



16.02.09

Dear readers, welcome to February's edition. I hope your business hasn't been hit by the unusual weather? We've had periods of no heating in the office which has been interesting! There's lots of support and help available at the moment so make sure you take some time to take help where it's available. If you can find time for some fun, its Valentines weekend, and half term, so if you're managing to take some time off I hope you enjoy it.

## Business Link Clinics Places Still Available For March

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
**Arun is OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

Improve your business at our FREE Arun Business Clinics  
Do you run your business or does your business run you?

February's clinic was well attended. There are places now available for  
**March 3rd 2009** Read More...

[CALL BUSINESS LINK NOW ON 0845 6009006 and quote "Arun Business Clinics"](tel:08456009006)

**Next Dates: Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009**

**Venue: Chichester College IT Centre, Littlehampton, [BN17 5AG](#).**

**Click on postcode for map & directions**

**Cost: FREE**

Arun Business Clinics are open to any business, limited or sole trader that has been in operation for more than two years

Business Link is a national business advisory service funded via the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). We look forward to helping you help your business.

In the daily challenge of running a business, it's often difficult to take a step back and look at the bigger picture. Just when you should be keeping your eye on the future, the day-to-day challenges take your time and attention away from your vision and plans.

It's so easy to get caught up working in your business, not on your business.

Arun District Council and Business Link have put together a series of Arun Business Clinics. These are designed to offer you a time and a place away from your business to talk over your business concerns, with an independent expert.

These FREE clinics have been designed to provide local enterprises with a face-to-face review with an experienced Business Link adviser. During the session the adviser will share information and ideas to develop an action plan that will help you progress towards your business goals. You can discuss finance, sales & marketing, staffing, operations or regulatory requirements -- whatever is causing concern at the moment. And if you need specialist help or support, the business adviser can help you find that too.

The clinics are being held at Chichester College IT Centre, Littlehampton once a month. Each session will last an hour so that your time away from your business will be kept to a minimum. Four slots are available during that day.

### **Arun is OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

[www.arun.gov.uk/business](http://www.arun.gov.uk/business)

## Security Schemes - New Members Wanted

I know it's a tricky time at the moment financially for some however these schemes are a cost saving not an extra cost. It would really benefit you and your neighbours if you can contribute to the schemes if you aren't already by ensuring that the current service remains in place.

So please Riverside & Rustington businesses, if you are worried about protecting your property and have not yet joined the security scheme established on your business park, maybe now *is* the time to do it.

Both business parks have established security schemes, Riverside with its CCTV system and Rustington Business Park with its mobile patrols. Both need new members to keep the level of security as it stands.

The benefits to joining the schemes are:

- Value For money: low cost due to group purchase
- Crime Reduction: significant reduction in low level crime & Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Enhanced relationship with local police, especially Community Support Officers.
- Potential reduction in insurance premiums
- Increase Community Spirit

So why not get involved, help your business and help make your business park an even nicer place to work?

To find out more or to sign up please contact me on 07929 030816 or [Christopher.Shephard@arun.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Shephard@arun.gov.uk)

## UK Corporate Games - LOGO

Held in Brighton for the first time from 4 - 7 June 2009, the UK Corporate Games is an annual multi-sport festival for 'Weekend Sports Warriors'. The Games is open to all businesses and organisations. Read More... Teams can include employees, colleagues, clients, family and friends. With 24 sports on offer, all you need to do is request an entry from [www.corporate-games.com](http://www.corporate-games.com) and capitalise on the corporate benefits.

## Active & Healthy Workplaces

LOGOs

### **New Year's Resolutions: Are you fit for a healthy business?**

Statistically, most people who start New Year's resolutions drop them by the third week in January. So, if you or your staff are feeling your resolve slipping, take advantage of free help from the professionals to keep up your new regime!

The Sussex County Sports Partnership (SCSP) have launched a FREE consultation service to companies across Sussex, who are interested in introducing an Active and Healthy workplace scheme to improve the health of their employees.

Ill-health costs British businesses £12 billion annually. Evidence proves that there are multiple business benefits to be gained through focusing more attention on employee health and well-being, including improved productivity and employee morale and retention.

Physically active employees take 27% fewer days of sick leave, which can ultimately translate to huge savings. Introducing an Active and Healthy Workplace scheme can drive down absenteeism and staff turnover, reducing costs of overtime, sick pay and temporary staff cover, as well as recruitment and re-training costs.

Working in an unstable economic climate can be extremely stressful for staff. In 2007/08 a total of 13.5 million working days were lost to work-related stress, depression and anxiety - and today's credit-crunch environment is likely to push those numbers higher in 2009 - so it is even more important that employers understand how they can help ensure their workforce's physical and mental well-being.

If you are not sure where to start, or would like advice on how you can improve on what you already do, then get in touch with the Sussex County Sports Partnership to arrange a free consultation and report.

The consultation involves a simple audit of your organisation and employees, in the form of an online questionnaire; the results of which will be used to formulate key recommendations. These recommendations will be used to create a tailor-made programme to meet the individual needs of your organisation.

The SCSP can put you in contact with local partners and give you access to existing resources to ensure the programme is implemented in the most cost effective manner. They can also help review and evaluate the programme over

time to ensure its ongoing success and sustainability.

So what are you waiting for? Thanks to our funders: Big Lottery, Sport England and other local partners including, West Sussex County Council, West Sussex Ahead of the Game, University of Chichester, University of Brighton and the University of Sussex this service is absolutely **FREE!** Make sure your business is ahead of the game in the lead up to the 2012 London Olympics!

If you're an employer or an employee and you think this would be beneficial to your company contact Donna Imrie on 01273 644103 or email [dimirie@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:dimirie@brighton.ac.uk). For more information about the benefits an active and healthy workplace can bring to your organisation visit [www.sussexsport.com](http://www.sussexsport.com)

## Train To Survive – Breakfast Skills Surgery

In these troubling economic times it is of paramount importance that your staff are highly trained in order to put your business in the strongest position possible. The complimentary breakfast event 'Train to Survive' will enable you to assess your business, with the help of experts, to help ensure you're moving in the right direction.

Sussex Enterprise together with Train to Gain and Arun Business Partnership, warmly invite you to attend this complimentary breakfast taking place from 7:30am on Wednesday the 18th of February at the Norfolk Park Hotel in Arundel.

Attendance at this event will give your business benefits such as;

With expert support assess your skills needs - ensuring your company is heading in the direction you want

A comprehensive action plan that will not just contain the 'why' of your training needs, but the 'how' so that you can ensure practical solutions are given

Up to £1000 worth of leadership skills training to improve your business\*

Information on the quick and easy bite sized training available in critical business areas such as; business improvement, team leadership and customer service.

Initial demand for this event has been very high, so book soon to ensure that you do not miss out on this fantastic opportunity.

To book your free place visit:

[www.sussexenterprise.co.uk](http://www.sussexenterprise.co.uk)

call 01444 259149 or email

[eventbookings@sussexenterprise.co.uk](mailto:eventbookings@sussexenterprise.co.uk)

FSB Reports

The Federation of Small Businesses has recently launched a series of five reports with positive proposals for putting the UK economy back on track. These reports are based on the results of the FSB biennial membership survey. To read the reports  
To see the reports, please click on the link below:

[www.fsb.org.uk/policy/backontrack2008](http://www.fsb.org.uk/policy/backontrack2008)

## COSTS – Attention All Business Drivers

The Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) is bringing a new focus on business drivers as part of the COSTS project, aiming to reduce the death and injury levels on Sussex Roads.

Nearly 30% of all serious and fatal road collisions involve individuals driving for business purposes – whether running an errand for the boss or taking the long haul in an HGV. From drivers exceeding the designated speed limit for their vehicle (or the road) to the effects of fatigue after a long trip, business people are over-represented in Sussex's collision statistics.

To combat this, the SSRP has developed the Company Operator Safer Transport Scheme (COSTS), the latest phase of which was launched on Thursday 12 February, targeting both company owners and their drivers.

Under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2008, company owners who have either not developed an occupational road risk plan or have not driven its implementation can be jailed for manslaughter if one of their employees is involved in a fatal collision. COSTS provides owners and fleet managers with a comprehensive pack of information regarding their responsibilities, as well as the opportunity to access the support that they need to develop and implement an occupational road risk policy.

COSTS is also focussing on those who drive for work, and specifically operators of both light and heavy goods vehicles. Many drivers seem unaware of the speed restrictions imposed by the law on their vans, and excess speed has been shown to be a contributory factor in a large number of collisions. Furthermore, the dangers of mobile phone use at the wheel and fatigue are also being highlighted to this target audience.

Frost's of Shoreham is a key commercial partner in the latest phase of the COSTS project and is leading the way in operational road risk management. Company Director William Frost comments:

"Keeping drivers safe on the roads is the responsibility of every company owner or fleet manager. Aside from the human toll of serious collisions, it costs a business every time one of their vehicles is so much as scraped.

"The costs naturally rise in the event of more serious incidents and in these tight economic times, I believe that proactively guiding our drivers on all aspects of road safety is a way to stop needless expenditure, and of course ensure safety for all of our employees."

Superintendent Steve Barry, Head of Roads Policing for Sussex Police, adds:

"Reducing the number of collisions experienced by business drivers is one of the priorities for Sussex Roads Police in the forthcoming year.

"The number of collisions on the road experienced by this group massively over-represents them in our statistics, and many of the incidents are entirely avoidable.

"The new Corporate Manslaughter Act clearly sets out the responsibilities of all company owners and fleet managers, as well as the penalties that they can experience if one of their employees is involved in a serious collision. Therefore, it is the perfect time for the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership to work with businesses of all sizes to help them comply with the law, stay safe on the roads and reduce their expenditure as well."

For more information about the COSTS project and what it means for business, visit [www.sussexsaferroads.gov.uk/COSTS](http://www.sussexsaferroads.gov.uk/COSTS)

## Local Development Framework Your Chance To Have Your Say

Finding land for thousands of new homes, new jobs, improved transport and better community facilities are just some of the challenges the Council faces when trying to plan the best future for Arun.

Tough decisions must be made – and we want everyone to have their say.

Arun District Council is running a public consultation between 12 February and 2 April 2009 to find out what local residents think before these decisions are made.

Log onto [www.arun.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.arun.gov.uk/ldf) to find out more.

## Business Profile – Greenpower

This week I visited the offices of Greenpower, a fantastic company based in Harwood Road in Littlehampton, who organise a series of electric car races for schools right around the UK.

Jeremy kindly took time out to chat with me about their business and about how he's excited about future challenges.

Jeremy said "With 400 teams from Cornwall to Scotland involved in the exciting challenge to design build and race an electric car, it is a truly national initiative with the aim of promoting engineering and technology as a career to those aged 9-21".

"In today's increasingly environmentally aware society, Greenpower also demonstrates vehicle technology of the future and raises awareness of green issues amongst young people."

Jeremy actually won one of the first Greenpower finals, and worked at Greenpower during his A Levels. He joined after 6th form and is now a director of the business. This just goes to show Greenpower's commitment to young people and their development in this exciting industry.

Since its inception in Sussex in 1999, Greenpower has grown quickly through the support of national sponsors such as the Ford Motor Company, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and public funding, as well as regional sponsors such as Fordingbridge plc at Fontwell supporting local events.

Now, in the current difficult economic climate, Greenpower urgently requires funding to continue its excellent work making a difference to thousands of UK students, due to the cutting of funding from national partners. Anyone keen to be associated with such an exciting project with great green credentials should get in touch with Greenpower to find out more about sponsorship. You can email [marketing@greenpower.co.uk](mailto:marketing@greenpower.co.uk) or call 01903 715915. For more information visit the highly informative website at [www.greenpower.co.uk](http://www.greenpower.co.uk)

## Previous Editions

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Please think before you print!

West Sussex Economic Partnership, Registered in England No 4464782  
Registered Office: The Corn Exchange, Baffins Lane, Chichester PO19 1GE