

Ambition



Ashfield

Mansfield
District Council

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Ashfield and Mansfield is the place to do business



More than 80 people have already signed up to help promote Ashfield and Mansfield as the place to do business.

Business owners and community leaders are among those that have joined the Invest Ashfield & Mansfield AMBassadors' Programme, since it was successfully launched at Vision West Nottinghamshire College, Mansfield, in December.

Now the programme would like to hear from other companies and individuals who would like to join.

AMBassadors benefit from the opportunity to showcase their business in return for attending and hosting events to promote and recommend

the area to prospective investors and sharing their success.

At the launch event, which was hosted by former Olympian Bryan Steel, the Executive Mayor of Mansfield, Tony Egginton, and the Leader of Ashfield District Council, Cllr Chris Baron, welcomed key business figures.

The launch also featured updates on other initiatives developed as part of the Invest Ashfield & Mansfield project, which works in partnership with businesses and local developers to help attract new businesses to the area

and support existing businesses to grow. AMBassadors Katrina Atherton of A-Star Media and Martin Rigley of Lindhurst Engineering, showcased their business successes, key challenges and development plans.

Bev Smith, Corporate Director of Regeneration and Regulation at Mansfield District Council, highlighted the many benefits available to businesses in the area.

The launch received very positive feedback, which will be used to further develop the programme.

For more information visit invest.ashfield-mansfield.com or call the Regeneration Shared Service on **01623 463 714**.

Exciting changes ahead in Ashfield towns

Sutton-in-Ashfield

Following the acquisition and demolition of the former Conservative Club on Fox Street last summer, ideas are being prepared on how the site could be transformed to improve the link between ASDA and the Idlewells Centre.

A report is expected to be presented to Ashfield District councillors this spring, which will also discuss a number of schemes to revitalise the town centre.

The former Conservative Club



Kirkby-in-Ashfield

Work to improve Kirkby-in-Ashfield town square is expected to start later this year.

A planning application detailing plans for a new public space off Ellis Street and improvements to the adjacent shopping area were recently approved by Ashfield District Council.

The project aims to provide an attractive environment for the market, public events and community activities and provide opportunities for business and residential development around it.

Identified as a priority in the Kirkby-in-Ashfield Masterplan, the project will help to revitalise the town centre and build on the recent opening of Morrison's following the demolition of the former precinct.

Hucknall

Plans for a new inner-relief road through the centre of Hucknall have now been approved by Nottinghamshire County Council's Planning and Licensing Committee.

The new road between Annesley Road and Station Road is part of a wider £12 million plan to regenerate Hucknall town centre. The scheme aims to ease congestion on the High Street and improve the shopping and leisure environment, including turning part of it into a pedestrian precinct.

The new 450m-long road will run parallel to High Street and will include new junctions to a number of existing streets.

The project will be funded by the Department for Transport, Nottinghamshire County Council and Ashfield District Council.

For more information on any of the schemes call the Regeneration Shared Service on



01623 463 714

Coming to a screen near you – live demolition of the General Hospital

Mansfield General Hospital demolition



People can now follow the demolition of the General Hospital site, Mansfield, thanks to a time-lapse camera system, which has been set up to track the dismantling of the building from start to finish.

The high definition system takes round-the-clock photographs of the site every 15 minutes. The archived images will then be edited to produce a short video showing the various stages of demolition.

Contractors moved onsite in November to begin the process of demolishing the General Hospital, which has remained derelict for the past 20 years. The demolition by CMEC Demolition is on course to be completed by the end of

April and the Council is currently looking at options for developing the site. The total cost of the demolition work is expected to be £900,000.

The 1.3 hectare site was bought by the Council in June 2013. It comprises a wide variety of buildings, the oldest of which dates back to before 1900.

Live photos of the General Hospital site can be viewed by visiting www.mansfield.gov.uk/generalhospital



Permanent job for local graduate

A criminology graduate is celebrating after a paid work placement at Mansfield District Council led to a full-time job.

James West, from Mansfield, took on the six-month role with the Community Safety team through the Council's own Careers in Local Government scheme.

The aim of the initiative is to help the Council demonstrate to local young people the potential careers available in local government. The Council hopes it will also encourage local people with higher level skills to consider permanent employment in the area.

James used the research and analytical skills he developed at university to evaluate community safety projects and engage with a small stakeholder consultation group to measure change. He assisted with the development of new forms, terms of grants and the introduction of better scrutiny procedures.

James thoroughly enjoyed working at the Council and said he learned a lot. He completed several training courses and particularly enjoyed his time shadowing the Antisocial Behaviour team.

He said: "I am much more positive and confident in myself and the opportunity has opened up career avenues that I wouldn't have previously considered."

James now has a full-time job as a Land Charges Officer at Mansfield District Council. He also works in the Council's Central Control team on a casual basis.

The Careers in Local Government scheme runs alongside the Graduates into Enterprise scheme, which is looking for graduates to apply for six-month placements at businesses across Ashfield and Mansfield.

The Graduates into Enterprise scheme links local high calibre, recent university graduates with employers to undertake a fixed term placement (maximum six months) to work on a specific project related to the graduate's skills and experience.

Over the last year, 14 graduates have taken part in the programme. Eight are currently still on placement, five have been kept on by their employers and one used their experience to secure another job.

If you are a business or graduate contact the Regeneration Shared Service for further information on **01623 463 165** or **regeneration@mansfield.gov.uk**



Workshops support enterprising women

A group of women have completed the latest in a series of workshops aimed at helping them to build their confidence and take their business ideas forward.

The workshops are part of the Women Who Do programme, which offers free, expert support to women across Ashfield and Mansfield, who want to explore the possibility of working for themselves, or pursue a new business idea and develop enterprise skills.

Delivered by business mentors from Step Ahead, the workshops help women to recognise skills and qualities they already have, understand how to develop a clear business vision and overcome challenges.

For further information contact the Regeneration Shared Service on **01623 463 165** or **womeninenterprise@mansfield.gov.uk**

The one-stop shop for all your business needs

Visit the new Invest Ashfield & Mansfield website at **invest.ashfield-mansfield.com** to find out all about business grants and support, local business news and events, conference room availability and information on commercial property. Don't forget to sign up for the regular e-bulletins by clicking on Contact Us.

Invest
Ashfield Mansfield
The area for growth





Grants available for security measures

Businesses in Ashfield and Mansfield could benefit from improved security measures thanks to grants of up to £5,000.

A total of £53,700 has been awarded to 16 businesses across the area through Ashfield and Mansfield Regeneration Shared Service's Business Crime Prevention Grant scheme.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the service and industrial sectors that have less than 250 employees are eligible to apply.

Businesses can apply for a grant of up to 50% of the total costs of agreed security measures with grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 available.

Business premises are visited by a representative from the Regeneration Shared Service and Nottinghamshire Police's Pre-Crime Manager to advise which security measures are needed before an application is submitted.

One of the businesses that has benefited is Sales Assistance, of Blackwell Road, Huthwaite. The company, which specialises in selling prestige cars, received £5,000 towards CCTV, alarm and fencing improvements.

Managing Director Chris Smith said: "Without the funding the whole project would have been substantially delayed."

A state-of-the-art CCTV system and other security improvements have been installed at PPX Metal Management, Old Mill Lane Industrial Estate, Mansfield Woodhouse. A £4,824 grant went towards the improvements at the business, which specialises in recycling scrap metals.

Paul Pearce, Managing Director, said: "We are now able to monitor the whole site remotely, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The peace of mind this has given us is invaluable, knowing that we won't turn up to work to find that the premises have been broken into."

Acorn Signs and Engraving, Oak Tree Industrial Estate, Mansfield, a family-run company that

specialises in designing, manufacturing and installing signs of all types, received a grant of £2,672.

Andrew Plant, Managing Director, said: "The funding helped us to purchase a CCTV system and anti-ram raid bars for the front of the building. We are delighted that the premises are now more secure than ever."

Bonsers Restoration, of Wigwam Lane Industrial Estate, Hucknall, which specialises in conserving and restoring historic buildings, benefitted from a grant of £1,342. It helped to provide CCTV, anti-ram raid bars and a camera and intercom entry system.

Amy Smith, Administrator at Bonsers, said: "It is great that our premises are more secure and it is comforting to know that we can see and hear all customers through the camera and intercom system before allowing them to enter the building."

Net PC Direct, of Huthwaite, received a grant of £1,118 which was half the cost of security improvements.

Martin Keeling, Proprietor, said: "I was thinking about installing roller shutters and when I heard about the grant it made my decision a whole lot easier. I was advised to install a CCTV system and my premises are now totally secure. The application process was really simple and the grant was paid very quickly after work finished."

Businesses in premises with use classes B1, B2 or B8 in Ashfield and Mansfield are eligible to apply. Retail premises are among the exemptions.

For further information contact the Regeneration Shared Service on **01623 463 174** or **regeneration@mansfield.gov.uk**

Help available to support growth and innovation

Innovative businesses in Ashfield and Mansfield have received grants totalling almost £62,000 to support their growth and improvement plans.

Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 have been awarded to 14 businesses under the Grants to Support Innovation scheme. A further four applications are currently being considered.

The scheme is open to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with up to 250 employees across Ashfield and Mansfield that are looking to implement business growth and improvement plans.

To be eligible the business must be planning to develop a new product, process or service or make significant and innovative improvements to an existing one, which would help market the product and improve the company's commercial prospects.

Grants of up to 50% can be awarded towards the cost of an approved business growth or improvement project.

Among the restrictions are the exclusion of retail, banking and insurance businesses.

For more information contact the Regeneration Shared Service on **01623 463 813** or email **regeneration@mansfield.gov.uk**

Get in touch

If you have any questions about any of the projects mentioned within this bulletin, or have a general enquiry for the Regeneration Shared Service, then please get in touch.

Tel: **01623 463 165**

Email: **regeneration@mansfield.gov.uk**



The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) part funds the Ambition project, which includes Invest Ashfield & Mansfield, the Ambassadors' Programme, Graduates into Enterprise and Aim Higher schemes, Entrepreneurs' Forum, Women Who Do initiative and Business Crime Prevention and Innovation Support grants.



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