

OUR COMMUNITY PARK MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2024



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photography
competition



SEE PAGE 14

IT'S GAME ON AT BBP!

PICTURES FROM OUR SUMMER OF SPORT
IN AID OF BIRMINGHAM HOSPICE



hello!

Welcome to your Summer 2024 edition of 'Our Community' magazine.

Summer is a time of growth, and this season, our Business Park is no exception.

We are thrilled to announce several new businesses that have joined our community, bringing fresh ideas and exciting opportunities. Whether you're a start-up finding your footing or an established company expanding your horizons, the collaborative spirit here is bound to inspire and drive success.



We believe that a strong community is the backbone of a successful business environment. This summer, we have lined up a series of sporting events designed to foster connections, draw people out of the office and bring teams together. Alongside this we have our monthly allotment, reading and menopause clubs, networking events and workshops – we hope there is something for everyone to take part in.

As we soak up the summer sun, we are also looking ahead with excitement. The coming months promise new developments (keep your eyes peeled for two new café operators!) and even more opportunities for growth and collaboration.

As always, I'd love to hear from you! If you've got a story you'd like to tell, or a club you'd like to set up, feel free to email me at lori@birminghambusinesspark.co.uk

See you around!

Lori Henebury, Marketing, Community and Business Development Manager

stop press!



We're absolutely thrilled here at Birmingham Business Park to be shortlisted for Excellence in Contribution to Community at the Solihull Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards 2024!

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the success of businesses across the borough. We are delighted to be on the shortlist in a category that means so much to us.

Well done and good luck to all those nominated. We look forward to seeing you on the big night at Hilton Birmingham Metropole on September 13th!

 **Birmingham Business Park**
Invested in You

Our Community magazine is produced for Birmingham Business Park by Edwin Ellis Creative Media
www.edwinelliscreativemedia.com



Mover over, Paris 2024, the only tournament worth training for has taken place at Birmingham Business Park this summer.

The BBP Summer of Sport in aid of our charity partner – Birmingham Hospice – saw records broken and personal bests smashed in the Space Hopper race, duck blowing, axe throwing and egg and spoon race, among a whole host of other fun sports and challenges.

Across four days throughout July and August BBP staff enjoyed lakeside fun and games with tasty food, music and those all-important medal ceremonies.

The team from Birmingham Hospice have been joining us every day, sharing information on what they do and raising money for their charity.

They were joined by Solihull Chamber of Commerce, Escape Hunt UK, Costco and Tropic Skincare.

Music was provided by Chaos and Sounds of Steel, while the amazing food came from Mature Toasties, Currywurst and Leave it to Esmie. Meanwhile BBP lunch club regular, The Travelling Coffee Bar, provided refreshments.

Lori Henebury, Marketing, Community and Business

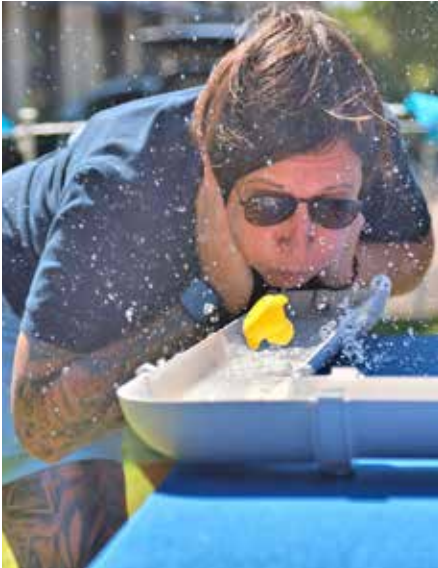
Development Manager, said: "I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the businesses that participated in the BBP Summer of Sport.

"Your enthusiasm and team spirit truly made the event a success, and it was inspiring to see our community come together in such a fun and engaging way.

"We hope you enjoyed the days as much as we did and look forward to more opportunities to build camaraderie and celebrate our collective achievements. Thank you for making this event memorable!"

Luke Manley of Birmingham Hospice, said: "The Birmingham Business Park Games has been a highlight of the summer, bringing everyone together for a fun-filled season of sport, camaraderie, and charity. "It was heartwarming to see so many people get involved and support Birmingham Hospice. The Duck Blowing game was a crowd favourite, and we can't thank our sponsors, Ward Security, Astrum Commercial Cleaners, and Nurture Landscapes, enough for their solid support. Their commitment ensures that our hospice teams can continue making every moment matter for our terminally ill patients and their loved ones."





Welcome to the **BBP** Summer of Sport

LAKESIDE FUN IN AID OF OUR CHARITY
PARTNER – BIRMINGHAM HOSPICE



Pictures: Ian Yates




**the BBP
Summer
of Sport**



Pictures: Ian Yates




**the BBP
Summer
of Sport**




**A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR
SUMMER OF SPORT SPONSORS**



'The **Partners&** approach is different to most in the market – it's based on partnership'

Welcome to **PARTNERS&**

 BBP companies are being invited to a free virtual workshop to lead an organisation experiencing any 21st century business' worst nightmare... A CYBER ATTACK!

Attendees will experience a simulated cyber-attack, the sequence of events and their potential impact on an organisation before putting decision-making to the test as they uncover the risks and witness the results of their actions in a safe space.

The special event is being hosted by recent arrival at BBP – Partners& – an award-winning insurance advisory business keen to reflect its people and partnership-first ethos by becoming a key part of the BBP business community.

Partners&, which was named Insurance Broker of the Year at the British Insurance Awards 2023, is on a mission to establish a new level of service across business insurance, risk management and employee benefits.

Partners& challenges a company's understanding of the risks they face, while challenging the insurance

programme they currently have in place.

Partners& can then help clients face challenges they may not have anticipated and help to design a resilient insurance programme.

The special event on September 18 tests your preparedness in the face of a crisis point and what to do if you suffered a cyber-attack, in an immersive 'escape zoom'.

Through this session, you and your team will be equipped with the knowledge and expertise to build greater cyber resilience into your own organisations.

"The Partners& approach is different to most in the market – it's based on partnership. Partnership is our core principle that runs through our business.

"We work closely with clients to understand their business, their sector and their people, so that we can design an insurance programme that it fit for purpose today and tomorrow.

"We love what we do and it shines through in the service we deliver for our clients," explained Neil O'Sullivan, Managing Partner for the Midlands.

"We're thrilled to be part of the Birmingham Business Park community. It's such a great location and there's so much going on – we're looking forward to meeting the other businesses on the park and getting involved."

FREE CYBER SECURITY EVENT

YOU'VE BEEN HACKED... NOW WHAT!?

When the pressure is on, time is of the essence and one wrong move could cripple your organisation – Are you prepared to deliver your business from crisis point?

Would you know what to do if you suffered a cyber attack?

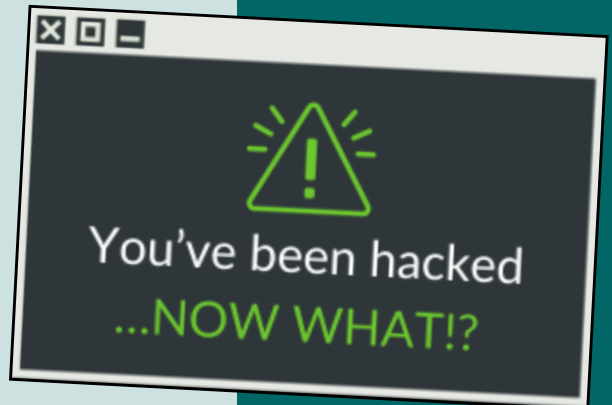
Why not test that theory? – LIVE the experience, without the threat!

An immersive 'escape zoom' brought to you by risk advisory business Partners& in partnership with Cyber Management Alliance.

Date: September 18, 2024

Time: 9:15-10:15

Visit the Partners& website sign up page to register.




The Partners& team enjoy the Business Park great outdoors



Recruiting at **ACER HEALTHCARE**

‘Our team is built by putting care at the heart of all our work. We’re on the look-out for new people to join us’

 Local home care provider Acer Healthcare is continuing its expansion as it supports more individuals across Solihull and Birmingham.

The Knights Court-based company has pledged to create more new jobs for local people in the next 12 months.

Acer Healthcare Solihull and Birmingham consists of care managers; care co-ordinators and senior care assistants, in a team of 40 employees.

Acer Healthcare also has two branches in Northwood and Ruislip, plus branches in Richmond and Twickenham in London, all providing home care and support services to people by helping them to live in their own homes for longer.

The company offers care services from 30 minutes to hourly visits, personal care, live-in care and full 24-hour care services to help individuals live and maintain a lifestyle of their choosing.

Acer Healthcare recruits compassionate people to join the growing care team and be trained to provide the highest quality care to service users.

“We know what an important decision a family will make to find the right

quality care for a loved one and finding the right care staff to match their culture and preferences plays a significant role in providing outstanding care,” explained Sue Manickam, Registered Manager for the Branch.

“Our team is built by putting care at the heart of all our work and we’re always on the look-out for new people to join us. Please visit our website to find out more.”

Acer Healthcare has been awarded a 9.9 out of 10 Customer review score on homecare.co.uk, the UK’s leading home care reviews site, which is independently verified.

This score is a reflection of a commitment to excellence, bespoke service and the high-quality service and care provided to every individual provided.

“We want to extend our deepest gratitude to our amazing team, who work tirelessly day in and day out, putting their heart and soul into their roles,” added Sue.

“And, of course, a huge thank you to our clients and their families for their trust and the valuable feedback they provide. It’s your stories and experiences that truly measure our success.”

Pictured: Eric, Samina, Sue, Macey and Thamizh of Acer Healthcare

Acer Healthcare has also participated in a net zero carbon emission programme with Birmingham City Council and Solihull Council and is one of the first home care providers to implement the project, reducing 67 tonnes of carbon emission in one month, while striving to reduce more.

Based at Birmingham Business Park’s Knights Court building, Sue and the team are enjoying the friendly business community at BBP.

“Life at Birmingham Business Park has always been lively and has a very friendly environment,” she explained.


“We would love to participate in more events and programmes at the Park and walking around the lakes and grounds always been fantastic. We have always felt we have chosen the best environment to work when we have extremely busy work inside the office.”

If you would like to find out more about finding care for you or a loved one, visit the Acer Healthcare at www.acerhealthcare.co.uk, call 0121 269 1555 or email solihull@acerhealthcare.co.uk

You can visit Sue and the team at 6110 Knights Court, Birmingham Business Park.



Celebrating the first anniversary of Combat Stress' Birmingham Hub

 In June, veterans' mental health charity Combat Stress celebrated their first anniversary of opening a treatment hub at Birmingham Business Park to provide treatment and care to veterans living across central England, East Anglia and Wales.

A year later, almost 300 veterans have been supported by the hub, so it's time to check in with the charity to see how things are going...

KAREN PARKER DEPUTY HEAD OF OPERATIONS

Karen joined Combat Stress in August 2023, using her expertise to ensure that treatment and support are recovery-focused and tailored to the unique needs of each veteran.

"It has been an exciting 12 months in the Birmingham Hub.

"In September 2023 we gained CQC registration, enabling us to provide online care and treatment to veterans living across Central England and into Wales.

"Kings Court opened its doors to in-person veteran appointments in October 2023. The team has ensured that the hub is a safe place for veterans to visit, with particular consideration being given to veteran's sensory needs. We have a sensory-informed space, with specialist equipment designed to promote feelings of safety and comfort. The feedback from veterans has been fantastic.

"It's an absolute pleasure to be part of this passionate and committed



*Pictured above:
Dr Lee Robinson*



Left: Karen Parker and Lisa Dixon

interdisciplinary team and I am looking forward to continuing to build on our success."

DR LEE ROBINSON CLINICAL LEAD FOR ENGLAND DIGITAL, OUTPATIENT AND COMMUNITY AND HEAD OF CLINICAL INFORMATION

Lee has been with Combat Stress for six years and oversaw the planning and execution of the charity's move to Kings Court, notably around environmental specification, clinical hazard assessment and data-driven decisions regarding location.

"The hub is a wonderful environment to support veterans and their families, safely, confidentially, and comfortably. It is highly accessible and located in green and peaceful surroundings. We have created a hub drawing upon trauma-informed principals and the best and most accessible practices for those who are neurodivergent, with disabilities or sensory/communication needs.

"The hub has already become a place for collaborative effort across the sector in the region, hosting Op COURAGE colleagues and starting the Local Veterans Voice to ensure veterans have their say in how we operate locally and nationally."

LISA DIXON SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

Lisa has dedicated over 15 years to Combat Stress. She was instrumental in supporting the opening of the hub by developing and implementing efficient systems and processes for smooth day-to-day operations.

"It's been a whirlwind, but incredibly successful, 12 months. The team has received an outstanding number of compliments from veterans across the region, really reflecting the profound positive impact of our work.

"We pride ourselves on having an outstanding team, dedicated to supporting veterans through their recovery journeys, and we are committed to providing the best and most accessible personalised care to meet the unique needs of each veteran who comes to us."

**THE COMBAT STRESS 24-HOUR HELPLINE IS AVAILABLE TO VETERANS AND FAMILIES ON 0800 138 1619
SERVING PERSONNEL CAN CALL THE HELPLINE ON 0800 323 4444**

ParkLife

BBP WORKERS SHARE INSIGHTS INTO THEIR ROLES & COMPANIES

ADNAN AFTAB HEAD OF SECURITY

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

My role is multifaceted and includes overseeing all security operations at Birmingham Business Park. This includes developing and implementing security policies, managing a team of security personnel, and ensuring the safety of all tenants and visitors. Day-to-day I work alongside the park management team and managing agent, Workman, supporting the wider operations of the park to ensure our businesses can operate smoothly and without disruption.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE INDUSTRY?

I started off in my role part-time while I was studying computer science at university. When I graduated, I decided not to go directly into that field, and instead progressed within security. Starting off on night shifts an opportunity arose for me to work alongside the park management team, and I took it. Since then, I have



Ward is a privately-owned company that has been providing security risk management solutions across the UK since 2000.

Ward provides a wide range of tailored and flexible physical options, such as protective security personnel, specialist canine services, keyholding and alarm response. These are integrated with a suite of electronic options, ranging from CCTV and wireless detection systems to remote monitoring, to protect businesses from any vulnerability. Ward responds to alarms on your behalf, monitor your sites 24/7 and look after your staff.

Craig Cousins, Regional Director from Ward, said: "Even though we only started our partnership with Birmingham Business Park a couple of months, it feels like we have been working with the team for a lot longer. The relationship has got off to a great start, with the management team having been nothing but open and engaging, allowing a true collaboration which allowed for a smooth transition.

"Being invited to be part of the recent Business Park Games allowed us to be able to support the park's great initiative but also integrate and network with the wider business community. We look forward to a long lasting relationship and more opportunities to support the Park community."

Pictured: Shelley Hinard, Dan Liddiard, Adnan Aftab, Craig Cousins and Mark Hobden

been able to use my knowledge and expertise in IT to bring about innovative changes to our security operations. This includes our move to paperless work.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT WORKING AT BBP?

The park offers great outdoor settings and a friendly environment that makes coming to work enjoyable. I enjoy the interaction, whether that be tenants, contractors, or the public. This year I will be celebrating 18 years working here at Birmingham Business Park, I must like it to stay that long!


SHARE A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF

I like to learn new things – I'm a qualified PADI scuba diver, I compete in fitness competitions and recently I have taken up yoga. I'm always looking to learn and that's one thing I like about working at BBP – no matter who walks through the door, I can learn from them. In September I start a facilities management apprenticeship as well as undertaking an IOSH course, and Mental Health First Aid training. I look forward to seeing where that will take me.



Crisis at Birmingham Hospice BUT YOU CAN HELP!

LUKE MANLEY OF BIRMINGHAM HOSPICE, BBP CHARITY PARTNER FOR 2024, SHARES AN UPDATE FOR BBP BUSINESSES AND ASKS IF YOU CAN HELP OUT

 Are you aware that BBP charity partner Birmingham Hospice is in a funding crisis?

The gap between its costs and income continues to rise significantly, and the hospice faces an estimated £2.4 million budget deficit this year. Due to these unsustainable rising costs, and the absence of any additional support from the government, Birmingham Hospice has been forced to make some very difficult decisions.

It is with immense sadness that on the 27 June, the hospice publicly announced proposals to make the equivalent of 45 full-time roles redundant, which equates to 14% of its total workforce.

The prospect of having to make highly skilled specialist clinicians and support staff redundant is totally unpalatable. Birmingham Hospice is doing everything it can to support all hospice colleagues through this difficult time.

There is a growing need for palliative and end of life care and the NHS is unable to meet the huge demands on its beds. Most people do not want to die in hospital and hospices provide outstanding services that support people to die in a place of their choosing.

By making redundancies now, Birmingham Hospice is ensuring it can return to a sustainable budget as soon as possible. The hospice is not

underwritten by the government or the NHS, it cannot continue to run a deficit and simply run out of money; if it did, the hospice would no longer exist.

Birmingham Hospice has also looked to cut non-pay costs and invested in income generation opportunities. Investing in fundraising and retail operations will help to give the hospice a long-term future, but the return will not be at the rate of its rising costs.

Birmingham Hospice will continue to provide outstanding end of life care through our Inpatient Units, through day services and in local communities.

The support Birmingham Hospice has gained from those across Birmingham Business Park has been fantastic. So many engaged business professionals wanting to do more for our hospice has been incredible.

However, now more than ever, we need the support of all businesses across Birmingham. Businesses can support in a variety of ways. From donating and sponsoring an event, to taking part in our fun and exciting new exciting fundraising events, which make great teambuilders. There's something for everyone.

To read more about Birmingham Hospice's announcement, please visit www.birminghamhospice.org.uk/about-us/our-story/latest-news/

Bulls in the City and I'm a CEO... Get Me Out Of Here, are just two ways you can help Birmingham Hospice

UPCOMING EVENTS TO SUPPORT BIRMINGHAM HOSPICE

Bulls in the City – Exciting and new Wild in Art Trial

www.birminghamhospice.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/events/bulls-in-the-city/

The benefits on sponsoring a bull or becoming a headline sponsor?

- Demonstrates your commitment to positive social impact in your community
- Engages employees in an event which they and their families can participate in, building pride in teams
- Brand alignment, recruitment, business, customers





SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Will you join the herd and be part of Birmingham's 2025 art trail?

Brought to you by
Birmingham Hospice
www.bullsinthecity.co.uk



Plus, you will be provided with a delicious lunch and you'll have the chance to network with your fellow campmates.

Medal Mission

www.birminghamhospice.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/events/medals/

Choose your challenge, complete the distance at your own pace, support your local hospice and earn unique Brum-inspired medals!

Introducing Medal Mission:

The Best of Brum Virtual Challenge. In this exciting new challenge, you'll get moving, support local patients and earn an exclusive medal that celebrates the city.

How it works:

Choose your challenge: Select from four distance challenges, each representing a different part of Birmingham. You can take on one challenge for £15 or conquer all four for £50.

Make your challenge your own: Decide when, where, and how you complete your distance. Whether you prefer morning runs, evening walks, or weekend bike rides, Medal Mission gives you the freedom to fit your miles into your everyday life.

You can track your miles using Strava or by adding your miles manually onto your fundraising page, to feature on our distance leaderboard. You will also receive a paper tracker to stick on the fridge. Once you've completed your challenge, you can proudly wear your well-deserved medal.

Choose your challenge:

Each medal design is inspired by a different part of our beloved city. From graffiti vibes in Digbeth, to the sparkle of the Jewellery Quarter – these medals are pure Brummie magic!

- Builds business relationships
- Can align with your own marketing campaigns, great social media content
- Event app can help you measure return on investment – value for money
- It is fun and you will enjoy being part of the herd!

I'm a CEO... Get Me Out of Here!

www.birminghamhospice.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/events/im-a-ceo-get-me-out-of-here/

Join Birmingham Hospice for a day of fun and facing your fears by taking part in their brand-new and free fundraising event I'm a CEO... Get Me Out of Here!

The hospice is calling on CEOs, managers and bosses to step out of the boardroom and into a world of wilderness trials and creepy crawlies

to raise vital funds for Birmingham Hospice.

'Campmates' will be working with each other for three trials by winning stars for their team and at the end of the event, one person will be crowned King or Queen.

Trial 1: Complete an Escape Room with fellow CEOs – work out the mystery and escape in the fastest time.

Trial 2: Face your fears with some creepy-crawly handling.

Trial 3: A mystery challenge to be revealed on the day. Caution, may or may not involve some sickly snacks...

Throughout the day, you'll be looked after by Birmingham Hospice's own version of a popular presenting duo. You'll be given a 'Survivors Pack' which contains snacks, a water bottle, goodies and 'camp clothing'.



What a blooming



Birmingham Hospice guests make memories at latest



A hanging basket workshop at Birmingham Business park has proved a blooming success!

More than 75 budding gardeners from BBP bought tickets to the event, which raised £250 for our 2024 charity partner Birmingham Hospice.

Guests from the hospice's Birmingham Living Well Centre were also invited to the workshop which took place outdoors in our landscaped grounds.

The Living Well Centre, which is based at the hospice's Selly Park and Erdington sites, is designed to help people live well with their illnesses.

It offers patients specially designed programmes which teach them how

to cope with their symptoms and offers them the chance to take part in therapeutic activities as well as regular support sessions for carers.

The hanging basket workshop was led by the team at Nurture Landscapes who look after BBP's stunning grounds.

Under their green-fingered guidance guests learned how to put together a beautiful summer hanging basket which they were able to take home.

Lori Henebury, BBP's Marketing, Community and Business Development Manager, said: "Thank you Graham, Robbie and all the Nurture Landscapes team for hosting this wonderful event.

"It was especially lovely to meet

Birmingham Hospice users who told me all about their journeys at the hospice.

"Their participation not only brightened our day but also highlighted the incredible care and support the hospice provides to the community.

"We are honoured to collaborate with such a compassionate organisation and look forward to future opportunities to support their invaluable work."

Graham Brown, Contracts Manager from Nurture Landscapes, said: "We always enjoy hosting the events on the park and was great to see the regulars and new people attending and helping them create something to take home and show off to the neighbours or hide round



marvellous day!



Pictures: Ian Yates

BBP workshop

the back! This year was extra special with members from the Birmingham Hospice taking part, hearing about their journeys and how the hospice care for them."

Luke Manley, Corporate Fundraising Manager, Birmingham Hospice, said: "The hanging basket workshop was an incredible experience for a handful of our terminally ill patients, who attend our Living Well Centres. The ladies who attended had a lovely time being outside, meeting the wonderful team across the park and being able to Live Well.

"One lady said to me 'I don't know how long I have left but thank you for arranging it. It's an experience I'll take with me'."

AND HERE ARE TWO BASKETS IN THEIR NEW HOMES!





Cycle September is coming to Birmingham Business Park this autumn!

BOOST HEALTH AND FITNESS, HAVE FUN AND WIN PRIZES WITH LOVE TO RIDE'S ANNUAL CYCLING CHALLENGE

 Birmingham Business Park has partnered with Love to Ride to bring a fun, free cycling challenge to BBP businesses. Powered by Love to Ride's game-changing app, Cycle September has one simple mission - to help more people to enjoy the benefits of riding bikes.

By logging their bike trips on Love to Ride, riders can win prizes, including a £2,000 grand prize. Riders of every level are invited to participate and can ride anywhere, anytime in September – even a 10-minute ride around the park will enter you into the prize draws. Getting out there in the fresh air and encouraging others is more important than the miles you ride.

Businesses can also unleash their competitive side – staff can join their workplace's profile on Love to Ride and compete with their colleagues to earn the most points and top the local and national leaderboards in their size category.

Thomas Stokell, the CEO of Love to Ride, highlighted the importance of cycling in today's world: "At a time when environmental issues, staff wellbeing, and money-saving are an important factor for many, there has never been a better time to ride a bike," he said.

"We aim to promote healthier, happier people, places, and businesses."

There are so many benefits to riding a bike: from improved mental and physical well-being to a healthier planet to more

affordable and efficient travel. Cycle September is all about celebrating these benefits and sharing them with the world.

Love to Ride is a friendly, fun, online platform dedicated to promoting active travel and healthy lifestyles with its engaging cycling challenges and cutting-edge technology. Working in partnership with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Funded by the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Transport (DfT), it is free for all businesses and anyone working or living in Solihull Borough. Since its inception, more than 700 thousand riders worldwide have used Love to Ride and joined its friendly and inclusive online cycling community.

Join the fun now at lovetoride.net/solihull

HERE'S HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Sign up and register for the challenge at lovetoride.net/solihull. Register before the 1st September for a chance to win the £1,000 early-bird prize!
- Log your bike rides one of three ways: automatically with the Love to Ride app, on the website, or by syncing another riding app. Download the Love to Ride app for Apple or Android devices.
- Earn points – ride your bike and encourage others to earn points. More points = more entries into the prize draws.



JOIN OUR PHOTO COMPETITION BBP CELEBRATES CYCLING!

Are you a cycling enthusiast? Do you love capturing moments of joy while pedalling to work or spending weekends biking with your family? We invite you to participate in our exciting photo competition running throughout August and September. This is your chance to showcase your passion for cycling and share it with our community.

Plus, you could win a £100 Amazon voucher. All we ask is you share with us a snap of yourself either cycling to work, enjoying a leisurely ride with family or exploring new trails.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Keep an eye out for the BBP What's On August for full details on how you can take part in this competition.

We can't wait to see the incredible moments you capture on two wheels.

Happy cycling!

Pictured: Jobcentre Plus employment advisers Helen Earnshaw, Paul Watchorn and Joanne Johnston



Jobcentre Plus on hand to fill BBP vacancies with local employees



Chelmsley Wood Jobcentre Plus is keen to partner Birmingham Business Park companies to help fill their vacancies with staff from the local area.

Jobcentre Plus is able to upload BBP vacancies to an in-house system that enables Work Coaches to match customers to any vacancies. CVs can also be sifted and candidates can be spoken to before forwarding CVs to companies, ensuring the quality of candidates meets employers' expectations. This can also apply to work experience placements.

Paul Watchorn, Employer Adviser,

'My main aim is to match local people to local vacancies. We have a variety of ways we can support this'

is based at the Chelmsley Wood centre and his role is to work with local businesses to help support filling vacancies.

"My main aim is to match local people to local vacancies. We have a variety of ways we can support this," he explains.

"If the vacancy requires somebody educated to degree level, we work closely with the Grad Retune Team who

have caseloads of students recently graduated who may be struggling to find employment.

"We can give the vacancy details to Grad Retune who match customers to the role and support them in any application.

"We can arrange interviews for the vacancies in private interview rooms at the Jobcentre Plus where we can host you, or we can arrange for the candidates to attend your premises for interview.

We also run regular recruitment events in Chelmsley Wood to allow any companies to attend and speak to a number of customers regarding the vacancies.

"Our SWAP scheme involves a customer attending a two-week course (sometimes longer) to undertake training needed for the role. This is supported by a local college and at the end of the training the only ask is that the company guarantees an interview.

"We have so much we can help with to support employers finding the right candidates and were very flexible in how we support businesses. It would be great to speak to Birmingham Business Park companies for them to find out more."

Paul Watchorn of Jobcentre Plus can be contacted at paul.watchorn@dwp.gov.uk





Birmingham
Business Park

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on Instagram**



@BHAMBP