

WINTER NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello and welcome to the Winsford 1-5 winter newsletter.

I'd like to start by wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year, and although it seems a while ago now, I hope you had a great festive break filled with rest and relaxation.

As ever it is all systems go here on the estate with plenty of impactful initiatives taking place and positive updates from our businesses.

It is great to see training continuing to prove popular, with employees from a range of businesses taking advantage of the various courses throughout 2023. There's another great schedule of sessions coming up in 2024, so please do get involved if you spot something which could benefit your team. As ever, thanks to Stephanie Leese for overseeing the organisation of the different courses.

Elsewhere, it has been good to see Cheshire Police working with our businesses to provide insights and best practice where safety and security is concerned.

The covert testing will have proved extremely beneficial to the businesses who took part, and I look forward to hearing about the steps they have taken to bolster their processes.

This partnership is set to continue over the coming months and I would urge you to get in touch with BID Manager Hugh Shields if you would like to get involved.

In other news, we're investigating a potential recycling initiative which will boost our practices where sustainability is concerned. There's more on this later in the newsletter, but it could be an exciting scheme which would benefit us all.



Please also have a look at the link on page five relating to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This scheme is helping businesses unlock and unleash their potential and could be a great way to implement initiatives relating to sustainability and net zero. It's great to see that some of our businesses have got involved already, so why not check it out?

And finally, keep your eyes peeled for more information about the next annual quiz. It's always an entertaining evening and it would be great to get another full house of entrants.

That's it from me for now. I hope you all have a strong start to the year and a successful 2024.

Yours Sincerely,

Pete Price

Chairman of the Winsford 1-5 Executive Board



AWARD FOR WINSFORD GATEWAY SERVICE STATION

Congratulations to Winsford Gateway service station after the facility scooped the top prize in their category at the Forecourt Trader awards.

Held at the grand finals event in London, the service station was shortlisted in the North West over 4mpla section and triumphed over three other finalists from Bacup, Catterick and Blackpool respectively.

A spokesperson said:



The team are so proud of this significant achievement which is testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff who put everything into delivering a best-in-class customer experience each day. We are grateful for this acknowledgement from industry experts.

"Winsford Gateway Service Station remains committed to upholding the superior standards that have earned us this regional forecourt award."



The BID board would like to say a huge well done to everyone involved in securing this success for Winsford.



THE POWER OF APPRENTICESHIPS: A CASE STUDY

Winsford 1-5 based DC Lomas, which is an MOT centre and vehicle repair specialist, had been finding it difficult to employ staff.

As a result they took on two apprentices through Warrington and Vale Royal College, **Kade Snelson** and **William Bartley**, to help bolster their team.

Through their apprenticeships both Kade and William have developed a variety of new skills, grown in confidence, and boosted their knowledge. At the same time they have helped DC Lomas continue to provide their expert services to customers and keep up with demand.

Discussing why apprenticeships are so important, the Director of DC Lomas, **Dean Lomas**, said:



Developing local talent is really important to us at DC Lomas. As a responsible employer, we believe we need to offer opportunities for all. One of the great things about the automotive industry is that a fulfilling career is accessible to anyone passionate about progressing and getting ahead. Apprenticeships allow your business to develop talent and invest in the future growth and success of their organisation.



A SPOTLIGHT ON GRAPHIC PACKAGING

Did you know that Winsford 1-5 is home to a company that exports its packaging products all around the world?

Graphic Packaging manufacture a wide variety of polyethylene food packaging products which include single-use hot cups in 6oz, 8oz, 12oz and 16oz sizes that are perfect for coffee shops, fast food restaurants, and convenience stores.

They also produce chicken buckets in 54oz, 85oz, and 130oz sizes for grocery stores, fast food chains, and food delivery services. In addition, they make trays for popcorn, meat, produce, and more.

Another unique offering is the provision of custom-printed cups, buckets and trays, which feature company logos and branding printed directly onto the packaging. From local coffee shops to international corporations, this allows organisations to promote their business and promote brand awareness.

Ranging from bolt manufacturers in Germany to global food supply chains, Graphic Packaging's products are used by businesses of all sizes.

If you need help with your packaging, please call **01606 597 618** and a member of the team will be on hand to discuss your requirements.



If you are interested in utilising apprenticeships for your business, please take a look at: wvr.ac.uk/employers/apprenticeships.

EMPLOYEES TAKE TO TWO WHEELS FOR BIKE TO WORK DAY

The Winsford 1-5 Bike to Work Day proved to be another success as employees from a range of businesses around the estate took to two wheels for the day.

Cheshire Police got involved with the initiative too by providing a free bike marking service. Any entrants who registered on the day were placed into a prize draw for the chance to win £500 towards a new bike.

The lucky winner of the voucher was **Ryan Curzon** from Gemco, with **Daniel Jordan** from British Red Cross scooping second and **James Musto** from Synteq securing third.

For bagging spots in the top three, Daniel received a £75 voucher while James was handed one worth £50.

Pete Price, Chairman of the Winsford 1-5 Executive Board, said:

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Bike to Work Day and also to Cheshire Police for giving people the opportunity of having their bike marked.

The Bike to Work Day will return later this year – please keep an eye out for more details.

BUSINESS SECURITY PROTOCOLS TESTED BY LOCAL POLICE

To help businesses improve their safety and security protocols, Cheshire Police recently asked companies based on Winsford 1-5 if they would like to volunteer in covert security testing on their premises.

13 different businesses took part in the process, with two plainclothes officers posing as inspectors and attempting to access secure areas.

We're pleased to reveal that seven businesses passed by preventing or challenging entry, and one did stop the officers but allowed access.

Five of the participating organisations failed the challenge however, allowing the officers access, in one case for 40 minutes.

Those with security gaps were notified and will now receive assessments and recommendations from the police in order to help them improve their safety measures and address vulnerabilities.

Additional testing is likely to take place in the coming months.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU: ENVO ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Say hello to your neighbour, **Envo Energy Solutions**, a local pioneer in commercial Solar PV who tailor solar solutions for businesses.

Using cutting-edge technology, Envo ensures customers benefit from the latest advancements in the solar industry to maximise efficiency and cost savings.

Envo also pride themselves on their communication and engagement which doesn't stop once the final install has taken place.

Through workshops and outreach, they offer a robust operation and maintenance package to ensure solar generation is working to its full potential.

If you would like to find out more and arrange an initial discussion regarding a solar project, contact Collin on **07956 724 880** or at **collin.meadows@envoenergy.co.uk**.



UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WINSFORD 1-5 ESTATE



Net Zero & UK Shared Prosperity Fund

We're pleased to share that three businesses on Winsford 1-5 have been approved for UK Shared Prosperity Fund grants for new boilers and solar panels respectively. There are also two more grant applications pending. The programme aims to support Cheshire West and Chester businesses to increase productivity by creating the conditions for businesses to start-up, scale-up, and innovate. Find out more: <https://bit.ly/48nyTpC>

LoyalFree app

Don't forget to download the Cheshire West and Chester Council LoyalFree app. The app aims to showcase vital area information for residents and visitors including a local guide, exclusive deals and loyalty schemes, fun local events, and interesting trails. Businesses will benefit from advertising opportunities, customer insights, and social media support. For more information, go to: www.loyalfree.co.uk.

The latest on training

During October, November and December, the BID provided 20 funded training courses for employees on the estate which included both **Emergency First Aid and First Aid at Work, Mental Health First Aid, Fire Marshal, Health & Safety in the Workplace, Principles of Manual Handling, Principles of COSHH**, and **Working at Height**.

Additionally, an **Artificial Intelligence workshop** took place in October at Tiger Trailers. Please do take advantage of these professional development opportunities as they are vital for upskilling and boosting expertise.

The full schedule of courses is now live for 2024 with the addition of the brand new Paediatric First Aid in the Workplace Course - please contact Stephanie.Leese@groundwork.org.uk to see what training courses are available over the coming year and if you wish to book any employees on.

Safer Business Action Week

The BID would like to extend its sincere thanks to the Northwich LPU PCSOs, Cheshire West and Chester Council Community Safety Officers and the Crime Prevention Office for their participation in **Safer Business Action Week** which took place in October.

As part of the campaign an information session was held at Artis Park and this provided a fantastic opportunity for local partners, businesses, and the police to come together to discuss safety issues and initiatives.

By taking a collaborative approach, we can all work together to proactively address and prevent business crime in our community.

BID exploring recycling initiative

The Winsford 1-5 BID team are always evaluating ways to make the estate greener and cleaner.

To this effect, BID Manager **Hugh Shields** and a representative from the board met with **Cheshire West Recycling (CWR)** in October to explore a potential partnership with the industrial estate.

During the discussions, CWR outlined their early-stage commercial recycling offer and explained how a pilot program with the BID could sustainably scale the initiative.

CWR are now in the process of producing a proposal which could lead to a number of Winsford 1-5 businesses participating in a pilot scheme.

The end goal of the program is to boost local business recycling rates and help to protect the environment by reducing waste.

Your BID team will be in touch with further information as and when more details have been confirmed.



Winsford

Business Environment Group

1-5

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The Winsford 1-5 Business Improvement District is managed by the not-for-profit charitable trust, Groundwork CLM



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