

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

As we enter our 14th year as a Business Improvement District (BID) - the final year of our third five-year term – we look back with pride at all our achievements here on Brackmills Industrial Estate.

In the last year alone, we have supported our resident businesses with a packed calendar full of virtual and face to face events, security enhancing initiatives, infrastructure investments and a host of environmental and wellbeing projects.

Crime continues to remain at an all-time low; we have a dedicated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for our estate and for the third year running we are delighted to announce that we have voted to freeze your annual BID levy fee. We recognise how important it is to support businesses – and that is what we are committed to doing.

We will be in touch this year to talk to you about what you want from the next five years of our Business Improvement District.

To request a meeting with our CEO please email Sara Homer sara.homer@brackmillsindustrialestate.co.uk



Sara Homer
BID CEO and Logistics Person of the Year 2022



180+ Estate Businesses



18,000 Employees



5 Defibrillators



3 Jobs Fairs



1 Police Community Support Officer



21 CCTV & ANPR Cameras



10 Drop In Business Surgeries



51 Road Gritting Applications

INFRASTRUCTURE

To provide a great infrastructure and smart working environment for businesses to operate and people and services to access and move around, safely and effectively.

ROADS

Between March 2021 and March 2022 the BID invested in a host of road improvements on and around the estate. These have included:

01

Infrastructure investments included installing a toucan crossing at the bottom of Hardingstone Hill which has proved to be very beneficial from a safety point of view for people and cyclists on the estate.

02

Throughout the year the BID has worked with partners to ensure that strategic infrastructure services are delivered and supported so that the estate can keep moving.

03

At the bottom of Landimore Road, where the road had deteriorated and road patching was no longer a viable option, the BID paid for the road to be re-laid, with the work taking place over a weekend to minimise disruption. This is one of the busiest routes on the estate so investing in the infrastructure was essential to keep the estate moving.

Power



To protect a series of underground power and communications cables, the BID reinforced a section of Caswell Road that had been compromised due to trucks repeatedly mounting parts of the curb. The BID invested in wire caging to protect the cables – meaning the road can continue to support heavy duty vehicles without a risk of disruption to the estate.

Winter Gritting



We funded 51 applications of gritting, to keep the estate moving and in business during cold and frosty times. The winter gritting season is still underway.

Voi Scooters

These electric powered scooters are proving extremely popular, enabling our businesses and staff to get around safely and speedily. In 2022 alone, more than 96,000 rides were taken to and/or from Brackmills. August proved to be the most popular month for scooter usage, with 10,855 people hopping on to a Voi Scooter on Brackmills.



CRIME AND SAFETY

Work closely with the police and others to maintain a safe and secure working environment for freight transport, all vehicles, customers and the people who work in the estate.

Between April 2022 and Feb 2023 just 52 crimes were reported on Brackmills, significantly lower than other UK business estates and even lower than the crime recorded on our estate last year. This compares to 135 in 2008, the year prior to the BID first commencing.



Meet our PCSO

Paul Hurst is the BID's full time Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). He patrols the estate - typically walking around 40,000 steps every day - engaging with and supporting employees and businesses. A typical day sees Paul monitoring the security systems and checking the estate's CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. He also provides businesses with support and crime prevention tips and in the case of accidents Paul is trained to administer first aid.

“ There is very little crime at the moment, so my focus is on patrolling the estate and engaging with local people. During a typical shift, usually nine to 10 hours, I'll walk or cycle about 20 miles. ”
Paul Hurst, PCSO

Cycle safety

Our PCSO Paul has a bank of bike lights to give out to cyclists in need and offers a bike marking service, also helping cyclists add their details to the BikeRegister national database.



Incidents and Business watch alerts

We also continue to send out security and business watch alerts to businesses. Together we are stronger.



Cameras

The BID continues to maintain 21 cameras, which are strategically placed across our estate and placed at all entrances and exits to the estate. Our cameras help Northamptonshire Police – who gather intelligence – and our PCSO monitor, prevent and tackle crime and security incidents.

Security

The BID commissions additional patrols from a private company, which ensures there is extra security on the estate at peak periods and over bank holidays. This extra security is booked to dovetail the shifts covered by our PCSO Paul - to enable 24/7 cover in our most vulnerable times.

In 2023 we launched a series of Security Group Meetings, bringing together decision makers from across the estate to share important security updates.

“ The more we work together, the better it is for everyone. We need to look after each other. This is a more cost-effective approach than every company having isolated security solutions. ”
Howard Wilson, BID Chair



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The need for security was highlighted when a huge warehouse fire started on Brackmills in the early hours of one morning in May 2021. The first to detect and report the fire were the security team funded by the BID. This meant the fire services were quickly on site, potentially preventing the fire from spreading further. Our BID Chief Executive Sara was quickly on site and became a first point of call for all the emergency services.

“ We, Brackmills BID, are proud to represent Brackmills businesses and to work with the emergency services, power companies and local government to minimise disruption and help businesses get back to business. ”
Charlotte Patrick, BID Vice Chair

ENVIRONMENT AND IMAGE

Provide a smart, tidy and safe environment and project an image which is consistent with the high-quality values and standards of the businesses which operate on Brackmills.

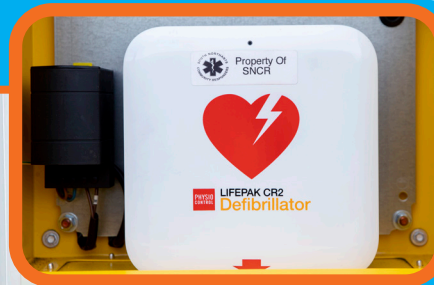
On the move

Footpaths and cycle ways are constantly being maintained, with overhanging branches cut back and landscaping done to ensure our cyclists and walkers can stay safely on the move.



Defibrillators

Five life-saving defibrillators have been installed on Brackmills Industrial Estate, with training sessions run by First Responders.



TRAVEL SURVEY FUNDING

The BID was awarded £10,000 of funding this year through the Knowledge Exchange for Better Business scheme, delivered by the University of Northampton. A team from the university have conducted an accessibility survey, looking at walking, cycling, scooter access and running routes on and around the estate. This is an ongoing project and the scheme's recommendations – which include improving street lighting and road markings - have now been passed on to Highways. The BID will be working closely with Highways to take these recommendations forward.

Green spaces

We are so proud of our green spaces. Our Brackmills Woods Country Park, tucked in between big warehouses, is a small haven of peace, greenery and trees, with a lake at its heart.



BUSINESS GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

Support businesses on Brackmills to grow, develop and invest by creating a great working environment.

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are driven by participating businesses working together to maximise benefits for the BID area and those businesses within it.

Jobs Fairs - Our fifth Jobs Fair is set to take place in March 2023 (as this publication went to press) at Delapre Abbey and is part of our commitment to supporting Brackmills businesses to source and retain the talent they need to grow and thrive. To compliment these face-to-face fairs we have a popular online jobs page – matching job seekers with the vacancies and employment opportunities we have here on Brackmills.

Business surgeries - We reintroduced our face-to-face drop-in surgeries in 2022, inviting employees and businesses to join the BID team every month for a cuppa and catch up – to ask questions, raise concerns and to suggest projects.

Partnerships - We have continued our partnership with Aquarius Life, an organisation which supports people affected by alcohol, drugs and gambling, and offers support to employers. Thanks to this partnership, our businesses have been able to access free policy advice and make the most of training and workshops.

Developments - Our estate is constantly growing and adapting. Developments in the last year include a number of new arrivals. DSV, an international distribution, haulage and freight forwarding operation and Active Ants, a fulfilment company, moved on to the estate in 2022 and now occupy new units on Liliput Road, towards the bottom of the estate.

Website - The BID website www.brackmillsindustrialestate.co.uk continues to be refreshed and updated and is a first point of call for business and BID information. We have a [jobs](#) page, [news](#) and [events](#) tabs, maps of the estate and much more.

Updates - We keep our resident businesses up to date about incidents on the estate, traffic congestion, extreme weather, roadworks and other breaking news. We do this via our much-valued e-bulletin and business alerts. We also keep everyone connected via our social media channels – [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Promoting our units - The BID continues to work with several partners, including property developers, to promote newly built and vacant units.



The greater your involvement and the more activities and opportunities you take advantage of, the better value for money you will receive from your BID levy.

Michelle Coles, GXO



PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

More PR and award support for businesses on the estate

We will continue to profile and celebrate Brackmills businesses on our website and social media channels AND we are on hand to provide advice and guidance if you are looking to enter any local or national award schemes.

Infrastructure investment

We are committed to keeping our roads, cycleways and footpaths moving. Significant resurfacing and pot hole repairing.

Committed to supporting our local community

In 2023, we pledged to support Northamptonshire homeless charity Hope Centre. We will also be profiling and supporting other local good causes, including a second convoy to Ukraine.

A new app for the estate

The app will help everyone working on Brackmills estate access special offers, estate news and to keep up to date with everything from roadworks and traffic disruptions to bus timetables.

Bus No.	Depart	Arrive
1001	06:30	06:45
1002	06:45	07:00
1003	07:00	07:15
1004	07:15	07:30
1005	07:30	07:45
1006	07:45	08:00
1007	08:00	08:15
1008	08:15	08:30
1009	08:30	08:45
1010	08:45	09:00
1011	09:00	09:15
1012	09:15	09:30
1013	09:30	09:45
1014	09:45	10:00
1015	10:00	10:15
1016	10:15	10:30
1017	10:30	10:45
1018	10:45	11:00
1019	11:00	11:15
1020	11:15	11:30
1021	11:30	11:45
1022	11:45	12:00
1023	12:00	12:15
1024	12:15	12:30
1025	12:30	12:45
1026	12:45	13:00
1027	13:00	13:15
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1041	16:30	16:45
1042	16:45	17:00
1043	17:00	17:15
1044	17:15	17:30
1045	17:30	17:45
1046	17:45	18:00
1047	18:00	18:15
1048	18:15	18:30
1049	18:30	18:45
1050	18:45	19:00

10 new bins, to be dotted across the estate.

The BID's vision is

To create a highly effective and functional operating environment on Brackmills Industrial Estate which supports and attracts businesses and inward investment

7 new bus shelters across the estate.

A large-scale cycle safety and awareness event this spring, for Brackmills employees.

15

PAYING YOUR BID LEVY

Businesses in the Brackmills Industrial Estate BID area are required to pay a levy, which is in addition to Business Rates and needs to be paid separately (regardless of how you pay your Business Rates).

Prompt payment will help ensure that the objectives that were voted on in the BID Business Plan come to fruition.

You can pay the levy in the following three ways.

Please always quote your BID account reference. This is a nine-digit number starting with a 7.

If you have any questions regarding your levy payment, please contact the Business Rates office at West Northamptonshire Council. Telephone 0300 126 7000 (Option 1 for Business Improvement District)
E-mail: businessrates.nbc@westnorthants.gov.uk

YOU CAN PAY THE LEVY IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

- Pay by debit or credit card on **0845 3721745**
- Online payments www.westnorthants.gov.uk/PayBusinessRates
- Online creating a new payee "West Northamptonshire Council" and using the following Acc details, Barclays Bank Sort code **20-17-68** account number **70509035**.
- If you have any questions regarding your payment, please contact the Businesses Rates Office at West Northamptonshire Council.
- Telephone number **0300 126 7000** (option for Northampton Business Rates)
- **E-businessrates.nbc@westnorthants.gov.uk**

BID FINANCIALS 2022/2023

Businesses in the Brackmills Industrial Estate BID area pay a levy which is used to pay for the projects and services provided by Brackmills Industrial Estate Ltd.

In 2022/23, the BID has worked with a total budget of £813,692 based on levy contribution in 2022/23 and £414,740 retained income from 2021/22. The split of actual and committed expenditure for the current financial year to 31/03/2023 is shown in the table on the right.

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR BID

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are driven by participating businesses working together to maximise benefits for the BID area and those businesses within it.

Business hereditaments with a rateable value of £12,000 or more are liable for a BID levy to contribute to the costs of projects and activities undertaken by the BID*.

The greater your involvement or the more activities and opportunities you take advantage of, the better value for money you will receive from your BID levy. For further information please email sara.homer@brackmillsindustrialestate.co.uk

Objective	Actual & Committed Expenditure
Infrastructure	£101,200
Crime prevention	£157,112
Environment	£23,651
Business growth & investment	£25,523
Central admin & overheads	£89,440
Levy Collection costs	£6,000
Contingency	£20,146
Total	£423,072

Unaudited accounts including estimated accruals as of February 2023.

Brackmills Industrial Estate Ltd

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 www.brackmillsindustrialestate.co.uk