



FOREST
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
Delivering a thriving economy

FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Listening to Businesses

- By visiting local businesses we aim to learn more about the real issues that are facing the district and see how we can help those businesses
- Successful visits up until Covid - 19

Business Matters

- The Forest edition of the Business Matters e-newsletter was first launched on 26th March 2020. At present it's issued weekly and so far there have been 15 editions sent out
- You can view them here: <https://us19.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=dd696c9cb6fd3a8e52db48aaa&id=16cf0612b9>
- The number of sign-ups to receive the newsletter has been growing steadily and currently is goes out to 520 contacts. They are a mostly local businesses, but parish councils and forest councillors, and some Publica staff are signed up to it too

Safety for our Towns

- Town centre packs have been distributed to all shops and business premises with posters, social distancing floor stickers and a health and safety checklist
- The Council is actively looking at providing safe access for pedestrians now that shops are opening and some restrictions have been relaxed - identifying pinch points for pedestrians through practical temporary changes to on-street parking and other measures such as signage and hand sanitisers
- 5 Free Parking spaces in each Car Park for 30 minutes and free parking on Saturdays through to September
- Aim to make shopping a safe and pleasant experience

Lydney Harbour

- The £2.1 million Lydney Harbour Regeneration Project has begun
- Funded by MHCLG (Coastal Community Fund)
- Skiff (boat building) Project - suitable premises have been identified at Marina Business Park and we are currently in the process of agreeing terms



- Public Artwork – FoDDC will now tender for an artist to design and install the A48 roundabout and harbour-site artworks
- Signage and heritage interpretation/walking trail - work underway to develop this scheme aimed at creating an engaging, informative and exciting visitor experience
- FoDDC working with Environment Agency on their plans to invest in maintenance of Lydney Harbour

Future High Street Fund

*former
HSBC Bank*



- Funding secured pre-COVID however the reimagining of the High Street is even more vital in order to support businesses in post virus recovery and give shoppers/visitors more reasons to spend time in the town
- A Public Consultation required to inform the Final Business Case - where Cinderford businesses, shoppers and town visitors commented on the FHSF proposals, has completed and the Business Case modified accordingly
- The Business Case for the bid is to be presented to Cinderford Town Council on 14th July for submission to Government by 17th July

Recovery and Regeneration Investment Strategy

- Currently in draft and has yet to be adopted
- Funding gap of £3.4M up to 2024. A strategy to invest in housing, jobs and green infrastructure as part of the Council's vision in its Corporate Plan - to make the FOD a great place to live, learn, do business and enjoy
- Currently looking at regeneration opportunities on key sites, such as Cinderford Northern Quarter and Five Acres

Covid Business Grants & Discretionary Grants

- Grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 paid to 1916 businesses totalling £20,675,000
- Of the 1916 businesses, 458 have also been awarded the ‘expanded business rate relief’ or ‘Nursery Relief’ totalling £4,147,275. These 458 businesses no longer have a liability to pay business rates for the full financial year 2020/21.
- From the discretionary fund we have supported an additional 160 small and micro businesses and awarded a further £1,114,838 grant support