

# BUILDING BETTER BUSINESS



## SPRINGBOARD TO BIGGER PREMISES



**Work on a £2 million development to house businesses that have outgrown the innovative Springboard Business Centre in Stokesley has begun.**

The purpose built unit on the town's Business Park will create office space in seven individual suites – all supported by the services at Springboard.

Opened almost two years ago Springboard provides state of the art incubator style workspace for new and fledgling businesses. The business suites – which currently house 15 companies – are based around a common atrium and supported by meeting rooms and on site business support services. That support service is also available for businesses across Stokesley and the surrounding area.

But companies can only stay at the centre for around three years – once they have been

nurtured into successful companies they must move on to bigger premises.

“With Springboard full and interest from prospective tenants strong we decided we must look to build upon its success,” said Councillor Tony Hall, Cabinet Member for Prosperity.

“By developing the ‘Grow-On’ project we can provide expansion space for the businesses we have nurtured and free up space for more tenants.

“And it will ensure that the businesses we have supported remain in and continue to benefit the area.”

Work is scheduled for completion in April 2008. The project is being led by the District Council with support from Regional Development Agency, Yorkshire Forward, and the European Regional Development Fund.

## UNIQUE LEARNING CENTRE FOR BEDALE

**A run down shop in the centre of Bedale has reopened as a unique centre for learning.**

In a £550,000 scheme led by the District Council, the former hardware store has been given a new lease of life as a one stop shop ‘selling’ learning and skills to local people and businesses.

The grade II listed building at number 17 Market Place had been empty for many years – falling into disrepair once a hardware shop moved out.

Now refurbished, the property has been let to Business Support and Development Ltd.

“By moving from cramped offices in Bridge Street into the centre of Bedale, Business Support now has a major high street presence,” said Chief Executive, Alan Hayes, who is pictured (left) with District Councillor Tony Hall.

“Providing a single shop window for all training providers will improve consumer choice and ensure better co-ordination between providers.”

Business Support and Development Ltd has been operating in Hambleton for the past twenty years – in addition to providing business and employment support services it also operates

as a Learn Direct facility and offers skills coaching and impartial careers guidance.

Work on transforming the building began in October last year and was completed by July. Cash has come from Hambleton District Council and regional development agency, Yorkshire Forward, with building preservation and project management help coming from the North of England Civic Trust.



## PARKING CRACKDOWN

**Council officers have upped their campaign to crackdown on illegal lorry parking in Thirsk.**

Drivers have been using Thirsk Industrial Park to park their wagons overnight – causing damage to the roads and disturbing local residents. In the last 12 months vehicles belonging to over fifty different companies have been seen parking there overnight.

Now in a bid to resolve the problem council officers are undertaking random late night checks on the estate – and they are calling on resident businesses to help them.

“We have been advised that the best way to tackle this problem is to call the police every time an illegally parked lorry is spotted on the estate,” said Economic Development Manager, Geoff Herbert.

“Each incident then gets a log number and if the same driver or company becomes a repeat visitor, action can be taken.

“We are determined to crackdown on this problem – damage is being done to the roads, businesses are experiencing access problems and local people noise problems. There are plenty of places to leave lorries overnight without having to disturb Thirsk.”

Businesses located on the industrial park which experience problems should call the Police at the time of the incident on 0845 6060 247.

## BUSINESS CASH

**Cash is still available to help new companies on the road to success.**

And the micro loan scheme set up by the Hambleton Strategic Partnership (HSP) can now award up to £2500 to start up companies on an interest free basis. It must be paid back within 12 months – but there are no repayments for the first three months.

Loans can be used for anything from providing and adapting buildings to buying machinery and marketing – some of the basics needed when starting up a new business.

The scheme can help up to 12 businesses each year. Hambleton District Council - which administers it – has secured funding of £7,500 from North Yorkshire County Council and Yorkshire Forward.

Companies wanting to apply must work alongside Business Support and Development in Bedale to complete and submit their application – which is then vetted by members of the HSP. To apply call the council's Economic Development section on 01609 767050.