



25.04.08

I hope this week's newsletter finds you well and having as productive a time as possible in this uncertain economic climate. What is certain is that it's nearly May again already and it's starting to get warmer! This edition is full of the usual eclectic mix of articles, which I hope you will find useful.

If you'd like to tell others about your company please let me know!

Crime - Some Positive News

I heard from Littlehampton Police this week that, after the recent vehicle crime spree in the town, a prolific target offender has been arrested and charged. Raising it to the police through regular reporting, and through the Business Park Association network, has helped raise the profile and the importance of catching those responsible. We should thank the Police for their efforts and continue to report any incidents on the Business Parks.

More Police News

This week I had the pleasure of touring Littlehampton's Lineside, Harwood Road and Fort Road Industrial Estates with Neighbourhood Specialist Constable, Wendy Rhodes from Littlehampton Police Station. PC Rhodes and her team make up the Neighbourhood Support Team for Wick and the neighbouring industrial estates, and have clearly made great strides in working with the communities both business & residential. It's always interesting to be out with the police in the community, and seeing things from their point of view. The reason for our visit and our recent meetings is to share intelligence to ensure an even safer Business Park community in Littlehampton. It's clear to me that high visibility policing like the work the NST teams in Littlehampton & Bognor Regis do, certainly helps reduce crime.

Like all Neighbourhood Support Teams, each member has a monthly update (http://www.sussex.police.uk/neighbourhood_policing/local_officer_whats_happening.aspx) which you can view online.

For them to be even more successful, they need businesses to report crime. Please call 0845 60 70 999 to report anything suspicious.

Free Training For Bognor Regis Businesses

Regular readers will have hopefully noticed an article in the last edition about Riverside Industrial Estate benefiting from public funds to train some volunteer employees to become First Responders, and to use a defibrillator. The same project is now available in Bognor Regis and could benefit your business. To enable me to

put together a bid for these funds specially allocated to deprived wards, I need to gauge the interest from businesses in Bognor Regis. Read more...

The project works like this. Volunteers from the business community come forward to agree to be trained. They are trained by St Johns Ambulance in responding to an accident first, before the ambulance, with the aim of reducing the chance of death. The equipment they carry (a defibrillator, oxygen & extras), and the training they receive (CPR etc), can help reduce the chance of death from an electric shock, a heart attack or even a fall. Volunteers sign on via mobile phone when they are available, and are contacted by text message when there is an appropriate incident.

It is intended that business volunteers will be available to respond to incidents on the Business Parks of Bognor Regis, however there is the option for volunteers to be "on-call" after business hours if they so choose.

Volunteers become members of Bognor Regis & District First Responders, not full members of St Johns. They will not be required at village fete's etc. There are other groups of First Responders in a network along Coastal West Sussex. They are supported financially by St Johns Ambulance and the Ambulance Service. All useable kit is replaced by the Ambulance Service. Crucially, all insurance is paid for

The benefits to your business are that your First Aid representative is regularly trained to a high standard, and there is also a possibility of reducing your insurance premiums. The impact to your business is that if there is an incident that your member of staff is able to respond to, they will not be in the business earning money. If your business would like to take advantage of this, please let me know by way of email Christopher.shephard@arun.gov.uk before Friday 2nd May. Once I have enough volunteers, I can put in a bid for funding which will be subject to assessment by the Local Strategic Partnership.

White Swan Hotel Arundel

Yesterday I was fortunate to have a nose around the recently refurbished White Swan Hotel at Arundel. What a great place! Visit their website www.pebblehotels.com or read their press release here...

The White Swan Hotel has just undergone a full refurbishment, and is now back in business and on Arundel's map! We have strived to devise a contemporary setting for this traditional property, with a blend of oak beams, open fires, bold fabrics and striking artwork, which also features the key sites of the town.

The stunning bar and restaurant area, with its mix of rich and tranquil colours, is a delightful space to enjoy our new menus over a chilled glass of wine or one of our locally sourced ales. Original features such as the slate floor and rustic oak pillars in the bar remain, but have been complimented against the vanished bar front and bold lighting. We have created a relaxing lounge area where diners and residential guests alike can unwind on our comfy sofas and lazy chairs.

The hotel is situated five minutes outside of Arundel, and is perfectly located for easy travel to Chichester, Fontwell and Goodwood. The White Swan is the ideal venue for both business and pleasure, so why not get in touch and find out how we can help make the most of your stay. We are also open early every day, so why not take that early business meeting over a Costa Coffee and a sticky danish, and make use of our free Wi-Fi connection?

Meetings and Events

The White Swan offers three rooms for an array of different events from exhibitions, private functions and training sessions to a simple boardroom meeting. The Sussex Suite provides a fabulous space for up to maximum of 120 delegates. The room is light and spacious and also has the benefit of a top of the range, sound proof divider to allow the room to be split into The Fontwell Suite and The Goodwood Suite. Each of these rooms can accommodate up to 20 delegates boardroom style.

Bedrooms

We are delighted with our new look bedrooms! The light colour scheme in the rooms picks out the little extra touches such as the bright scatter cushions on the plush bed and the vibrant curtains that frame the landscape views. The bedrooms have clean lines with a modern feel, and all personal amenities, 24 hour room service, internet connection and tea and coffee making facilities. Be it for business or pleasure all in all they give our guests a beautiful space to unwind.

Visit our website on www.pebblehotels.com. Should you wish to come and see it all for yourselves and discuss your companies business needs, please call Robyn Knights on 07825 200 742 to arrange an appointment.

Business Link Event

Calling all Businesses! If you need some business advice or want to discuss a specific issue but don't know where to turn?

Why not book yourself in to the [Business Link](#) Surgery on May 8th and get some answers!

It can be lonely running a Business - but help doesn't need to come at a price

Business Link is a nationwide network of business advisers who provide information, advice and support to those looking to grow their business. The service is completely free.

The Coastal Business Parks initiative from Arun District Council has arranged for the Business Link service to be made available to the business occupiers of Littlehampton & Rustington's Industrial Estates in a one-day Business Surgery to be held on 8th May 2008 at: [Unit R, Own Your Own Development, Lineside Industrial Estate, Littlehampton.](#)

One-hour appointments with a Business Link adviser are available, free of charge, by booking in advance.

If you are interested in benefiting from impartial business advice, why not book a one-hour slot at the Littlehampton & Rustington Industrial Estate Business Surgery, by calling Mark Lindsay on 07710909588.

So who pays?

Well, Business Link service is primarily funded by Regional Development Agencies (SEEDA in the South East of England) supported by a number of other government departments, agencies and local authorities. This money funds 45-Business Link centres nationwide, the nearest one to you is at Burgess Hill.

Is it worth the time?

Business reviews are commercially worth £950 each. Many Sussex businesses have grown significantly as a result of working with a Business Link Business Adviser. Across three-years the Enterprises in Sussex that Business Link works with have recorded an average 12% increase in profitability.

Some of the services Business Link offer are:

- How to reduce costs, plan pricing and increase sales and profits
- Creating powerful business and marketing plans
- Attracting new customers - and increasing the value of existing ones
- Making the best use of staff
- Financial advice, especially for investment readiness or grant applications
- Innovation and creative development, including website reviews.

All advice is given by an expert who is 100% independent.

Business Link is part of the Government's campaign to promote enterprise and to make the UK the best place in the world to grow a business. If you are interested in benefiting from impartial business advice book a one-hour slot at the Littlehampton & Rustington Industrial Estate Business Surgery, by calling Mark Lindsay on 07710909588.

If you can't make it to this event, but would like to get some free help and support, then call 0845 6009006, or find out more at <http://www.businesslinkbusinessreview.co.uk/>

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'Business Link provides the information, advice and support you need to start, maintain and to grow a business'

Business Link is operated through Sussex Enterprise Services Limited

Swimathon

This weekend, Joy Bradbury-Ball, Lauren Fairs-Browning and I completed the Swimathon at Littlehampton pool! We swam as the Arun District Council team "District Dolphins" and completed 5K between us in just under 55 minutes. We raised over £300 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Thanks to everyone who sponsored us but donations are still welcome(!) [click here](#)

Congestion on your Business Park?

Then why not promote the use of the County Council's Lift share scheme in your business and do your bit?

West Sussex County Council's Travelwise officer has recently let me know that on their website <http://www.westsussexcarshare.com/directory.asp> there is now a free service with dedicated public groups for all the Business Parks in the County. The aim of this is obviously to encourage more car sharing amongst employees on Business Parks where congestion is beginning to impact on the bottom line.

This is just another free way of making a difference and improving the quality of life on your business park.

There are other interesting ways of improving your travel plans on the travelwise website www.westsussex.gov.uk/travelwise.

I'd be interested to know if anyone takes this up, so please get in touch.

The Federation of Small Business

Last week I had a very fruitful meeting with the Federation of Small Businesses last week at which we talked about many things including Business Improvement Districts. We will be working closely to ensure greater links are made between us. For more information about the [FSB](#) please contact Regional Organiser, Liz Francis 01403 734257 or liz.francis@fsb.org.uk.

Small Business Manifesto

The [Federation of Small Businesses](#) (FSB) has launched a Small Business Manifesto to press local authorities to champion small businesses ahead of local elections in England on May 1.

The UK's biggest business organisation will focus its local election lobbying on the campaign to Keep Trade Local, which seeks to protect small businesses from unfair planning laws, draconian parking restrictions in town centres and the breakdown of local economies. The Small Business Manifesto also has detailed proposals for local government on small business issues including:

- Finance;
- Procurement;
- Regulation;
- Transport;
- Crime; and
- Planning.

Mrs Audrey Whitney, Chairman of the Arun, Chichester & Littlehampton Branch of the FSB, said:

"Small businesses are the backbone of local communities and it is about time local councils recognised this in their policies.

"Planning decisions that benefit supermarkets and out-of-town retail parks, draconian town centre parking restrictions and the closure of thousands of post offices are contributing to the death of over 2,000 small shops every year.

"We believe local government in England could be doing much more to safeguard the future of small businesses. The local elections on May 1 offer a perfect opportunity for prospective councillors to demonstrate they are serious about the future of their local communities."

Keep Trade Local Campaign

The [Federation of Small Businesses](#) (FSB) recently launched a national campaign and online petition to save small shops from extinction.

The House of Commons estimates that by 2015 there will be no independent retailers left in the UK. This means the closure of over 50,000 small businesses and the demise of the UK high street.

If you value your local community, please sign the FSB's Keep Trade Local petition at: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/keeptradelocal/>

Mrs Audrey Whitney, Chairman of the Arun, Chichester & Midhurst Branch of the FSB, said:

"You only need to look at your local high street to witness the slow death of the local community. The grocers, butchers and newsagents that contributed to the lifeblood of our towns have been replaced by empty facades, fast-food outlets and charity shops."

For some years now, small shops in town centres and rural areas have come under pressure from poor local planning decisions, free out of town parking, unfavourable business rates and sharp practices by super markets.

This matters for a number of reasons. Thriving small shops attract customers, which increases the footfall for surrounding businesses. No local shops can mean no post office, no pub and fewer local services.

Small retailers also return well over fifty percent of their profits to the local community. The same cannot be said of supermarkets. Shopping locally is better for the environment. The average person now travels 893 miles a year to shop for food. Shops on your doorstep mean fewer car journeys and less time spent in traffic jams. For these reasons, the FSB is campaigning to secure the future of small shops across the UK and to safeguard the choice and competition that people expect in the market place.

The FSB wants to see local retail planning decisions reflect the needs of the local community; it wants a review of business rates in town centres; and an end to unfair commercial practices, such as below-cost-selling.

Supermarkets are a fact of life and their success should be applauded, but there is no reason why they should not coexist with a thriving local high street as they do in other countries like France."

If you value your local community, please sign the FSB's Keep Trade Local petition at: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/keeptradelocal/>

Mental Health Awareness Training

This week I was contacted by Liz Stack, the Development Manager for the charity MIND, about One In Four. One In Four is an education and awareness workshop for employees who might come into contact with people with mental health issues. The charity has acquired funding through Arun District Council to run six half day [Mental Health Awareness Workshops](#) in Littlehampton.

The Workshops will be run by the Assist Communities training organisation. The workshops are FREE to anyone living or working in East Arun and it will be a matter of 'first come first served', so book early!

If you or your employees would like to attend one of the workshops, please use the [Booking Form](#) which has available dates on it. For more information please contact eliz.stack@worthingmind.co.uk or Liz Stack, Worthing and Littlehampton MIND, 8 ? 10 Durrington Lane, Worthing BN13 2QG. Tel: 01903 690219

Company Profile - Envirowaste (southern) Ltd

This morning I am off to meet Graham at [Envirowaste](#) (southern) Ltd to see how their business could help Business Park Occupiers. Here's a bit of background...

Envirowaste (southern) Ltd was established in March 2007, and the purpose of the company is to reduce the amount of recyclable waste going to landfill, which is not only good for the environment, but can save companies a considerable amount over the year.

We specialise in recycling cardboard, Jazz plastic (shrink wrap, bubble wrap, polythene) and paper.

We can collect this on a weekly basis, we can come twice weekly if necessary, at no extra cost, for this service we charge £3.00 + Vat a week, which is invoiced quarterly at £39.00 + Vat a quarter.

We can provide 1100 Litre containers for storage of the recyclable material, if required, if more than two containers or more than two collections are required, we would charge another £1.00 per container or visit.

All collected materials are taken to our yard in Yapton, sorted and then the cardboard is baled, into mill size bales, so is the plastic. All bales are then sold onto the mills within the UK.

Our paper is taken to another recycling company in Hampshire, we it is shredded and baled, and again sold onto the mills within the UK.

We cover most area's in Sussex, Hampshire and parts of Surrey.

We also recycling Tyres, and offer a full collection service, weather it be from a tyre distributor or a site clearance of fly tipped tyres, we do it all. The tyres are then shredded at our yard, into 20mm wire free rubber crumb, which is for use in equestrian arena's. We collect any size of tyre at various rates.

We have a Waste management licence, issued by the Environment Agency , EAWML/ 100156 and we are also registered waste carriers.

For more information please contact Graham Wells on 01243 554809 or email enquiries@envirowasteltd.com

And finally have a great weekend!