

MEETINGS UPDATE

This section summarises the most recent Business Forum Meetings and Events and includes a brief summary of what was discussed and key decisions. Full minutes can be found at www.bndfc.co.uk.

APRIL MEETING

Quarterly General Meeting: April 4th

Presentations were made on the Public Realm & Vestry Hall artworks and A4E grants for training Group discussions about the following:

- Should the Forum become a business support agency?
- How should the Forum be different to BLSY, SENTA or SCCI?
- Would members support a mentorship programme?
- Would members pay to be members – how much?
- Other ideas.

MAY MEETING

Management Committee Meeting: 2nd May

Members were updated on what came out of the discussions at the quarterly meeting. The discussion identified a need for closer handholding of business start-ups and the opportunity for the forum to fill a gap in provision of business support. An application for funding has been put in to Key Fund to enable an evaluation of how the forum can move forward. Francis Feeley is dealing with this application.

It was announced that as of 15th May, Suzy Cornwell Ball would take on the role of UnLtd Development Manager for the area; Saghir Ahmed will revert to his role as Business Champion.

Pete Handy gave feedback from the 'Keeping In Touch' meeting with the mainstream support various agencies that operate in the area. This is a good step in building relationships with them.

There was a good discussion of the idea that Wicker and Spital Hill could be designated Sheffield's 'spice mile' to maximize the potential of the area.

JUNE MEETING

Management Committee Meeting: 6th June

Discussion with Mike Atkin of Simpson (York) Ltd about the use of local contractors on the Vestry Hall refurbishment. Although specialist work could not be given to local companies, there will

be more general work later for which they would be happy to use local companies – see inside pages for further detail.

The move of the Business Support Team from Harlestone Street to Forum House was announced and concepts for the Forum stationery and promotional material were discussed.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Time	Contact
01 Aug 06	Resident Forum – Employment & Skills	TBC	Admin: (0114) 292 0391
05 Sep 06	Strategy Group – Employment & Skills	TBC	Admin: (0114) 292 0391
26 Sep 06	Business Forum Management Committee Meeting	6.00pm	Tom Coldron: (0114) 292 0462
03 Oct 06	BNDfC Employment & Enterprise Theme Focus Group	TBC	Admin: (0114) 292 0391
31 Oct 06	Business Forum Quarterly Meeting	6.00pm	Tom Coldron: (0114) 292 0462

For further information on any item in this newsletter or for help and advice with business issues, please contact the Business Support team on (0114) 292 0462 or email businesssupport@bndfc.co.uk

Alternatively, call in at Forum House, 35 Spital Hill, Sheffield, S4 7LD.

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Burngreave In Business

News and Information from Burngreave Business Forum

Summer 2006

Business Support Team moves home



As Chair of Burngreave Business Forum I've watched it grow in stature and strength as an agent for change in our area. Forum members sit on several Boards and Area Panels giving us influence on the issues like planning for Spital Hill. I see signs of positive change in Burngreave. The Vestry Hall is being turned into a centre for skills and training, which has to be good for business and enterprise.

Press coverage of Burngreave businesses is much more positive, but we must do more to change the face of our businesses; we can only do that together with one voice. We have more than 50 members but we want to welcome even more to get involved in boosting Burngreave. We now have a brand new Committee in place that will be looking to the future to move forward; imagine what we could do with twice as many members.

Peter Handy
Chair,
Burngreave Business Forum

The Burngreave Business Support Team has relocated to new premises in Forum House, Spital Hill as part of a concerted effort to place all enterprise support activity under one roof in Burngreave. The move is part of a plan to make Forum House a centre of activity where local people can find all the information, help, advice and support they need if they are looking to set up in business, find work or obtain assistance for their existing business or social enterprise.



The Business Support Team at Forum House.

"We are very excited about the move to Forum House and the long-term plans for enterprise support from the new location. We will be sharing the building with Burngreave Opportunities and the Community Learning Campaign which means we can all work a lot closer to offer the most appropriate help to anyone seeking help and advice.

"We will also be making Forum House the natural place for local businesses to go for help with enterprise. We will be hosting a wide range of events, workshops, seminars and networking opportunities in Forum House over the coming year and we look forward to welcoming existing and new clients to those events," said Business Champion, Saghir Ahmed

Student designs Forum's new branding

Firth Park Secondary School student, Adam Deeley (15) kick-started his plans to set up his own graphic design agency by designing a new logo and stationery for Burngreave Business Forum after he won a competition at this year's Burngreave Enterprise Event.

Burngreave Business Support Team arranged for Adam to spend two weeks with Sheffield's top design agency MM Design. Adam says that the work experience has really helped him. "I now have more skills and experience which will really help me in future. When I have completed my studies and graduated from University I would like to start up my own business." said Adam Deeley.

MM Design's Creative Director, Patrick Ross says "I can't express how astounded we were at his ability to grasp a concept and then turn it into reality," added Patrick.

Burngreave Business Forum is a 50 strong membership organisation that works to support businesses in the area. The Forum's Chairman, Pete Handy of RSM Catering (UK) Ltd says that Adam's logo design is perfect for them; "This logo is fresh, strong and professional which reflects the positive approach which businesses in Burngreave have."



Adam Deeley in the MM Design studio with Pat Ross.

BUSINESS PROFILES

Laycock Jewellers

After 54 years of successfully running his business, 69 year old Keith Laycock has decided it is time to finally call time on the highly respected family owned watch and clockmakers that has been serving customers in Burngreave and overseas for more than 80 years.

It is always a shame when we lose a business, especially one that has played such a vital role in the community as Laycock's Jewellers, but no one would deny Keith his deserved retirement.

Established in 1924 the Spital Hill shop has been part of the furniture in Burngreave for as long as most people can recall. Keith learned his trade at the side of his father who passed the business on to him but with his son living in Spain and his daughter in Luxembourg he will be focussing his efforts on enjoying time with his family from now on.



Keith Laycock at work.

The business employed Keith's cousin and niece, Brenda and Becky Hurst as well as Steve Wolstenholm who spent 44 years working alongside Keith. As a business it was well known for its professional approach to providing a bespoke service, as Brenda Hurst says: "Keith's interest in people transferred to his work; customers value the personal touch. People would come into the shop to ask for very specific things and Keith would always go out of his way to make the clock or watch for them and within their budget."

The skills, patience and warmth of Keith and the rest of the team will be sorely missed in Burngreave but we all wish him the very best in his retirement – he deserves it.

"Keith has been a very vital member of Burngreave Business Forum right from the start. He made enormous contribution in the Master Planning process and represented the forum on other strategic boards. Its very sad to see Keith go but on behalf of the Business Support Team and the Forum members we wish him the very best in his retirement and hope that Keith will continue to be part of the Forum in the future," said Saghir Ahmed, Business & Enterprise Champion.

Lee's Appliances

Lee's Appliances at 20-22 Spital Hill opened its doors in 1994 when it was located across the road at number 79.

Since then the business has grown steadily to the point now where it is undergoing a major refit so it can help even more customers needing new and used gas & electrical appliances.



Lee Sweetland in his showroom.

According to its owner Leroy Sweetland, the business has a simple aim; "We try to help people in our local community who can't afford High Street prices but who still need high quality appliances."

Even though Leroy sees his business as Burngreave centred, his customers come from right across South Yorkshire and down into Chesterfield. "We have found that the families we look after refer us to other family members. Parents often bring their children in when they are setting up home, even after they have moved out of the area. I think it's down to the fact that with High Street shops you get unknown people or machines at the end of the phone, whereas with us customers get independent advice on how to spend their money wisely," says Leroy.

Not only is Leroy refurbishing the shop but also he is currently looking to employ two new members of staff to add to the six full and part-time employees. "I would love to be able to take on two local people from Burngreave because I want staff with local knowledge and it's important to me to see the area grow," says Leroy.

For further information call Lee's Appliances on (0114) 276 6383.

Vestry Hall – Business Opportunities

With work well on its way at Vestry Hall, Burngreave businesses have been given the opportunity to play their part in the refurbishment and win new contracts into the bargain.



Contract opportunities Vestry Hall

With work well on its way at Vestry Hall, Burngreave businesses have been given the opportunity to play their part in the refurbishment and win new contracts into the bargain.

Following a meeting with Burngreave Business Forum, site contractors Simpson (York) Ltd said that they would welcome competitive tenders from local businesses for a series of contracts they are looking to commission during the life of the project.

Simpson (York) Ltd are looking for contractors that can deliver the following:

- Stud partition and wall lining works
- Plastering works
- Floor screeding
- Suspended ceilings
- Wood strip flooring
- Soft flooring including carpet & vinyl
- Wall & Floor tiling works
- Painting & decorating
- Cleaning works (final builder's clean)

Interested businesses should contact Mike Atkin or Mark Cregan on (01904) 751 213 within two weeks of delivery of this newsletter.

Business events for your diary

The Burngreave Business Support team has put together a series of specialist workshops and seminars for businesses in Burngreave. The events are spread over the coming months and will be held at the Team's new home at Forum House, they are open to anyone and are free to attend. The events are as follows:

Stepping Out – Advice and support from Business Link South Yorkshire for women starting up in business:

Date: Thursday 20th July, 2006

Presenter: Alison Windle, Business Advisor, Business Link South Yorkshire

Tax and VAT for small businesses – Advice from HMRC on tax and VAT issues effecting small businesses:

Date: Thursday 7th September, 2006

Presenter: Colin Devey, Business Advisor, Inland Revenue & Jo McLaughlin, Enterprise Support Team, HM Revenue & Customs

Burngreave Business Forum Quarterly meeting:

Date: Tuesday 3rd October

Bookkeeping for small businesses – An interactive workshop on keeping accounts and financial management:

Date: Tuesday 28th November, 2006

Presenter: TBC

Burngreave Business Forum Quarterly meeting:

Date: Tuesday 9th January 2007

Seminar: Successful Marketing – Strategic advice on how to effectively market your business to existing and new customers

Venue: Forum House, Spital Hill

Date: Thursday 8th February 2007

Presenter: Graham Parker MA MCIPR, Parker Communications.

To book a place for one of these events, call Tom Coldron on (0114) 292 0462.