

Business Forum Update

The Business Forum met on the morning of Thursday 4th February with seven attendees including two newcomers; Isobel Darby from Chalfont St Peter and Amarjeet Hans from Denham, and subsequently Marie Cavanagh of Chalfont St Peter Chamber of Commerce and James Foraye of the Denham Community Support Group.

The general feedback from the meeting, that appeared consistent across all areas, was that businesses were 'getting by', mainly as a result of grant funding opportunities that most businesses are taking advantage of; primarily down to the work and pro-active communications from Buckinghamshire Council and Buckinghamshire Business First. There were no known direct business 'casualties' of the impact of Covid-19 and the two known business closures in Chalfont St Giles and Gerrards Cross have been as a result of the business owners deciding to retire, which is imminent anyway. In Chalfont St Giles a brand new high street business has recently open, even. It was noted however that government grants are likely to soon come to an end and this may have significant impact on high street business and should be followed closely. It is currently difficult to ascertain the health of businesses due to lockdown.

The sub-group / forum approved an application for a submission to the Community Board for approval, for a programme called Be Your Own Boss (BYOB). BYOB is an initiative by Bucks Business First that provides support and advice to people looking to set-up up businesses themselves - ie. to be their own boss. The application is for £3,000 of funding (£250 per head x 12) and would enable 12 successful applicants from the Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts area to be part of a thorough, professionally run business setup programme. Neighbouring Community Boards have already made funded submissions onto the programme and the Business Forum seeks the Community Boards approval in order to start this process.