

Chamber News June 2013



Manor Royal businesses say “YES”

Businesses in Manor Royal have voted in favour of creating the biggest business improvement district (BID) of its kind in the whole of the United Kingdom.

A BID is a way for businesses in a defined area to collaborate and jointly invest in improvements to make their trading environment more competitive and profitable. There are about 130 BIDS across the country. Some are in town centres and some, like Manor Royal, operate on trading estates and business parks.

The process, which is supported by Government legislation, allows businesses to work together to develop a business plan for their area and organise a vote among themselves to approve the plan. The majority of businesses have to vote in favour of the BID for it to be approved and for the money to be raised to deliver it.

The result of the postal vote that was administered by Crawley Borough Council's Electoral Services Team returned a 70% vote in favour of the Manor Royal BID.

With over 700 unique business premises and 500 businesses, the Manor Royal Business Improvement District will be the largest “industrial” BID in the country and provides an opportunity for local firms to take a central role and be a leading influence in the area's future success.

“These are exciting times for Manor Royal. The BID will create the platform for Manor Royal businesses to work together and change the trading environment for the better,” commented Trevor Williams of Thales UK and Manor Royal chair. “It's now up to all of us to grasp this opportunity and make it work for us. There is so much potential.” “This is a real coup for Manor Royal and everyone involved,” said Councillor Claire Denman, Cabinet member for Planning and Economic Development at Crawley Borough Council. “We look forward to working with the Manor Royal BID company that will provide a focal point for investment and, indeed, our own efforts as the council. The BID will lay the foundations for

a truly business-led venture and a partnership with the private sector on Manor Royal.”

The Manor Royal BID will be in place for at least five years and will raise £2.5m, of which 25% is expected to come from other sources like grants. This figure could be more depending on the success of the BID. The next steps involve setting up the Manor Royal company to deliver the BID with a Board of Directors drawn from Manor Royal firms.

More details are set to follow now the BID has been approved but early action is likely to focus on security measures (including CCTV), promoting trade between Manor Royal firms, looking to improve infrastructure like broadband provision and looking at ways to reduce costs for Manor Royal based firms.

Visit the dedicated BID pages at www.manorroyal.org or email: steve@manorroyal.org

Britain – turning the corner?

The 0.3% rise in GDP during the first quarter of 2013 came as a welcome relief, and means that the UK has avoided a triple-dip recession. Indeed, revisions to past data now show the double-dip at the end of 2011 as being very mild, with two successive quarterly contractions of just 0.1%. Although the initial first quarter estimate will doubtless be revised, it does at least have the merit of being a 'clean' read-out, that is to say it is free from distortions caused by bad weather, the Olympic Games, or extra Bank Holidays.

The bad news from the first-quarter GDP figures is that the economy remains as unbalanced as ever, with growth being driven by the services sector and a modest revival in energy production, while the output of both the manufacturing and construction sectors continued to decline. The manufacturing sector has been in recession for nearly two years, with output more than 3% down from the previous peak in 2011 and a tenth lower than it was before the onset of the recession.

With the Eurozone stuck fast in recession, 2013 is shaping up to be another tough year for British exporters. With GDP expected to expand by 0.8% for the year as a whole, much of this growth will again come from spending by consumers. Inflation continues to run well ahead of earnings growth, but the desire to pay down past borrowings seems to be abating. Households may be feeling a little more secure thanks to the stabilisation of house prices and the recent strong run in equity markets, and consumer confidence has edged slightly higher since the end of last year – though the upturn has been modest and survey readings remain low compared to historic norms.

Ian Harper - HSBC
ianharper@hsbc.com

New radios for Crawley and Gatwick Businesswatch

Businesses in Crawley have a new weapon in the fight against crime after Crawley and Gatwick Businesswatch installed a digital radio system. The new digital radios, handed out to the organisation's 125 members this week, have a number of significant benefits over the old, analogue system. Computer connections enable people trained on the system to be able to put out alerts such as fake notes, recent incidents, missing and wanted people, which will then be disseminated out to members' radios.

The new two-channel system also enables better coverage at events. For example, on match days licensed premises associated with Crawley Town FC will be in close communication with each other and Sussex Police at the same time as retailers are communicating with each other on another channel.

The new system was launched by Steve Waight, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex; Henry Smith MP; Chief Inspector Justina Beeken; Councillor Claire Denman, Cabinet member for Planning and Economic Development at Crawley Borough Council; Peter Ross, Chair of Crawley Town Centre Partnership; and Karen Methven, Crawley and Gatwick Businesswatch Manager.

Councillor Claire Denman said: "Crawley and Gatwick Businesswatch provides a great service to its members. This new system will improve members' ability to share vital information, reducing crime and improving safety."

Peter Ross said: "It is critical for the future of Crawley town centre that we ensure every opportunity is taken to have the maximum level of security for our local businesses, visitors and residents. In our opinion this facility will considerably improve our ability to deal with anti-social behaviour and crime."

Karen Methven said: "Communication between businesses is extremely important, not only for the reduction of crime but, in the current economic climate when businesses are running on limited staff, having communication with other businesses close by and knowing what is going on is vital."
"The new system enables more members to communicate in a variety of different ways, including the ability to receive and send text messages.

"Working in partnership helps significantly reduce crime in the area and encourages a sense of community."

Alfredo Menzies - Town Centre Manager

New TechBacc will give vocational education the high status it deserves

The technical baccalaureate measure is announced. It provides an alternative to the A level study route for post-16 education. The TechBacc will be a performance measure marking achievement by young people aged 16 to 19 in 3 areas. Mr Hancock said it would be rigorous and challenging, finally giving vocational education the high status it deserves - putting it on a par with A level study and recognising excellence. He added it would give bright young people aspiring to a vocational career a first-class alternative to the more traditional A level route, ensuring they have the technical ability employers want, and giving Britain the skilled workforce it needs to compete in the global race.

It will be introduced for courses beginning in September 2014, reported for the first time in the college and school sixth-form performance tables in January 2017. The 3 elements are:

- a high-quality level 3 vocational qualification - only the best courses, recognised by employers, will continue to count in league tables; a list of these courses will be published towards the end of the year

- a level 3 'core maths' qualification, including AS level maths (further information about core maths courses for post-16 students will be published by the Department for Education (DfE) in due course)

- the extended project, which will develop and test students' skills in extended writing, communication, research, and self-discipline and self-motivation

Mr Hancock said vocational training already enjoyed this level of esteem in Germany, Japan and South Korea, and said the TechBacc would enable students in England to compete in the global race, giving them the skills that employers need.

Matthew Hancock said that young people who achieved the TechBacc would have a set of qualifications that stood them in good stead to get good jobs, take apprenticeships, or go on to further study, including technical courses at university.

Skills Minister Matthew Hancock said: The TechBacc will be a mark of achievement for young people who successfully study three key elements – a rigorous high-quality vocational course, maths and literacy. We are being clear to our young people about the skills they need to succeed and get good jobs. We want an education system in which everyone can reach their potential.

We expect all bright students who want to go into technically skilled jobs or apprenticeships to aim for the TechBacc.

The occupations most suited to young people achieving the TechBacc would be those requiring significant theory and knowledge, including:

- STEM technicians (eg laboratory technicians, IT technicians, various engineering technician roles, construction professionals)

- service technicians (retail and hospitality management, personal services, junior accounting positions)

- creative technicians (digital media, other media, creative industries, sport industry, material/textiles, design)

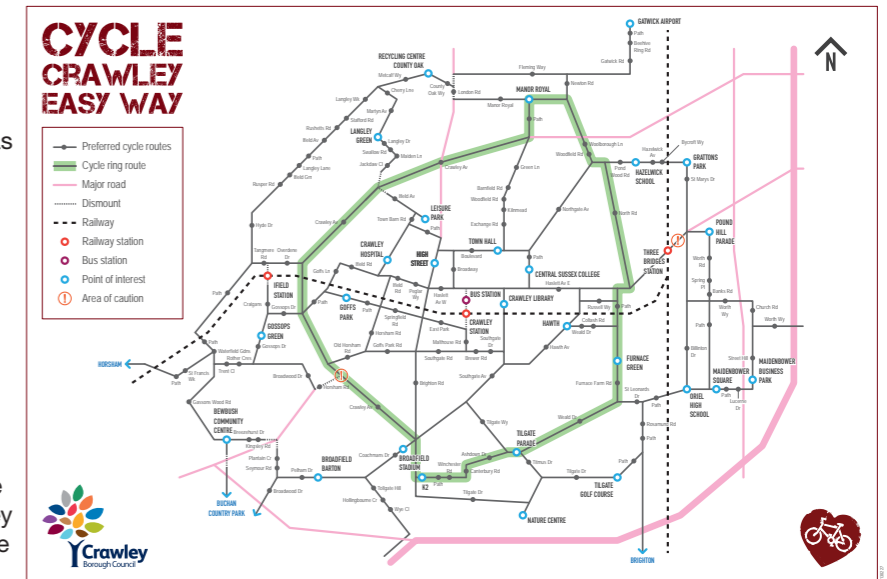
Madeleine Mills - Young Enterprise

Cycle around Crawley the Easy Way

A new 'no-mess' cycle map has been created for town cyclists by Crawley Borough Council. The Cycle Crawley Easy Way map echoes the simple format of the London Underground map, making choosing a cycle route around Crawley as straight-forward as possible.

The Easy Way network features many quiet streets and off-road paths with very few pedestrian only stretches or areas where extra care should be taken.

The free Easy Way map is available to download from www.crawley.gov.uk/cycling and can be picked up from K2 Crawley, Crawley Library, Crawley Town Football Club, community centres and cafes, shops and bars which display a Cycle Crawley poster in the coming few weeks. Crawley has many miles of cycle routes which are suitable for people of all ages and many of which are off-road. The Easy Way map is part of Cycle Crawley, a town-wide campaign to show residents and commuters that bikes are fast and convenient.



For more information about cycling visit www.crawley.gov.uk/cycling

FOUR-TIME IRON MAN TO STRENGTHEN BUSINESSES IN SUSSEX/SURREY

A four-time Iron-man triathlete is applying his drive for success within the business arena by bringing Business Doctors, the UK's fastest growing support service for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), to Sussex & Surrey. Chris Simpson (45), a triathlete who has raced at both the World and European Championships, will be applying his wealth of experience gained turning around a wide range of businesses to provide support and strategic advice to owners and directors of SMEs in the South East.

Prior to joining Business Doctors, Simpson ran a number of businesses, including The Search Works – Europe's largest search marketing agency, which generated an annual profit of £5 million per year. Simpson also worked as the Commercial Director of Manor Royal-based Air Miles (now Avios), which grew from 150 to 1,500 employees during his time with the company.

He said of his new challenge: "I have always enjoyed change management and building strategies to help businesses reach their full potential. This is something that I have done in the past as an adjunct to my day job, but I am excited by the idea of doing this every day and using my experience to help businesses grow".



Crawley STEMfest
Discovering tomorrow's inventors, creators and imaginers

Crawley STEMfest will return in summer 2013 and is set to be the biggest, most exciting celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) in the region. Building on the success of the inaugural event last year, the festival will take place in schools and colleges, in STEM Clubs and throughout the community during May and June 2013 and will involve thousands of young people and their teachers and parents.

It is an outstanding and unique opportunity for schools and colleges to forge lasting links with businesses, and for businesses to become part of a high-profile programme of events and inform young people about the work and career opportunities offered by the region's world-class companies.

Crawley STEMfest 2013 will culminate in the Big Bang South East at The Hawth, Crawley, on 2nd July. Part of the nationwide Big Bang Programme, students from nine to 19 will:

- enjoy hands-on workshops, activities and innovative shows
- learn about the latest developments in STEM areas
- interact with industry
- discover more about STEM career paths.

The Big Bang South East also hosts the regional finals of the National Science + Engineering Competition, recognising and celebrating the achievements of young people in STEM.

www.crawleystemfest.co.uk

Dates for your diary

Welcome to Sussex Newspapers

Sussex Newspapers is the largest publisher of local media in the county, having newspapers, magazines and websites which service Sussex in its entirety. We are proud to have established, trusted brands in our local markets which our readers and audiences know provide a reliable and consistent sources of news, on the topics which are most important to them.

Having large and consistent audiences is great news for our advertisers. We put key businesses messages of our clients in front of thousands of potential customers, every week, generating high levels of response and an excellent return on investment.

More locally, in the Gatwick Diamond, we have a range of newspapers and websites which service this district:

Crawley Horley Observer – servicing Crawley, Horley and all surrounding villages.

West Sussex County Times – servicing Horsham, Southwater, Billingshurst & Cranleigh, plus all surrounding villages, including those north of the Downs (Storrington, Publorough etc).

Mid Sussex Times – servicing Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill and all surrounding villages.

Business Matters – a dedicated B2B supplement, which services the entire Gatwick Diamond area.

For more information, please contact Gill Rooke on 07753 776 309

Chamber executive portfolio holders:

Matt Turner - Vice President matt@creativepod.net
Lorraine Nugent - Publicity lorraine@mediawordwaves.com
Ian Harper - Economic issues ianharper@hsbc.com
Madeleine Mills - Education madeleine.mills@y-e.org.uk
Paul Roe - Transport - Gatwick paul.roe@reeves.co
Philip Hayden - Treasurer philip@placedobson.co.uk
Geoff Williamson - Community, Business and Environment geoff@ituk.biz
Mendes, Alfredo - Town Centre - alfredo.mendes@crawley.gov.uk



Next Chamber meeting

Thursday June 13th – Civic Hall – Skills event – A dummies guide - to LinkedIn with Andrew Hookway of extech - 4.30 to 5.30pm – free to members

June 26th – K2 – Members breakfast meeting – 8.00am

July 9th – Let's Race – evening event – 6.00pm

Sept 25th – Mermbers meeting – skills event – Negotiating Skills with Roffey Park Institute

Dec 13th – Christmas lunch – Arora Hotel

Please contact jose@crawleychamber.co.uk to book and/ or for more details on any of the above or visit the chamber website www.crawleychamber.co.uk and pay online.

Publicity



Lorraine Nugent of Media Word Waves and editor of the Chamber monthly newsletter

If you, as a member, have news that you would like to share with other members of the Chamber in the next newsletter please let me know. If you require more information with regards to the publicity of the Chamber please speak to Lorraine or email Lorraine@mediawordwaves.com



For all your design and print needs

Follow us on Twitter

@creativePod1

creativepod

Tel: 01293 817228
Email: hello@creativepod.net
www.creativepod.net