



BIZ BUZZ FEBRUARY 2020

If you've got a story to tell or information you'd like the local business community to know about, get in touch. info@np4nb.online
<http://www.np4nb.online/>

Attleborough has a parking nightmare too! BUT....

Is this the answer? Quick! Have your say...

Local biz operations are suffering all over again as A'boro Council shuts off walkways and parking places once more for weeks. Now there is a consultation about parking. Ironically, it's intended to *increase* the footfall. Our talks with businesses suggest they haven't recovered from the last road closures. They fear that customers have already made the decision to go elsewhere. Can a new parking deal reverse the trend? Breckland District Council in consultation with Attleborough Town Council is working on a time restricted parking trial at Queen Square. A survey from 2016 suggests that the average stay is 4 hours. The new plan would be a maximum of 3 hrs FREE with no return for at least one hour. Parking enforcement officers could hand out £70 parking tickets. The consultation will be open for comment between **Friday 14th February & midnight on Friday 6th**



March. Comments should be made at Facilities@breckland.gov.uk or in writing to Breckland District Council, Facilities Department, Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, Dereham, NR19 1EE.

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• **SHARMA KARMA?**

- Introducing the brand new Biz Secretary (following the sacking of Angela Leadsome). He is Alok Sharma, an MP for Reading West since 2010. He has whizzed up the ladder into this position after short visitations to 4 different Govt. departments in the last 4 years including FCO, Housing, Employment & International Development. He's an accountant and banker by trade. It could be that the new Cabinet is wanting to spend money as the EU funding tails off. The following thoughts could be a route for you to get backing

Times they are a-changing so grab every helping hand you can find.

Too often biz bods get their heads down in hard times and don't check out what everyone else is up to. There is money out there to help you. Be bold. Attend biz seminars just to soak up the atmosphere and talk to other like-minds. even if you've never done it before, you'll find it fascinating, inspiring and really encouraging.

Here are some ideas.



Innovate UK has about £400m to offer...and there's an event coming up in Norwich. Their parent company, UK Research and Innovation, is a non Governmental organisation with approx £7 bn to spend. Founded in April 2018, UKRI is funded through the Dept of Business, Energy & Industrial strategy. It works in partnership with universities, the 7 research

organisations, businesses, charities, and government so they have lots of contacts. You can apply for money if you are doing a feasibility study to test your idea, creating a new product or service or improving an existing one or working with other businesses on collaborative projects.

[Innovate UK's guidance for applicants](#)

Innovate UK Norwich Research Park: 4th March 2020 0900-16.15 FREE All the top biz bods will be there to explain about funding & finance including Prof. David Richardson, VC of the University of East Anglia and Ian Meikle, Director of Clean Growth & Infrastructure at Innovate UK. Businesses who've benefitted already will be there too. Innovate UK also offers mentoring & advice and lead customers, through the **[small business research initiative \(SBRI\) programme](#)**

[Find out more and register your interest](#)



Social Media Conference For Business Norwich 3rd March £15 9.30-12.30 The Assembly House, Theatre St, Norwich NR2 1RQ.

If you're about to start a business, you should have a look at Menta, which supports start ups in Norfolk and Suffolk with funding, skills, advice, mentoring. <https://www.menta.org.uk/> March 3rd. covering digital marketing, social media, branding, raising profile etc

Calling all small businesses...come and see us!



Supported by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk

David Sparkes, who some Biz Bods will have met when he gave a talk at New Buck village Hall, has been in touch. His message: "Please encourage any small

business to contact the New Anglia Growth Hub Ipswich office to register an interest in wanting to see either a Business Growth Adviser or the Norfolk Growth Hub Skills Adviser.... me!" The support is free. Any business interested should contact the **New Anglia Growth Hub desk advisers 0300 333 6536** The Business Growth Adviser role is to advise on growing the business and how to plan for growth. The adviser can also suggest grants. david.sparkes@newanglia.co.uk
Mob: 07467 148478



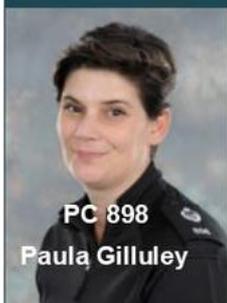
Coffee with a cop... Standard coffee but super service!!

The idea started in California in 2011 as a way of linking up with the public. It's proved hugely successful. As a business you might want to check out what fraud reports there have been locally, or perhaps, break-ins to factory sites. Or maybe you want advice on how to secure premises. Biz Buzz tried it out. It's all off the record and in confidence if you want. Alternatively have a cuppa and converse. The cops are very amenable. A great way to get info e.g. a lady who was moving into the area wanted to know what crime there had been in the street she was considering. It keeps cops in contact with residents when they don't have the manpower to patrol the streets. So, by turning up, we are helping them to do a hard job. PC Andrew London is a



Breckland Beat Manager 07967 821 311. You can pick up the crime stats here https://nextdoor.co.uk/news_feed/?post=17592193229887 The Next coffee with a cop dates are 1pm-3pm at Attleborough Tourist Centre: 21st Feb, 30th March, 24th April 2020.

Your Engagement Officer is here to provide communications & updates regarding your neighbourhood as well as co-ordinating Community Engagements, Volunteers, Police Cadets, Special Constabulary, Neighbourhood Watch & Community Speed Watch. You can contact the Breckland Community Engagement Officer via 101 ext 2132, mobile 07766990802 or email at Paula.Gilluley@norfolk.pnn.police.uk.



PC 898
Paula Gilluley

Message from your Engagement Officer, Pc Paula Gilluley

Fraudsters use many different methods in an attempt to steal your money. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that neither the Police or your bank will contact you out of the blue to ask you for your PIN, password or ask you to transfer money to another account or to withdraw money to hand over for "safe-keeping". Always "Take-Five" minutes to consider if the person contacting you is genuine. Please pass this message to your friends, neighbours and family.



Paula

THE MOBILE PHONE MAST MYSTERY... ANOTHER SHOCKER ...

EPISODE 30,220, 544



Just when you thought we might be reaching the end of the sorry story, the plot has become immeasurably deeper...

Back in October 2019, Biz Bods in the Buckenham and beyond had read the fantastic new Government policy - which, frankly, was what they had been lobbying for over the previous 3 years.

Yes! The DCMS had announced in a Government Press release:

" Poor mobile phone coverage will be a thing of the past as the Government champions a £1 billion deal with the mobile phone industry to banish rural not-spots."

HURRAY!!!! High quality 4G coverage to 95% of the UK by 2025. Well, it could be quicker, but at least it shows willing. 280,000 more homes and businesses would be on the network and an extra 16,000 km of roads.

AND better still (as we have been arguing with Waldon, o2 & Telefonica) Digital Secretary Nicky Morgan said she wanted a deal with UK Mobile Network Operators for all operators to share phone masts. A world first. Nicki (now Baroness) Morgan was "supportive of a £530million proposal from the UK's mobile network operators for a Shared Rural Network with the potential for it to be matched by £500 million investment from Government." The end of not-spots... ..like New Buckenham.



Note there was only "the potential" for the Government to shell out half a billion but, as we had always said, it would mean that EE, O2, Three and Vodafone could all share. Consumers could all have service and smart meters etc.

BUT on February 13thBaroness Nicky, who'd only been in post for 6 months, lost her job.



Enter a new character. This is Oliver Dowden CBE M.P. He's the new Secretary of State for Phones (Digital, Culture, Media and Sport). Elected for Hertsmere in 2015, it's his first Cabinet post. So now what?????

Biz Buzz contacted Juliet Baller at  who are organising the build of the promised mast at Downmore Farm.

"To clarify, the installation.. is for.. Telefónica and designed to provide coverage on the O2 network. Due to an infrastructure sharing agreement between Telefónica and Vodafone, the structure has been designed so that it could potentially enable Vodafone to provide coverage without significant alterations, but this is a Telefónica driven initiative and we are not representing any of the other mobile operators." (translation: **it's being built for the o2 network but with the potential for Vodafone to get on board if they want to without too much rebuilding. But it's up to them if they want to do that. NB No mention of the other phone operators.**)

Juliet continues : "With regards to the Downmore Farm site... I'm told that the power supply issues that were causing much of the delays have been resolved. This means that we can now move towards completion of the legal agreements etc."

So for those of you who are now addicted to this saga, Biz Buzz can safely predict that there are many more episodes. As always, if you have a telephone number that you would like to have featured as an episode number please contact us!!!

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