

Welcome



Welcome to the fourth edition of Epping Forest District Council's local business e-newsletter. A key focus for this newsletter is to explore some of the business support packages that are available to local business.

This e-newsletter is brought to you by the Council's Economic Development Team and we hope you find this information useful.

Contact us

Talk to us

We need your views!

If you have any comments on this e-newsletter or any suggestions about future content, please let us know by emailing us on

businessmatters@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

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Please share this e-newsletter with colleagues and friends who might find it of interest. If this edition of our e-newsletter has been forwarded to you, and you would like to receive your own regular copy, simply subscribe by following the link

here: <http://eepurl.com/gib9nD>

Latest on Business Grants



Essex Business Adaptation Fund:

The Essex Business Adaptation Fund deadline for applications has been extended until the 30th of July. If you haven't already, apply now so you don't miss out!

The Essex Business Adaptation Fund is available to help businesses to adapt to meet the challenges of trading in a COVID environment. Up to £1500 is available to each applicant. Over 175 businesses have already benefited from this grant in Epping Forest with the council paying out over a quarter of a million pounds to them. Applications have been received for a wide range of adaptations including new protective screens, support with website development, equipment to help trade outside, training etc. Further information and application forms are available at:

<https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/business/business-support-grants/essex-business-adaptation-fund-ebaf/> or if you would like to speak to a member of staff for more details please call: 01992 564 264.

Additional Restrictions Grant

The Council will be making a further grant award to those who have previously received payments under the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme. This

payment will be made to businesses by 16th July 2021. In most (but not all) cases this will mean that 3 payments in total will have been awarded under this scheme. Because the aim has been to provide assistance to businesses when they require it most – in the present moment – this means that this will be the last such payment that can be supported by the scheme. New applications from businesses that have not previously received an Additional Restriction Grant payment will continue to be supported until the funds are exhausted.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/business/business-support-grants/additional-restrictions-grant/>

Virtual Support day for Businesses in the District



Epping Forest District Council is partnering with Best Growth Hub to provide a virtual support day for business in the district on Monday 12th July, with more days available if demand is there. See below for details.

In business or thinking of setting up a business? We can help.

- **GRANT FUNDING** Let's explore your options.
- **FREE EXPERT SUPPORT** In pre-start, start-ups, growth and scaleup.

- **FREE TRAINING COURSES** Support to up-skill your team.
- **FREE SUPPORT** With recruiting apprentices and graduates
- **BUSINESS ADAPTATION MADE EASY**
- **JOIN OUR PEER NETWORKS PROGRAMME**

**CALL 0300 303 4864 OR EMAIL BEST GROWTH HUB NOW
(info@bestgrowthhub.org.uk) TO BOOK YOUR 1-2-1 APPOINTMENT AT
OUR VIRTUAL BUSINESS EVENT ON MONDAY 12TH JULY.**

If you'd like more background information on Best Growth Hub and our work, please review our prospectus. A link to this is below.

Download [Best Growth Hub Prospectus PDF](#)

Best Growth Hub website: <https://southeastbusiness.org.uk/essex-southend-thurrock/>

Training and Mentoring for Businesses

As well as organising the first virtual support day for businesses, Best Growth Hub is engaged in co-ordinating other ongoing support and training.

Training programmes, that are fully funded and currently on offer, are delivered through SEBB (South East Business Boost) and Twin (<https://www.twinuk.com/>). Please see the pdf below for further information on the Twin courses. Download [Twin Courses PDF](#)

SEBB Training Workshops and Mentoring Support are available for both new and well-established businesses. To find out more about SEBB please visit their website: <https://www.sebusinessboost.org.uk/>. SEBB workshops are designed to enable businesses to benefit from a 12-hour package of FREE support consisting of; information, diagnosis, brokerage, training workshops and individual mentoring, delivered by proven experts in their topics.

The programme will begin with an initial assessment which will help business leaders evaluate the impact Covid19 has had on their business. SEBB delivery

officers will then work with businesses to generate a plan for the future.

The current topics of the programme include:

1. Getting your business online.
2. Making the most of social media.
3. Getting your business finances in order.
4. Adapting your products/processes to meet the needs of your customers.

If you'd like to find out more about Best Growth Hub and the above schemes please speak to one of our business navigators at 0300 303 4864 or email your queries to: info@bestgrowthhub.org.uk

Businesses to Download NHS QR Code to help control Coronavirus



To help in the control of coronavirus cases certain businesses are legally required to download and display the NHS QR code. These include :-

- [hospitality](#), (including pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes)
- tourism and leisure, (including hotels, museums, cinemas and amusement arcades)
- [close contact services](#), (including hairdressers, barbershops and tailors)

- [community centres, libraries and village halls](#)

Relevant businesses who fail to display an NHS QR code or collect contact details by other means could be subject to enforcement action and a possible fine.

Full information on a business's obligation in relation to obtaining and keeping contact information, including a link to download an NHS QR code, can be found using the link below. Alternatively, you can access this government guidance via the QR Code at the top of this article.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/maintaining-records-of-staff-customers-and-visitors-to-support-nhs-test-and-trace#failure-to-comply>

Where a business is identified as a venue of interest, individuals who would be identified as contacts, as having been at the venue at the critical date and time, will be asked to take a test before determining if they need to self-isolate.

Where a business does have positive cases the NHS Track and Trace team along with EFDC Environmental Health Team will provide all the support a business needs to manage the situation and get back to normal operation as soon as possible.

To ensure that businesses collect store and safeguard the contact information they need to hold for 21 days, the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) has produced guidance at the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/global/data-protection-and-coronavirus-information-hub/coronavirus-recovery-data-protection-advice-for-organisations/maintaining-records-of-staff-customers-and-visitors-for-contact-tracing-purposes/>.

Extended retail discount

At the Budget on 3 March 2021, the Chancellor announced that eligible ratepayers would receive a discount on their business rates bills for the year 2021/22 of 100% for the first three months and 66% for the remainder of the year. The relief would be provided to eligible occupied retail, hospitality and leisure properties in 2021/22.

In accordance with the above, the Council made the decision to award the relief and sent you your annual rates bill in March advising that the Expanded Retail Relief (or discount)- of 100% for 3 months and 66% for 9 months- would just be for the current financial year 2021-22. **Therefore, just to reaffirm - the Expanded Retail Relief announced by the government in the Spring Budget is only for the period 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022, ceasing at the end of this financial year.**

For more information on the above and eligibility criteria please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-expanded-retail-discount-2021-to-2022-local-authority-guidance>

Qualis Community



A new Community Interest Company has been set up within the Qualis Group that will deliver different projects to benefit the people and communities of Epping Forest District.

The company will work to improve the socio-economic aspirations for all, including the most disadvantaged communities, and collaborate with existing community groups and stakeholders. Consultation with key stakeholders to help identify initial projects and focus areas will start shortly.

Paul Hewitt, Group Operations Director of Qualis Group said: "We are delivering ambitious plans for Epping Forest District and alongside our investment programme and delivery of core services, it's vital that we support our local communities."

Projects could include the development of apprenticeship schemes, community environmental and wellbeing projects and initiatives to engage hard to reach members of the community.

Local Business wins Queen's Award

The Chairman of Epping Forest District Council, Cllr Helen Kane, has congratulated local business BioSure (UK) Ltd upon being awarded a Queen's Award for Enterprise 2021, highlighting the ground-breaking work being done by businesses in our district.

BioSure (UK) Ltd is a locally based business that is changing healthcare for the better through the creation of the world's first blood-based HIV self-test device which has rightly received the recognition it deserves by a Queen's Award.

The impact of the pandemic has brought more attention than ever to the innovative approaches taken globally by healthcare providers. It is hoped this device will continue to break down stigmas relating to HIV and ease access to medical support for people around the world.

To find out more about the Queen's awards please view this pdf below:

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/content/pdf/queens-awards-enterprise-press-book-2021.pdf>

Click it Local

Click It Local, has launched across the whole of Essex including Epping

Forest District with the support of Epping Forest District Council. The virtual high street service aims to support independent and local shops, meaning by joining Click It Local you can now sell your products with same day delivery to the whole county!

This is Ricky Paul's Flowers in Buckhurst Hill with the owner Ricky.

“Being mainly an events company, Click It Local has given us the opportunity to open our business to new types of customers with our products and to reach a bigger audience. We also like supporting our local community and shops which is what Click It Local is all about.”



This is New Breed Bottle Shop in Loughton. The picture is of co-owner Neil.

“Click It Local has helped us broaden the amount of customers that we can reach and gives people the opportunity to support local businesses which is something we really care about”.



Sign up to Click It Local and offer your customers delivery to all corners of the district. No signup fee or monthly charges.

Independent businesses interested in finding out more about signing up with Click It Local can contact harriet@clickitlocal.co.uk / **07557379973**

Or head directly to <https://www.clickitlocal.co.uk/store-sign-up/>
To view <https://www.clickitlocal.co.uk/epping-forest/>

LoyalFree

As part of a package of measures to support local businesses, Epping Forest District Council have partnered with award winning loyalty app company LoyalFree. Usually costing £40 per business per month, the Council are covering the cost to allow as many traders as possible the opportunity to boost their business using all the marketing and promotional features built into the LoyalFree package.

At a time when it's never been more important to stand out on the high street, creating promotions and building loyalty has never been easier or more effective. As well as zero cost, its zero effort as LoyalFree create the profile and

even provide a dashboard that gives businesses real-time access to their statistical data and customer insights plus the ability to make profile changes and create offers whenever they like.

New customers are generated in a number of ways including passing trade, people looking for specific products and service and those attracted to offers and promotions. These can range from a simple discount or 'bogoff', to a sophisticated digital loyalty scheme. The Council will also be working with LoyalFree to create trails across the district and competitions that will bring new visitors into the area linking to the app and the businesses featured. As part of customer building and communication, offers will also be promoted by LoyalFree through local social media, events, billboards and press campaigns.

To find out more about what you might be missing, see what other local businesses are offering by downloading the app here: www.loyalfree.co.uk/download or directly from the App or Play Store, view the short YouTube video below or simply email info@loyalfree.co.uk for more information or to sign up.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmaUnU2W2xw>

New City College wants to work with you

At NCC we have a large apprenticeship offer, designed to meet the needs of our local businesses, with courses ranging from level 2 to level 5. In response to employer demand, new apprenticeship standards are being introduced in September to increase our existing offer of over 30 apprenticeship programmes, the offer will now include the delivery of laboratory technician, mastic asphalt, and learning & skills teacher courses.

<https://www.ncclondon.ac.uk/become-an-apprentice/hire-an-apprentice>

Despite the current pandemic the college continues to invest in our facilities with the opening of our new £11 million state of the art construction and engineering campus in Rainham in September 2021. Working with businesses through our Career College project, the curriculum has been designed by employers to ensure we meet the current industry requirements. Full time learners will continue to benefit from work experience and industry insight programmes across all NCC campuses.

The government has increased the current financial incentives available to employers who recruit an apprentice before 31st September 2021. Employers can now potentially receive £4000 per apprentice they recruit. To ensure employers benefit from this scheme and as part of our employer responsive offer, the college continues to provide a free recruitment service to find the right apprentice(s) for the organisation. To ensure unemployed residents are supported during the pandemic, the college is offering free online courses for adults <https://www.ncclondon.ac.uk/distance-learning> and Sector Based Work Academy Programmes (SWAP).

Our free adult courses are all online and run for 8-10 weeks. Our SWAP's are designed to help prepare those receiving unemployment benefits to apply for jobs in a different area of work. Placements are designed to help meet immediate and future recruitment needs as well as to recruit a workforce with the right skills to sustain and grow a business. Our SWAP's help support learners to progress into apprenticeships and or full-time employment.

For more information please contact us at-

<https://www.ncclondon.ac.uk/become-an-apprentice/hire-an-apprentice/hire-apprentice-form>

DevelopMe hub



The DevelopMe Hub is a free online resource aimed at people looking for help and support around career choices, training opportunities, enhancing skills and personal development.

Its aim is to benefit young people coming into the workplace, those needing to reskill or upskill and those seeking a change of direction. The DevelopMe Hub has been established by the West Essex Partnership, a collaboration between Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford councils and is designed talent pool to match local employment needs. The DevelopMe Hub is packed with interactive tools, e-learning content and the latest job opportunities, all designed to help navigate today's job market, grow in confidence and understand the opportunities available from local employers.

Watch the DevelopMe video to discover everything the DevelopMe Hub has to offer. - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVoFMITEWGk>

More information to register:

<https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/community/developme/>

Keep up to date with business support:

UK Government- Business Support

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

Please visit this page for all the latest government announcements around business support, and guidance for adapting to COVID in the workplace.

Essex County Council- Testing for Small businesses

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19/workplace-testing>

All Essex businesses with under 50 employees can set up their own lateral flow testing for employees in the workplace who can't work from home. Businesses will be required to set up a designated testing area on their premises, which Essex County Council can support with.

Business Crime Team Newsletter

Please find the latest newsletter here from the Essex Police Business Crime Team: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKPFCC/bulletins/2e36dff>

This will be the final edition sent out by email. It will now be sent out directly by the office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner. In order to continue

receiving the newsletter, please register your interest at [Business Crime Team Register Newsletter](#) and complete the section at the end of the newsletter.

Let's Do Business Start Up

<https://www.letsdobusinessgroup.co.uk/>

The Let's Do Business (South East) Group Limited is a Social Enterprise helping businesses to start-up and grow throughout the South East of England. It offers services such as finance and support for businesses starting out, training courses, as well as exhibitions providing an opportunity for small businesses to showcase products.

Epping Forest Chamber of Commerce

<https://www.eppingforestchamber.co.uk/>

The Epping Forest Chamber of Commerce is a representative body run for local businesses and by local businesses.



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