Tax

As there have been a few changes over recent years, it seemed a good time to summarise where we are.

Once you know there are four taxes to consider producing very different results and HMRC has cars near the top of its enquiry topics, you'll be keen to get it right.

How large are the tax differences?

BIG!

1. Income Tax & 2. National Insurance (NI)
Benefit In Kind - Between 4% and 37%
Charged on you by applying your income tax rate to the Benefit together with 15% NI charged to your company. The Benefit is based on the List Price regardless of the car's age and what deal you struck.
3. Capital Allowances
Tax Relief - Between 6% and 100%
Your company claims this tax deduction when it purchases a car outright or under hire purchase.
4. VAT
Ordinarily no recovery at all but read our blog in the links below for leases and vans.

If you'd like to know more, please see here:
https://onthespottax.co.uk/blog/entry/2026/10/09/company-car-tax

If you're not sure how the rules affect you, please just ask me or one of the team.

07717 854333
onthespottax.co.uk

Read the company car tax blog in FULL here

Freshmill Forum

Freshmill is delighted to invite you to our next Freshmill Forum on Thursday 22nd October at 10.30am

Lisa Cooper from KBC PR & Marketing: Travel & Tourism Agency will be providing us with a 20 minutes briefing and we will of course have some delicious cake and coffee!

Lisa Cooper from KBC PR & Marketing

KBC are an award-winning PR, marketing and representation agency specializing in travel, tourism and leisure.

They have a 25 year track record working with some of the best clients out there, including iconic destinations, leading tour operators and world renowned travel experiences.

To book in please email **concierge@freshmill.co.uk** or call **01444 224400**

We look forward to welcoming you!

Tel: **01444 224 400** | **freshmill.co.uk**
Freshmill Limited, Delta House, 16 Bridge Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1UA

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BHBiz26 - Photo Gallery Available

We encourage you to scroll through and choose the ones you would like to use. Let's see social media pop with them!

and do include **#BHBiz26**

All images courtesy of [Gibson Blanc Photography]

BHBiz Burgess Hill Business Parks Association Business Awards 2026 SPONSORED BY Sherrards Employment Law Solicitors

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[BHBPA:Biennial Awards] BHBiz26

Property and Planning

Join us this winter for our Festive Property and Planning breakfast quiz!

As we take a festive break from our usual Property and Planning breakfast seminars, join us in Gatwick or Brighton this November and December for a special festive quiz edition, hosted by our Real Estate and Planning teams.

Enjoy a breakfast roll, tuck into a mince pie and put your festive knowledge to the test in our annual quiz. It's a great opportunity to catch up with fellow property and planning professionals, connect with our team and look ahead to the year to come.

Teams will be mixed in advance, so whether you're booking with colleagues or coming along solo, you'll have a team to compete with.

And, of course, there'll be bonus points for the most creative team names, so dust off those festive jumpers, and book your place below.

DATE
Thursday 26 November 2026
TIME
8.10 - 10.00am
LOCATION
DMH Stallard LLP, Origin One, 108 High Street, Crawley, RH10 1BD

Book now for Gatwick

Book now for Crawley

DATE
Thursday 3 December 2026
TIME
8.10 - 10.00am
LOCATION
DMH Stallard LLP, The Portland Building, 27-28 Church Street, Brighton

Book now for Brighton

Book now for Brighton

DISCLAIMER
This seminar is provided for information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Professional legal advice should be obtained before taking, or refraining from taking, any action as a result of the contents of this seminar.

DMH Stallard **Brighton | Gatwick | Guildford | Horsham | Hassocks | London**

BHBPA October Networking at HPC

Inside HPC: the operational hub of its Burgess Hill facility.
Mark Jackson will explain its transition to a 21st century business model.

- Wednesday 28th October
- 5.30-7.30pm
- HPC

About HPC
Trusted to deliver excellence, and always looking to extend this reputation, HPC combines a fifty-year heritage with a belief in the future of British manufacturing.

Courtesy of our hosts
Light refreshments and bites will be available to our guests

Parking
Additional parking space will be made available in the rear operations yard. Accessed from Consort Way.

Book the HPC event

Burgess Hill BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

For all enquiries:
richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk
07393 728688

HPC Compressed Air Systems

New Generation of Professionals

Carpenter Box welcomes 20 new starters through its associate and placement programmes

Leading south east accountancy firm, Carpenter Box, part of the Sumer Group, has welcomed 20 new starters this September. 18 newly appointed associates and two placement year students join a growing community of 68 associates across the firm's offices in Worthing, Crawley, Brighton, Chichester, Lewes and Portsmouth, now making up more than 22% of the overall workforce.

Photo caption
Back row (L-R): Toby Wingham, Benjamin Hart, Abi Froome, Ismail Daidoun, Chris Lowes, Malik Ali, Anish Gautam, Kashyap Pradhan, Precious Falomo, Megan Partridge, Zach Jeanes, Sebastian Streeter and Will Christian. Front Row (L-R): Mia Maggs-Hardy, Zainab Bhamjee, Erjol Balla, Rob Collins, Toby Mann, Tom Soothill and Gabriella Noyce.
www.carpenterbox.com

The associates will work towards a range of respected professional qualifications. Eleven have chosen to study for the ICAEW Chartered Accountant (ACA) qualification, three will follow the ATT/CTA joint pathway, another three studying AAT and one pursuing the ACA/CTA joint pathway.

Carpenter Box is particularly pleased that a number of this year's associate cohort attended the firm's annual Open Evening last winter, demonstrating the value of the event to budding accountants.

This year's intake brings a wide range of skills and perspectives to Carpenter Box, strengthening teams across its offices. Director, Andrew Le Fevre, commented: *"We are so pleased to welcome each of our new associates and starters and look forward to helping them develop their knowledge, gain valuable experience and build successful careers in accountancy, audit and tax. We are strongly committed to finding and developing young talented people as they will be the leaders of the future. We wish them every success as they begin their journey with Carpenter Box."*

CARPENTER BOX

Part of the SUMER Group

www.carpenterbox.com

Severe Drought Declared for Sussex

The Environment Agency (EA) has today officially declared a Severe Drought in East and West Sussex alongside Devon, Cornwall and Somerset.

Severe Drought is the third out of four drought stages, reflecting the impact of exceptionally dry conditions. Between March and September, Sussex received just 54 per cent of its expected rainfall. As a result, Ardingly Reservoir is currently under **20 per cent full (19.4 per cent as of 11 October).**

What we're doing

This Severe Drought declaration highlights exactly why we are stepping up our response. Protecting your community's daily water supply is our absolute priority, which is why we're dedicating maximum resources to moving water more efficiently across our network and fixing leaks faster.

To reduce water stress, we're actively:

- **Optimising water pressure across Sussex:** balancing pressure provides a more consistent, reliable supply, minimises burst pipes and reduces water loss from leaks.
- **Increased the number of teams tackling leaks:** we've more than doubled the dedicated leakage teams operating in the region to 16, up from seven.
- **Nearly halved the number of leaks**: with this extra workforce, the number of leaks in the area has dropped from 181 to 97 leaks. In the last two weeks alone, we've repaired 170 leaks locally, adding to the 1,317 leaks we have fixed in the affected area since 1st April.
- **Reduced overall leakage:** in the area, we've also reduced the total amount of water lost to leaks by 4 million litres since August.
- **Connecting county networks:** having fast-tracked the construction of a new pipeline connecting treated water from Bewl in Kent to the East Sussex network, this system is now moving water between the counties providing greater resilience and flexibility, and reduces the amount of water being drawn out of Ardingly Reservoir.

Our further hosepipe restrictions have also come into force, which means previously

permitted exemptions have now been removed, except where there is a need for health, safety or welfare purposes. We have also applied for a **Non-Essential Use Ban (NEUB)**, which we may use as a precautionary measure if approved.

How businesses can help
Managing a severe drought requires a collective effort. Small operational adjustments across commercial premises make a substantial difference to regional reserves.

Here are a few ways that your business can reduce water demand and become more water resilient:

- **Check facilities for hidden leaks:** Inspect employee toilets, canteen taps, and outdoor pipework regularly. Fixing a single dripping tap saves thousands of litres annually.
- **Optimise canteen and kitchen equipment:** Run commercial dishwashers only when fully loaded and ensure eco-settings are selected. Use washing-up bowls rather than running taps continuously.
- **Review cleaning protocols:** Avoid using hosepipes to clean vehicle fleets, yards, walkways, or outdoor seating. Switch to dry sweeping or bucket washing where necessary.
- **Capture and reuse water:** Install water butts or collection containers on commercial roof drainage to collect rainwater for outdoor maintenance or landscaping. Please keep containers securely covered to protect local wildlife.

We are extremely grateful for your support and co-operation as we navigate this period of severe drought.

south east water

All Upcoming BHBPA Events

28th October **HPC - Evening tour of one of Burgess Hill largest businesses**
5.30pm - 7.30pm HPC Premises, Victoria Way

Please book our events on our website
Whether it's an online event, or a site tour at one of our members, or a networking event at a venue. We need to know how many are attending. Spaces can sometimes be limited and we are finding increased demand. So book early!

Book all Events - CLICK HERE

Closing Remarks

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 various business parks in and around the town.

Let's celebrate your successes and achievements!

Deadline for copy each week is Thursday noon.
Contact me directly - **richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk**

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