

Epping Forest Business update: Green driving, Business rates, Events for business

10.02.10

FREE GREEN DRIVING SESSIONS FOR BUSINESSES - REDUCE COSTS AND DO YOUR BIT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Epping Forest District Council in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust is holding a Green Driving Event in Epping High Street on Tuesday 16 February.

We are offering local businesses a free lesson in 'Smarter Driving'. The Energy Saving Trust suggests that on average tuition enables drivers to reduce their fuel consumption by approximately 15% and also thus reduces CO2 emissions into the environment.

Places are limited and filling fast, so if you are interested and would like to book, contact Sarah Creitzman ASAP and before Monday 15 February on 01992 564357.

EFDC TACKLES BUSINESS RATES HIKE WITH VALUATION OFFICE

David Jackson, Valuation Officer for East Anglia, appeared before Councillors, local business people and the webcast cameras of Epping Forest District Council to explain why local Non-Domestic Rates (business rates) are set to rise so sharply during the worst recession in many years. Mr Jackson set out his case and was then cross-examined by Councillors of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the Civic Offices on Thursday 28 January.

A webcast of this meeting and links to further information can be accessed via this link:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/news/2010/valuation_officer_examined_on_business_rate_hike.asp

Also, see the first event below, which further picks up on the rates issues.

BUSINESS EVENTS 2010

Businesses in the Epping Forest district are set to have at least four special meetings during 2010 thanks to a new partnership being led by Epping Forest District Council, Business Link East and Essex Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

The programme will include:

- A briefing on new rateable values and how to check they are correct, which will take place in March - **BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW - SEE BELOW**

- A briefing on Epping Forest District Council's emerging planning policy and what this means for business in June.

- The second Epping Forest Business Summit in September.

- A joint event with other organisations in the M11 corridor as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week in November.

These events are open to all businesses within the district and are free of charge to attend.

BUSINESS RATES BRIEFING - 23 MARCH, WALTHAM ABBEY MARRIOTT HOTEL

This business breakfast event is dedicated to Business Rates and is being delivered by EFDC, Business Link, FSB and Waltham Abbey Town Partnership. Representatives from the Valuation Office will explain how the new Rateable Values have been calculated, provide information to businesses on the appeal procedure and answer your questions. In addition, you will be able to hear about the business support available to you and network with fellow Epping Forest businesses over a hearty breakfast. Places are limited and booking is essential - bookings can be made online at www.fsb.org.uk/essex/epping-forest-breakfast/march23

EPPING FOREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NETWORKING BREAKFAST MEETING - 17 FEBRUARY

The Chamber's next networking breakfast is on Wednesday 17 February at Woolston Manor, Chigwell. Open to members and non-members alike, the breakfast will include a session by Malcolm Tullett on "Networking: Building Relationships". For more information and to book, visit www.eppingchamber.co.uk or call Carol Byatt on 08432 989184.

FREE OF CHARGE WORKSHOP - 'SURVIVE & PROSPER'

Delivered by ACAS (the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) this half-day workshop in Harlow on 24 March will explain how to:

- Increase your efficiency and effectiveness
- Improve your outputs and unit costs against possible reduction in staff numbers
- Enhance communications in your business
- Increase morale and employee contribution
- Improve customer satisfaction
- Improve supply chain management
- Achieve competitive edge as you emerge from the recession

For more information email burystevents@acas.org.uk

APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME AGE 16-17 - EMPLOYER GRANTS OF £2,500 AVAILABLE

The National Apprenticeship Service has introduced a new scheme to provide up to 5,000 Apprenticeship Grants for Employers of 16 and 17 year olds with a value of £2,500 to encourage employers to take on unemployed 16-17 year olds as apprentices.

For more details visit <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers/AGE16and17.aspx>

CALLING ALL MANUFACTURERS..

The IfM's Manufacturing Transformation Workshops have been designed to assist senior managers of small and medium sized manufacturing companies in the development and growth of their business. Each workshop will focus on an important issue related to winning orders or managing limited resources (e.g. supply chain, delivery performance), and aims to help senior managers understand how to:

develop superior order-winning capabilities

use focussed, structured approaches to improve key enabling capabilities

Several of these workshops are to be held locally in Harlow as well as other locations in the region.

For more information visit www.ifm.eng.cam.ac.uk/mtp/

ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY OFFERS ONLINE HELP TO PEOPLE WHO WANT TO START THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW BUSINESS VENTURE

A new online training programme, Anglia Business Class, has been designed for anyone who is thinking about starting a business in 2010, guiding them through the important stages involved, from planning and starting the business, to running and growing it.

Anglia Business Class is flexible, fitting around childcare, work and study commitments, and because Anglia Ruskin University's Survive & Thrive programme is funding one hundred places, it is free to anyone who wants help to get their new business off to the best possible start.

The programme offers support with the (often neglected) business side of running a business - so you can test your business idea to see if it works before you risk your job and overdraft. It's generally agreed that over half of all new businesses cease trading within three years, and less than three out of ten survive for five years. One hundred and fifty small businesses participated in the pilot of Anglia Business Class and business failure in this group reduced by half.

Anglia Business Class is accredited with a Certificate in Small Business Management, setting it apart from other support available for new businesses. An 'online mentor' is on hand and it's backed by experts from Barclays, Bird Luckin LLP, Birketts LLP, Chater Allan LLP, Integro Languages and Wollastons LLP.

For more information visit www.anglia.ac.uk/surviveandthrive click on 'For start-ups', email businessclass@anglia.ac.uk

BUSINESS SURVEY

Some local businesses may have been approached in recent weeks to complete a telephone survey. I appreciate it is difficult to spare the time for such things but am thankful to those who have agreed to take part and want to stress that the results will be important in shaping the delivery of business support and in the future planning of employment space in the district.