



Torfaen Business Voice

Llais Busnes Torfaen



<http://bit.ly/twitter-TorfaenBiz>



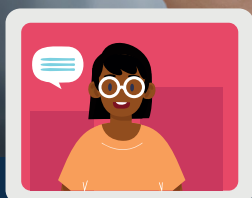
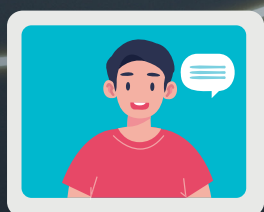
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MAY 2021

Next Virtual Meeting: 24th June, 4.30pm



COME & JOIN THE CLUB!

Torfaen Business Voice Online membership
for **£18.00** for the rest of 2021.

<http://bit.ly/TBV-membership-form>



NOTES FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

As the lockdown restrictions ease I'm sure a lot of us are trying to predict what the business landscape will look like in the future. Will we all return to offices and actual meetings with clients or colleagues? What are the opportunities? What are the risks? How will our businesses need to adapt?

Well, to help we have arranged for Dr Paul T Thomas, founder of DNA Global solutions, fellow at Sheffield Hallam business school and internationally recognised speaker on managing businesses to open our next

virtual networking meeting on the 24th June 2021. Paul is described as someone who "makes the complex simple" and we are grateful he has agreed to share his experiences with us.

We have launched a new online membership package covering the rest of our 2021 meetings at the limited cost of £18 with a proportion of that going to support a local charity that will be chosen by the members.

Details of how to join are in this newsletter. As well as our speaker there will be plenty of opportunity to talk about your business in breakout rooms in smaller groups. We aim to have as many room changes as time allows.

Going forward we will have meetings in September and November which will remain online for the time being which we hope will give you the opportunity to talk to other local businesses in a convenient and safe way.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: VIRTUAL MEETINGS

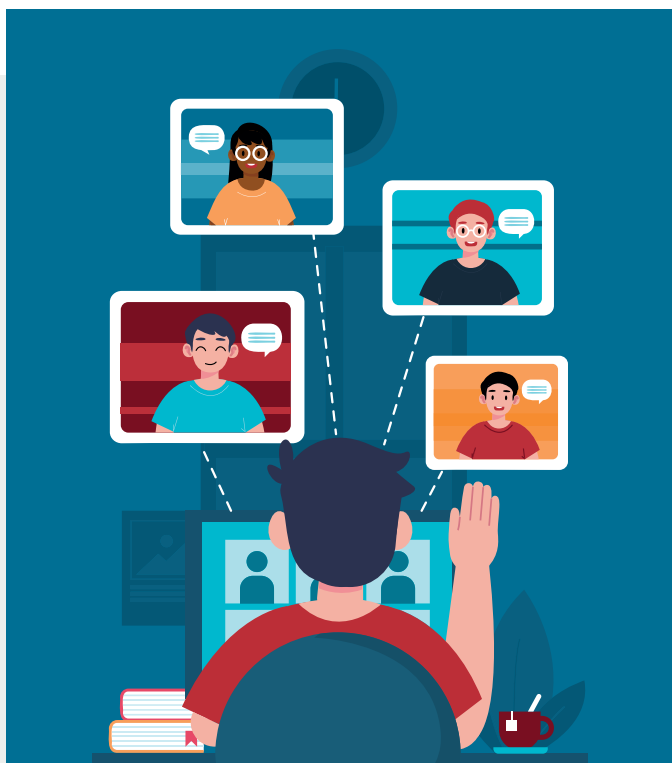
30/09/21 - Torfaen Business Voice - 4:30pm Online

25/11/21 - Torfaen Business Voice - 4:30pm Online



Ashley Harkus

Chairman,
Torfaen
Business
Voice



Torfaen Business Voice
Llais Busnes Torfaen



Next event 24th June, 4.30pm

<http://bit.ly/TBV-event-details>



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Funding to Support
Your Business Needs?

VIRTUAL GUEST SPEAKER, DR PAUL THOMAS

Our Speaker, BBC Wales Business Doctor, Dr Paul Thomas for our **June Virtual Meeting 24th June, 4.30pm** including networking break out rooms – come and hear Paul share some of his global experience in creating, managing and challenging how organisations behave and how this can make them operate in more human ways.

With a combination of research, hands on practice, and education programmes to senior managers his thinking is simple: challenging the way things are done.

Paul uses his academic and practical research, mixed with experience to talk about:

- **Putting the Passion back into Leadership**
- **Leadership for the Bottom-line**
- **People, Ownership, Warrantee**
- **Demonstrating Leadership over Management**

He is currently tasked, along with his team, to help a large financial institution change and transform to meet a fast changing, technology driven environment. Creator of a Charity Fitness Ventures, High Street Fitness and a visiting Professor for various Universities in Switzerland, Paris, London, Wales and a speaker on the 20/20 Leadership Programme at Bangor and Cardiff Metropolitan University.



Not a member? Why not join us online, membership at £18.00 inclusive of VAT for the rest of 2021. Sign up now!



Visit: <http://bit.ly/SouthWalesBusiness> for further information.

Video Links:

University Master Class 2014
<http://youtu.be/cj0HmlwZ5Vw>

Interview with Dr Paul Thomas 2012
<http://youtu.be/TiKwUX3Cm-8>

Sports Council Presentation with Lord Coe 2013
<http://youtu.be/HwDLs-JJl4M>

MONTHLY ONE TO ONE ONLINE BUSINESS SUPPORT CLINICS:



Following the successful introduction of these online events over the past few months, they are set to continue. Any existing business or new start up within Torfaen looking for impartial advice and support can book a free and confidential 20 minute consultation with members of the business support team at these monthly support clinics. For more information and to book a place please click on the dates below:

Thursday 27th May: <http://bit.ly/Thursday-27-May>
Thursday 24th June: <http://bit.ly/Thursday-24-June>
Thursday 22nd July: <http://bit.ly/Thursday-22-July>





NOW IS YOUR CHANCE FOR YOUR MANUFACTURING BUSINESS TO JOIN OUR PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

The Welsh Government Productivity Enhancement Programme was launched in Torfaen at the end of last year, after widespread success in other areas. We are pleased to announce that over a dozen businesses have taken the steps to increase efficiency, develop new products and explore new markets within their Torfaen business.

Are you ready to do the same?

Every participant in the scheme will be assigned a Welsh Government Relationship Manager and Innovation Specialist to help review productivity enhancement and support them through the business friendly application process.

Expert manufacturing advice is provided through a funded productivity consultancy that has helped SME businesses with advice surrounding factory layout, automation and digital, technical manufacturing challenges and quality marking requirements.

Future proof your business

If you are a manufacturing business based in Torfaen who would like to explore this programme further please e-mail: info@southwalesbusiness.co.uk
We will also be holding a Virtual clinic (see below for details on how to book) and more information on the programme can be found here: <http://bit.ly/SMART-Innovation>

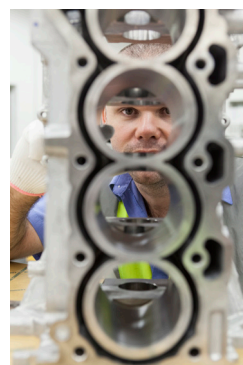
If you are a manufacturing business in Torfaen that wants to:

***Increase Efficiency, Develop New Products & Explore new markets
The Torfaen Productivity Enhancement Programme is for you!***

Join us on 17th June 2021 from 16.30 to 17.30 to find out more.

Virtually Online Microsoft Teams Platform for Torfaen Businesses
The Programme will offer a **support package** of potential funding for capital expenditure in new technologies.

You can book your place here: <http://bit.ly/book-your-place-here>



GREEN & CO ACCOUNTANTS & TAX ADVISORS

Green & Co Accountants and Tax Advisors take a look at the fundamental changes that have come in since the turn of the year:

Brexit - The end of the Brexit transition period on 31 December 2020 ushered in a range of new trade rules and regulations applicable to businesses that trade with the EU. Firms need to follow new rules on exports, imports, tariffs, data and hiring. VAT changes include - import VAT due on all goods, and accounting for the VAT has been postponed until 1 July 2021. Consignments of less than £135 should have UK supply VAT applied at the point of sale rather than UK import VAT. The Low-Value Consignment Relief (LVCR) has been abolished, and exports to the EU are zero-rated for VAT.

Recovery Loan Scheme - Budget 2021 announced a successor loan scheme to aid post-COVID-19 business recovery. The Recovery Loan Scheme opened on 6 April 2021 and will run until 31 December 2021, providing ongoing support to UK businesses. Loans are available through a network of accredited lenders listed on the British Business Bank's website. You need to show that your business would be viable were it not for the pandemic, has been adversely impacted by the pandemic and is not in collective insolvency proceedings. Up to £10 million is available per business with lenders covered by an 80% government guarantee. You will not be expected to sign a personal guarantee on facilities up to £250,000, and a borrower's principal private residence cannot be taken as security.

COVID-19 support schemes - As was widely anticipated, the main COVID-19 business support schemes, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS), were extended in the Budget to 30 September 2021. Eligibility conditions for phases four and five of the SEISS grants have changed considerably, so we would advise you to check the eligibility criteria. Those who missed out on the first three grants may now be eligible. The grants are subject to tax, and you should include them in your income for the year.

Super-deduction - A key headline from Budget 2021 was a new 'super-deduction' for limited companies to boost investment. Companies investing in qualifying new plant and machinery assets from 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2023 will be able to claim a 130% super-deduction capital allowance and a 50% first-year allowance for qualifying special rate assets. The super-deduction will allow companies to cut their tax bill by up to 25p for every £1 they invest.

Other recent changes include IR35 and the Domestic Reverse Charge for the construction industry. If you have any questions regarding any of the above, Green & Co would be happy to help at: mail@greenandco.com or 01633 871122.



PEOPLE IN WALES WHO CANNOT WORK FROM HOME ENCOURAGED TO USE LATERAL FLOW SELF-TESTS

All those who cannot work from home are being encouraged to access lateral flow self-test kits as they are rolled out across Wales.

The rapid coronavirus testing kits will be available to collect from local test sites across Wales – your local site is **Pontypool, Old Mill Car Park from 8am to 1pm daily.**

The Welsh Government is also looking at other collection venues for test kits to be made available, as well as being directly delivered to people's homes. It is hoped that improving the availability of lateral flow tests will make regular asymptomatic testing for

coronavirus more convenient and accessible for people not covered under existing schemes at workplaces, childcare settings, schools, colleges and universities. <http://bit.ly/full-details-here>



PONTYPOOL MARKET – TEST TRADE YOUR BUSINESS

The markets of Pontypool are always looking for enthusiastic traders who are dedicated to providing high quality customer service and a diverse shopping experience right in the heart of Pontypool.

Pontypool indoor market has units available for rent, from ventilated catering units to casual stalls providing flexible trading. Rental prices are affordable and competitive, plus new businesses can benefit from our test trade opportunities with up to 30% discount on rents for the first six months. For more information on trading at the market contact the Market Manager on:

01495 742757 or email:
pontypoolindoormarket@torfaen.gov.uk



TORFAEN BUSINESS CARGO INTERIORS LAUNCHES BUG FOR MEN COSMETICS

The owner of an office design business in Torfaen has launched a new make-up range catering to men called BUG for Men. Cwmbran-based Cargo Interiors Limited secured a £50,000 micro loan from the Development Bank of Wales to support the cosmetics launch. Founded in 2019 by Managing Director Carl Gough, the office design and build company decided to launch a new strand for their business following the Covid 19 pandemic.

Carl said: "It became clear during the first lockdown of 2020 that the way we work was going to fundamentally change. I looked into gaps in the market where I could use my existing skills and decided to launch our BUG for Men cosmetics brand."

BUG for Men operates alongside his existing office design and build business, which has seen a recent

increase in demand for services as businesses redesign office space for a post-pandemic world. Read more about this story -

<http://bit.ly/office-design-to-make-up>



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FUNDING TO SUPPORT YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS?



The Development Bank of Wales and Torfaen County Borough Council – Economy & Enterprise team are delighted to be holding a Business Support Clinic from 10.00 – 14:00 on the following date:

Thursday 8 July 2021
Virtual On line Business Support Clinic

As locally based representatives we are dedicated to ensuring that the businesses we work with secure the funding and support they need to help with start-up costs or to grow your existing business.

At the session, you can find out more about local support available for your business. Working together we can provide funding to start or expand a business, supporting you with funding in order to purchase new equipment or even to buy a business. Whether you're a start-up or existing business, book on talk to us about your business and future plans.

To book a 10 minute chat please click the link:
<http://bit.ly/DBW-Event-Details>

TORFAEN'S TEST TRACE & PROTECT (TTP)

TORFAEN
COUNTY
BOROUGH



BWRDEISTREF
SIROL
TORFAEN

Since Summer last year, Torfaen County Borough Council's Test Trace and Protect (TTP) Team has been hard at work, contacting thousands of cases and their contacts, breaking chains of Covid transmission to deliver the Welsh Government's highly effective second pillar of Wales' response to the Covid outbreak and playing their part in keeping the levels of Covid infection under control in Torfaen and Wales in general.

The service, built totally from scratch, as the cases increased and the pandemic worsened last year, is part of a ground-breaking partnership between the five local authorities of Gwent and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, backed up by expertise from Environmental Health professionals and Public Health Wales. It really has been a 'Team Wales' success thanks to local and national teams working hand in glove to deliver a 98% success rate of people that have been traced as confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 across Gwent.

The team are part remote working and part office based and are a combination of existing council staff seconded from their roles all across the organisation and local individuals recruited to fill the many new roles that were created, as the team expanded to deal with the rising volumes of cases, including a brand new 'Covid Enforcement Team', created alongside TTP to provide 'on the ground' support to the team and to local businesses across the borough.

Most recently, the team have supported the wider Public Protection Team, in rolling out an extensive food premises study, contacting every food premises across the borough, as part of the preparation for the re-opening of the industry.

In addition, a series of information sessions have been delivered to a range of businesses in the area, in partnership with the council's Economy

and Enterprise Team, running alongside the Government's re-opening programme, sector by sector, as Covid rules are relaxed. These sessions are intended to provide information on the functions of the TTP operation, how businesses can work with TTP to keep their staff and customers safe and what lessons can be learnt from the cases and clusters of cases that Torfaen have experienced over the past months.



Jason Austin, TTP lead for Torfaen said:

"I am very proud of what the team has achieved over the past few months. It has been a total learning experience for all of us and a huge challenge, to create an operation and a team from nothing, with a brand new IT system and to stay on top of huge increases in cases. To be in a position of being one of the top performing TTP teams in Wales, is a testament to the effort and the dedication of each and every member of the team"

TTP will continue at least until September, as the Welsh Government has released funding to continue the work into the Autumn. The team are always happy to help and would welcome contact from any business with queries or questions and urge companies to get in touch through any of the methods below.

Please get in touch, if you have any queries, questions, or need our assistance with a Covid-related matter. You can contact us on:

TrackandTrace@torfaen.gov.uk

01633 648173

CovidEnforcement@torfaen.gov.uk

