



August 2022
Newark & Sherwood
...a great place to do
business!



Welcome to the ninth edition of Newark and Sherwood District Council's Business E-Newsletter.



As we reach the peak of summer, there has been plenty of activity in the district. Newark Book Festival returned in July for four days of author events and workshops that saw over 18,000 visitors recorded in Newark. The festival has now begun a programme of Pop-Up events, with the first at Bilsthorpe Heritage Museum and others in Southwell, Laxton, Edwinstowe and more!

Two new bicycle docks have been installed at Newark Bus Station and the Middlebeck development, marking another significant advancement in the 20-minute cycle town scheme. The [YMCA Community Activity Village](#) also opened its doors, heralding the beginning of enhanced sports, business and leisure provision for Newark. Both received a share of the £25 million Towns Fund, and these successes are significant milestones in the delivery of this scheme.

Meanwhile, NSDC submitted plans to the government in an effort to secure £20million in funding for Ollerton and Clipstone. If successful, these funds will help make huge improvements to Ollerton, develop high-quality business space and a new sports facility in Clipstone and improve transport links to the area.

Finally, the Newark Town Centre Races (pictured above) gripped the streets of Newark on 29 July. The thrilling evening included fast-paced youth races and two national circuit rounds, which more than tripled the average evening footfall of 1,087 to 3,347. More exciting events are being planned thanks to the new Cultural Heart programme. This includes [Newark on Sea](#), an urban beach that has been installed in the town centre until 21 August. The beach is accompanied by activities such as sandcastle competitions, seaside shows, face painting and live music.

Your continued support for the newsletter is hugely appreciated. If you would like to contribute your own business story, please contact Economic.Growth@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk.

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Newark and Sherwood District Council invites you to its second Economic Growth Conference on 14 October!

Join us to receive invaluable information to help your business flourish, including an understanding of the future of our local economy. You will also have the opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities that will arise from future trends and ask the questions that relate specifically to your business.

Hear from leading experts:

- Will Hutton - keynote speaker on trends in the British economy and society, innovation and European economic and political affairs
- Dr Roz Rivaz - Senior Independent Director at Victrex plc, Computacenter plc and Aperam SA who will address the skills needed to be a great strategic leader

To book your place, please contact Sue Natrass by emailing susan.natrass@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk or calling **01636 655277**.

Good News Stories

The Business Resilience Programme



Newark and Sherwood District Council's Business Resilience and Growth Programme offered support and guidance from industry specialists to local businesses in four key sectors. The scheme provided workshops, mentoring, business model reviews, and more, all to help businesses develop plans, identify new markets, modify working methods and establish supply chains.

Businesses taking part in the courses received the opportunity to apply for a discretionary grant to boost recovery and growth. Continue reading to discover another fantastic story from a business that completed the scheme!

Nigel, BrackenXcapes

BrackenXcapes was established in 2021 to offer luxury holiday accommodation combined with exciting experiences for guests, complimenting elements of the other businesses I have created in Newark - LetsXcape escape rooms, and LetsXcape Together Boardgame Café.

Prior to the programme, we had already invested heavily into the business; converting a holiday cottage, as well purchasing 3 glamping pods and 9 acres of adjoining land which we are currently working to 're-wild'.

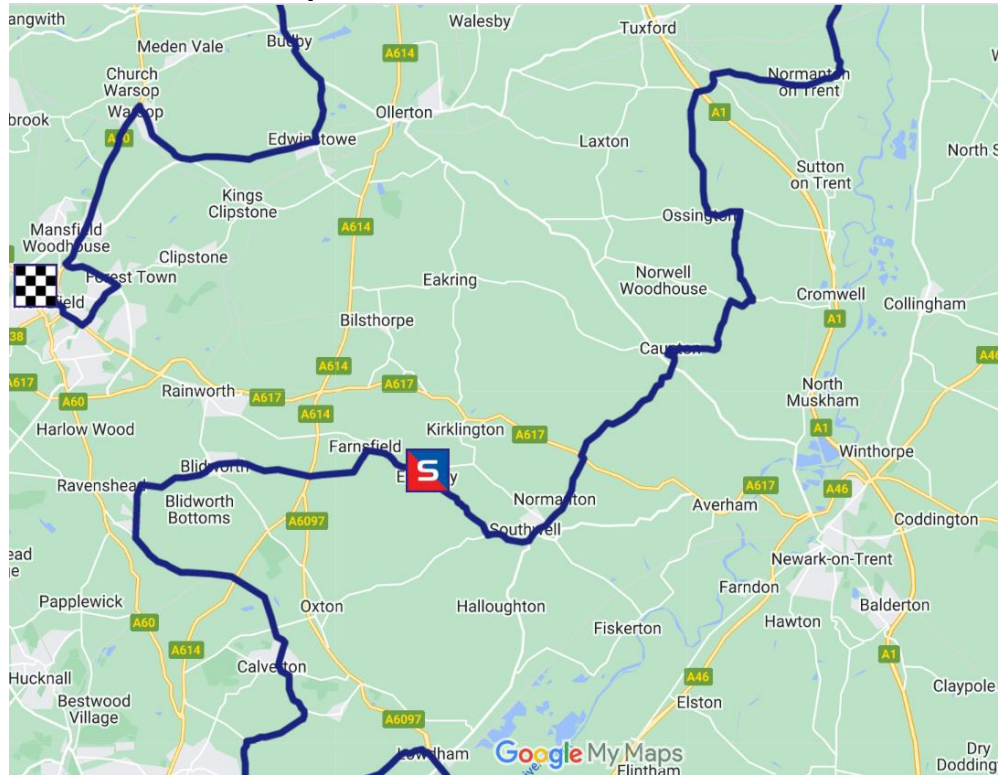


The Business Resilience Programme has provided us with many more ideas that we have started to implement. We have embraced new digital skills, decluttering and improving our website functionality. By using new SEO techniques and working on our own booking system we have also reduced our dependency on booking platforms, lowering costs and improving our profit margin.

Having access to industry expertise of Vispera has helped us to link up with other accommodation providers and suppliers, as well as the NSDC Tourism Action Group. They also prompted us to explore new ways of attracting new customers, improving our visibility by advertising in local publications and online, and researching new marketing techniques on TrendBible.

We strongly feel that by completing the Business Resilience Programme we are best placed to ensure we can continue to grow BrackenXcapes and remain profitable over the coming years.

Prepare for Tour de Britain 2022



On Thursday, 8 September, the Tour of Britain returns to Newark and Sherwood!

Stage five of the prestigious national cycling race will see the cyclists travel from West Bridgford to Mansfield, passing through Lowdham, Blidworth, Farnsfield, Southwell and Edwinstowe. The map above shows the route the procession will take. For more details and planned timings of the stage, please go to the [Tour of Britain website](#).

Congratulations to Newark Air Museum!



Since opening in the 1960s, Newark Air Museum has evolved into one of the UK's leading volunteer-managed aviation museums. The team at the museum can now add another accolade to their collection after recently receiving accreditation from Administered by Arts Council England on behalf of the UK Accreditation Partnership.

Accreditation is a benchmark for Museums and opens up exciting funding opportunities. Joining 1,700 other museums participating in the scheme across the UK, the Air Museum can now host touring exhibitions and access professional advice and support from industry experts. More information about the Accreditation scheme can be found on the [Arts Council website](#).

Newark Festival is back!



Taking place over the August bank holiday, the Newark Festival will bring all sorts of attractions into town, including music, family workshops, parades, circus schools, street entertainers, street Food and a craft market.

For more information, please visit the [Newark Festival website](#).

Business Premises

Beacon Hill offices



Newark Beacon provides the ideal workspace for businesses, offering flexible, professional premises with a range of business support services. The serviced offices and workshops are available with as little as one month's notice.

The on-site meeting and conference rooms are ideal for client appointments and presentations, and there's a warm, welcoming reception team to greet guests. As well as offices, the centre provides virtual offices for those not yet ready for office space.

The centre encourages the development of startups, entrepreneurial and high-growth businesses.

You can find more information on the [Newark Beacon website](#). Alternatively, you can call 01636 653100 or email hello@newark-beacon.co.uk.



Financial Support

Invest to Grow



The University of Derby's Invest to Grow programme provides grants and loans of between £15,000 and £250,000 to private-sector businesses across the East Midlands to innovate, grow and create jobs that can be sustained for a minimum of three years.

For more information on eligibility and to apply, visit the [University of Derby](#) web page.

NBV Business Support



Whether you are looking to start a new business, grow an existing one, access funding or are looking for office space, NBV are here to support you. Helping source loans, grants, invoice finance, equity, from £500 to £5m.

To discover more visit the [NBV Business Finance](#) page.

Subscribe to Grant Finder



Grant Finder is Europe's most advanced grants and policy database. Its search engine operates across the public, private and voluntary sectors, identifying funding opportunities and business support schemes appropriate for your business.

To find out more please see the [Grant Finder website](#). The NSDC Economic Growth team also offers a free search service.

D2N2 Investment Fund



D2N2 are offering to support growing businesses by funding up to 30% of a total project cost. The minimum grant available is £3,000 and the maximum grant is £30,000.

If you are interested in applying please speak to one the D2N2 Business Advisers about your project. Further details can be found on the [D2N2 website](#).

Gain access to business loans



Rebuilding Society

rebuildingsociety.com

Rebuilding Society are a passionate team who provide access to funding for UK SMEs in the form of business loans via an established community of investors.

As an alternative to bank loans, Rebuilding Society pride themselves on providing fast and fair finance – enabling them to power the growth of great businesses across the UK. Applications can be as quick as 5 minutes, with funds being made available in 1-3 weeks

Guidance and eligibility

- Borrow from £25,000 to £250,000
- Terms up to 60 months
- Limited companies, LLPs, PLCs, and social enterprises are acceptable
- No outstanding CCJs
- Directors/Partners must be UK residents
- Unsecured loans available up to £50,000
- Reduced interest rates for secured loans
- No early repayment fees

For more information, or to apply, please go to the rebuilding society website:

<https://www.rebuildingsociety.com/>

First Enterprise



First Enterprise provide government-backed business loans to entrepreneurs, SMEs, and social enterprises across the East Midlands who are unable to borrow from traditional high street lenders. Over the last ten years they have supported 3,500 businesses with over £46,000,000.

The dedicated First Enterprise team offers a range of advice and support on funding your new business, financing business growth, and how to ensure its success and longevity. All start-up loan recipients are given access to a mentor, free training events, and exclusive business offers.

As a not-for-profit organisation, they reinvest their profits into a loan fund to further support economic growth and job creation in the local communities they serve. To find out more, or to apply, go to <https://www.first-enterprise.co.uk/>



Training, Guidance and Recruitment

Free Business Support Surgery with D2N2



One-hour sessions are being held for local businesses who wish to receive free, specialist support to help their business flourish.

Organised in partnership with NSDC and D2N2 Growth Hub, the sessions will be held on a one-to-one basis with Dawn Fear, one of D2N2 Growth Hub's Business Advisers. Attendees will have the opportunity to receive valuable advice, pose questions related to their business, get practical tips and obtain incisive information.

Taking place on Tuesday, 20 September 2022, at the Aura Business Centre, there are seven sessions available and will be offered on a first come, first served basis. For more information and to book your sessions, please contact Sue Natrass by emailing susan.natrass@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk or calling 01636 655 277 or 07834 174 356.

Reskill and Recover with West Notts College



The Reskill and Recover project aims to upskill employees, ensuring businesses have the skills needed to access future and emerging markets, post pandemic and post Brexit.

This project is funded by the European Social Fund, to support SMEs in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, in a bid to support local business growth.

FREE short courses are on offer to help employees gain new skills or improve their current skills. The courses are fully funded, meaning no cost to the business or employees. Courses include:

- Healthy and Safety
- Customer Service
- Sales
- Employability
- Management & Team Leading
- Maths, English & ESOL

For more courses, please go to the [West Nottinghamshire College](https://www.westnottinghamshirecollege.ac.uk/) website.

Sign up for the Future First Expo 2022!

The Future First Expo returns to Newark Showground on Tuesday, 22 November 2022. Future First is a yearly event which offers Year 11 – 13 students from local schools the opportunity to connect with local employers, discover local career options, and raise their aspirations for the future.

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Below is Jack's story, just one example of how your presence at the Careers Expo can make a difference:

Jack's Story



Meet Jack. Aged 15 and like most of us when we were that age, he had never really considered his future or what he wanted to do once he left school.

He'd admit that he was probably not the most academic and felt somewhat let down by the grades-led education system.

But this all changed when he attended a Careers Expo and spoke to an exhibitor who sparked Jack's enthusiasm by explaining how he could become an apprentice and earn while learning a trade.

Jack subsequently got involved with new projects, such as installing a vending machine in a family business; see the picture across and note the big smile!

Never underestimate your role, as a business, in shaping the younger generation! By speaking to them, encouraging their passions and advising them about all their

different options, we can help motivate them to find a fulfilling and meaningful career. You never know you might even meet your next star employee at an Expo!

Do you want to make a difference to a young person like Jack?

Do you want to take time to talk to and inspire the next generation of young people?

Join us for the Future First Expo 2022!



If you are interested in exhibiting, or have any questions, please contact Veronica Dennant at Veronica.dennant@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk or by calling 07834 174354 / 01636 655260

Date: Tuesday 22 November 2022

Venue: Lady Eastwood Centre, Newark Showground

Time: 9:30am – 15:00pm

For a taste of what to experience watch an overview of the Expo from 2021:

<https://vimeo.com/647706831>

Make new connections at the Lincolnshire Business Expo!



The Lincolnshire Business Expo has been running since 2016. Its exciting combination of exhibition space, guest speakers, master classes, expert panels, networking events and hospitality has attracted thousands of visitors.

In 2023 the Expo will be themed around '**making connections**', embracing that business remains rooted in individual relationships whether conducted locally, regionally or globally. Taking place at Lincolnshire Showground on Thursday, 19 January 2023, Newark and Sherwood-based businesses have been specially invited to exhibit and promote doing business across borders. Thanks to a partnership with NSDC, the first ten businesses to book a stand will get 50% off their exhibition space with promo code **NSDC50**.

More information and the online booking system is available on the [expo website](#). There is also a promo video available at <https://vimeo.com/383735888>.

Cyber Security for Small Businesses



Shift Key Cyber - a Bilsthorpe based cyber security business - host a special peer-learning business club event on behalf of Business & IP Centre Nottinghamshire (BIPC).

Cyber Security for Small Businesses will provide small businesses with vital advice on how they can use cyber security practices to futureproof and enhance their protection against hacks, theft or information leaks. The meeting is free and will take place over Zoom on Tuesday, 27 September 2022 (10:00 – 11:00 BST). To sign up, please follow this link to the [Eventbrite page](#).

BIPC's Business Club is driven by participants who suggest topics and share experiences. By attending, you'll get the opportunity to receive new ideas and perspectives from outside your sector and networks. For more information about events and support, visit the [BIPC Nottinghamshire webpage](#).



Help to Grow: Digital & Management



The Government's **Help to Grow: Digital** scheme is designed to support smaller businesses in adopting digital technologies. Eligible businesses can receive discounts of up to £5,000 off the retail price of approved Digital Accounting and CRM software. A new [online platform](#) also offers support and advice on choosing the right digital technologies to boost their growth.

For information on eligibility criteria, please visit the [government website](#).

Details of the Government's **Help to Grow: Management** programme - offering business leaders management and leadership training - can be found on the [SBC website](#).

Partnerships for IT Recruitment



As part of the Government's Digital Bootcamps, Inspire are looking to work with local IT businesses to help them recruit freshly qualified new employees in either Coding or User Experience & User Interface.

Complete Inspire's [online form](#) to register your interest

Inspire Learning Support



Inspire are offering free staff development in Science, Technology (including IT), Engineering and Maths. The training can be accredited or non-accredited and tailored to your need.

Complete Inspire's [online form](#) to register your interest. Eligibility for specific programmes depends on the size of your business.

GOV.UK



Search the [gov.uk business support page](#) for free government business support, from guidance on statutory rights and Brexit, to [T-Level incentives](#), [coronavirus support](#) and [Skills Boot Camps](#), including HGV driver training.

If your business operates overseas you may also be interested in the [Export Support Team webpage](#) and the [Brexit Checker tool](#).

D2N2 Growth Hub



Supporting economic growth across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, D2N2 is one of the largest Local Enterprise Partnerships in the country.

For free, impartial business support advice, and to access a tailored Funding Tracker, visit the [D2N2 growth hub's website](#) or phone 0333 006 9178.



Dates for Your Diary

Newark-on-Sea, Newark Town Centre

Saturday 6 – Sunday 21 August 2022

Newark Festival

Friday 26 – Monday 29 August

Tour de Britain in Newark and Sherwood

Thursday 8 September 2022

Heritage Open Days in Newark and Sherwood

Friday 9 – Sunday 19 September 2022

Dragon Boat Festival, Newark

Sunday 18 September 2022

Business Support Surgery, Aura Business Centre - Newark

Tuesday 20 September 2022

Cyber Security for Small Businesses, Zoom Meeting

Tuesday 27 September 2022

Economic Growth Conference, Southwell Racecourse and Golf Club

Friday 14 October 2022

Future First Expo 2022, Newark Showground

Tuesday 22 November 2022

Online versions of these newsletters can now be found on the new [Business Newsletter](#) page on the Invest Newark & Sherwood site

<https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/>

<https://whatson.visitnewark.co.uk/>



Building a shared prosperity

If you do no longer wish to receive this newsletter contact

Economic.Growth@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk