NEWSLETTER GETS THE THUMBS-UP

We’re delighted to announce that following all the positive feedback we received after the relaunch of the newsletter in December, we plan to publish a seasonal newsletter. This means you can look forward to receiving regular updates and information four times a year. Don’t forget you can also read our News blog on the Mill Road BID web site by logging on to www.linlithgowmillroadbid.com and clicking on NEWS.

SITE PLAN

We’ve been asked by businesses to provide an up to date Site Plan and Directory for Mill Road Industrial Estate to help customers and delivery drivers locate businesses.

The updated plan has been made available in the NEWS section of the web site to either download or view, and if you would like us to email you a copy please just contact Bridgette on: bridgette.kleinman@linlithgowmillroadbid.com

SIGNAGE

It was good to see so many new businesses move into the estate in 2017, and you’ll be pleased to see that a further update was made in January to the signage at the entrance and throughout the estate to reflect the recent changes.

If you’ve moved into the estate in 2018 – please check if your business is listed on the directory board – if it’s not, please contact Bridgette on 07738 107155 or email: bridgette.kleinman@linlithgowmillroadbid.com

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Hello and welcome to our latest addition of the Mill Road BID newsletter, back by popular demand after the last edition's resounding success. We are constantly looking for ways to increase and improve on communication with the levy payers, opening and maintaining dialogue with all of the businesses in the BID area as well as stakeholders from beyond.

Since we wrote to you last, the BID team have been exceptionally busy reviewing how we operate, with a view to acting on feedback given at the mid-term review. Our main priority is to establish a physical presence in the area so that you are able to meet with us face to face in premises at the industrial estate. With that in mind, we’re pleased to report we’ve made great progress in sourcing suitable accommodations and look forward to sending you details of our new home in the coming weeks.

Being in business, no matter how large or small your organisation may be, comes with its own set of challenges and priorities. As a Director of both the BID and DB Group, I’m acutely aware of the coming changes to the legal requirements for running a business; with the impending move to the Data Protection Act’s tougher and more complex big brother: the General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR, as well as the geography of our economy fluctuating with BREXIT looming on the horizon; it’s never been more challenging for organisations to operate or even start up, than it is today. Thankfully, we have the support of the BID in Mill Road Industrial Estate to provide opportunities for funding through the Business Improvement Grant, maintain an increased standard of safety and security for the area and either offer or sign post to the appropriate advice that businesses need.

The BID can offer added value to the levy payers, the economy and the wider community but, it can only be truly great and rise to meet the challenges that we as business leaders face, if there is engagement and communication. While reviewing what happens when our existing term ends and the prospects of a renewal, we would be grateful for input, thoughts and ideas for the future, to help us reach our goals and we’re keen to hear from businesses with an interest in shaping the future of our BID and welcome either business owners, director or employees of levy payers to join our team.

Until our next edition, may the summer weather grace us with its presence for longer than 10 minutes. Yours, Nicholas

After what seems to have been a long, long winter we’re now starting to see a slight improvement in the weather and hopefully this will continue, and we’ll have a lovely long summer. We could all do with some pleasant warm sunshine to enjoy!

As the weather has started to improve, so has the BID communication with businesses! Over the last few months I’ve met with a number of business owners and have enjoyed getting to know you over a nice cup of coffee. I’ve definitely benefited from these meetings by finding out more about you and your business, and hearing what’s good about the BID and where we could look to improve.

Over the coming months I plan to get to know a lot more of you and will be in touch to arrange a mutually agreeable time to visit.

You can read all about two of the businesses I met later in the newsletter in the “Spotlight On...” section. If you’d like to be featured in the next newsletter, please let me know.

We received some really good feedback from the Winter News edition, so thank you to all those who took the time to contact the BID team to let us know how much you enjoyed reading the re-launched newsletter. If you’d like to see something specific covered in the next edition or as a regular feature, please call or email to let me know, all suggestions are welcome!

Remember we also have a web site www.linlithgownmillroadbid.com and a Facebook page @linlithgowmillroadbid and we’re happy to publish news items or information about your business. You may want to let people know about changes you’re making to your products or services, or you could be updating your operating hours or contact details. If you have something to share, let me know and I’ll help you share it!

And finally, we are currently exploring the possibility of locating the BID team on Mill Road estate, and I’ll keep you posted on how this progresses. In the meantime, I wish you all well and look forward to meeting more of you in the not too distant future.

It’s been a busy period at Mill Road BID HQ, between processing Business Improvement Grant applications, meeting businesses that have moved into the area, keeping up to date on changes such as GDPR and ensuring projects are on track, as well as looking to the future with changes to the B.I.D’s delivery model.

The Business Improvement Grant has been one of our most popular projects, and since the Board decided to increase the amount of funding that business can apply for (now 75% of up to £1,000) there has been an increase in enquiries. It’s always interesting finding out from businesses what they are planning!

After a decade, the responsibility for overseeing B.I.D’s in Scotland is now with Scotland’s Town’s Partnership. In challenging economic times and with support from local authorities likely to be cut, the emphasis will be on more ambition from Scotland’s 40+ Business Improvement Districts. I’ve been thinking about a potential term 2 after August 2019 and what impact the new direction for B.I.D’s in Scotland will have on what we do in Mill Road Industrial Estate. Exciting times!
CAUGHT ON CAMERA!

We’d like to take this opportunity to remind businesses that the CCTV installed within the estate is for the protection & security of everyone within Mill Road IE. If you’ve maybe witnessed an incident or have been the unfortunate victim of damage to your premises or equipment, we may have footage on CCTV that can help the police with their enquiries. The CCTV is also equipped with ANPR, so if you have any concerns about potentially ‘suspicious’ vehicle activity within the estate, we may be able to assist the police with identifying individuals through their vehicle number plate.

Protection & security of everyone within Mill Road Industrial Estate

If you see or hear something suspicious on the estate, please report it to the police!

Here’s Nicholas our BID ‘Chair’ getting caught on camera during the CCTV installation!

FIRST AID TRAINING

In the Winter Newsletter we asked you to let us know if you would be interested in attending BID funded First Aid course, and we had a number of businesses respond with a resounding - YES! We have therefore contacted various suppliers of “Emergency First Aid at Work” training and plan to hold the training in the 2nd week of June. Training will be a 1 Day course and provided within Mill Road estate. Please email Bridgette or Stewart to confirm if you would like to attend the course so we can make the necessary arrangements.
LEARNING LUNCHES...

The BID is looking to re-introducing “Learning Lunches”, so that businesses can attend a “bite-sized session” during their lunch break. Popular topics suggested have been around ‘Security’ in all it’s many shapes and sizes.

We are therefore planning to invite SBRC Business Resilience Centre to tailor some of their training workshops into smaller sessions that can be delivered at a Learning Lunch. (More details will follow in the next Newsletter.)

SBRC currently offer a wide range of services and advice in all aspects of business resilience, from premises and employee safety to cyber security.

Business Resilience - can help you identify and avoid incidents that could compromise the safety of your staff, customers or business activities.

Cyber Services - are designed to help you build confidence, understand your threats and vulnerabilities, and secure your environment from the ever-present threat of cyber-crime.

Retail and Tourism - continually monitor current and emerging threats and engage with businesses to assist them in identifying and reducing vulnerability.

Serious Organised Crime & Counter Terrorism - enables you and your employees to become more resilient and aware of current threats and criminal tactics that are being utilised.

DIPS & Secure Transport - works with Freight & Logistics businesses to protect their cargoes by developing crime prevention measures, sharing best practice and circuating intelligence.

Metal Theft - committed to working with partners to prevent metal theft in Scotland.

If you have a particular interest in the above topics, please let us know as this will ensure sessions are focused on business interests.

GDPR ! - ARE YOU READY?

One of the biggest changes to UK data privacy law comes into effect on 25 May 2018. The General Data Protection Regulation, known as GDPR is all about people having more control over how their Personal Data is used and how they’re contacted.

Personal Data includes not only name, address and date of birth but also occupation, employer and any other piece of information that could be used to identify an individual.

If you hold any personal data for your customers, you are subject to the new rules that come into effect on the 25th May, on how you can use that data. This also includes how you contact a customer, ie. Phone, mail, email etc.

For help on how GDPR affects your business and what you need to do we recommend you visit the ico. web site using the following link: https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.
In the Winter News we announced that in each newsletter we would “Spotlight” a business, and in this edition we have two businesses to introduce you to... a brand new one and an established one that you may not be aware of. Both businesses were keen to be featured and we hope you enjoy reading about what they do and what they’re plans are for the future.

First up we have...

**KINNEIL FITNESS & PERSONAL TRAINING**

New to Mill Road IE, (in Unit 6b next door to TIS), Kinneil Fitness & Personal Training provides ‘Functional Fitness’ for everyone wanting to improve their core strength and general fitness levels! You’ll receive a warm welcome from Lee Mellor, owner and trainer as he assess your current fitness level and sets you realistic goals to ensure you reach them!

Lee has been in the fitness industry since 1986 and has an honest, no holes barred approach to training. He’s a qualified Olympic Lifting Coach and Personal Trainer, so you’ll be in good hands whether you want to train as an individual or in a small group.

Personal Training is provided on an individual basis and during your 12 week training programme you will use a range of equipment to help you reach your goal and achieve “Life Fit.”

If an exercise class is more ‘your thing’, Lee runs Metafit and Kettlercise classes on a ‘Pay-as-you-Go basis, and new members are welcomed.

For those that really want to push themselves out in the open, Lee also runs a Military Bootcamp at Kinneil estate on a Monday evening.

Lee looks to accommodate the needs of people with busy lives so offers an early morning start from 6am and for those that maybe want to head to the gym straight from work, sessions and classes run until 8pm. (Days and times vary)

If you’d like to find out more about Personal Training or Metafit & Kettlercise classes just call Lee on 07775 622620. You can also private message on Facebook using @kinneilfitness.

Closely followed by... **KIP McGrath Education Centre**

Who would have thought that located above Hunters reception there would be an education centre successfully run by John Baker.

When I popped along and met John I was pleasantly surprised to find a tutor with a sense of humour and an amazing enthusiasm for sharing his knowledge with his students. While I was there both his Maths students were working on revision papers in preparation for their exams in May and there was a genuine excellent tutor / student rapport.

John has taught Maths for circa. 30 years and was Head of Maths at Falkirk High prior to his retirement approx. 8 years ago when he moved to Kip McGrath Education Centre on Mill Road Industrial Estate. Many of John’s students are as a result of parent recommendations and result in repeat students and their siblings.

John teaches to the school curriculum and helps students build on their strengths whilst supporting their school work and teaching them how to revise effectively.

Kip McGrath Education Centre offers students individual Maths tuition from P1 to University and English Literacy to students from P1 to S2, six days per week with sessions restricted to a maximum of three students to ensure individual needs can be met.

To find out more just contact John on 01506 671149 or email john.baker@hotmail.com to discuss how he could maybe help your child improve their Maths or learn how to revise for those all-important exams.
Term 2 – Business Plan

Towards the end of the summer we will be starting to work on the BID Term 2 Business Plan and looking at proposals from the business community of what should be included. If we are to ensure the wishes of businesses on the estate are included in the plan, we need your input!

Please have a think about any improvements you would like to see on the estate, whether it be an extension of a completed project eg. additional signage or security, or a brand new idea or project, we want to hear from you.

Please contact Stewart, Bridgette or Nicholas (full contact details on the back page), and let us have your ideas and suggestions.

B.I.G SCHEME

We just wanted to remind everyone that the Business Improvement Grant Scheme is open to all paid up levy payers and can be used towards practically anything to “improve your business”. Whether you’re a new business needing to buy office furniture or equipment or an established business looking to replace or repair machinery etc, the B.I.G scheme can probably help!

Examples of approved grants have ranged from CCTV installation, Social Media Training, New Fridges, Staff Safety Training, Fire Alarms, Burglar alarm and new Boilers.

Other examples could include: Office Furniture or Decoration, Computer Equipment, Machinery or Business Signs for your premises.

Business are eligible to apply for 75% of the 1st £1000 of the cost so if you’re spending a £1000 or more you can apply for £750 toward the cost. If your cost is less than £1000 – you can apply for 75% of the total cost.

What have you got to lose?

To apply, simply contact Stewart Ness on 07717 865225 or email him on Stewart.ness@linlithgowmillroadbid.com to discuss your application.
BUSINESS GATEWAY

Business Gateway is a publicly funded service contributing to the economic well-being of Scotland by providing access to free business support services.

Whether you’re just starting your business or developing a considered growth plan, one of the team of practiced business advisors will be able to work with you, advise on your business strategy and signpost to partners and support organisations who can help enable your business plan.

To get in touch with a dedicated Start Up or Growth business advisor contact Business Gateway main line on 01506 283400.
You can also log onto Business Gateway https://www.bgateway.com for more information about the services offered.
We’ve had a few promising days of great weather in April and have our fingers crossed that the weather will continue to improve.

Wishing everyone on Mill Road Industrial Estate a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous Summer