Okehampton Business Improvement District

Insight Newsletter

Hello everyone,

April has been a month of progress. We have some genuinely exciting news to share about a grant win, an update on our BID Manager search, and a handful of things we would love your help with. As always, it's quick to read—and everything worth knowing more about has a link.

The BID Board,
Okehampton BID

In this edition

- BID Manager recruitment update
- Board update and a call to get involved
- Grant win: Take the Train to Oke
- Youth Skills Day, could you help?
- Edwardian Evening Working Group
- Survey thank you

BID Manager update



We know a good few of you have been wondering where we are with this. We were close to welcoming a new BID Manager in April, but circumstances changed at the last moment and we had to re-advertise. Shortlisting and interviews are happening this week and next. We've had a strong second round of applications and we're feeling genuinely positive. **We'll update you as soon as we have confirmed news**.



Board update: We need you

We are sad to share that **Chris Wills has stepped down as a Director** this month to focus on his own business commitments. Chris gave a great deal of his time and energy to this role and we thank him sincerely for

everything he has contributed.

His departure leaves us with six Directors, and we want to be honest with you: a BID board works best when it reflects the full range of businesses it serves. We want more voices around the table.

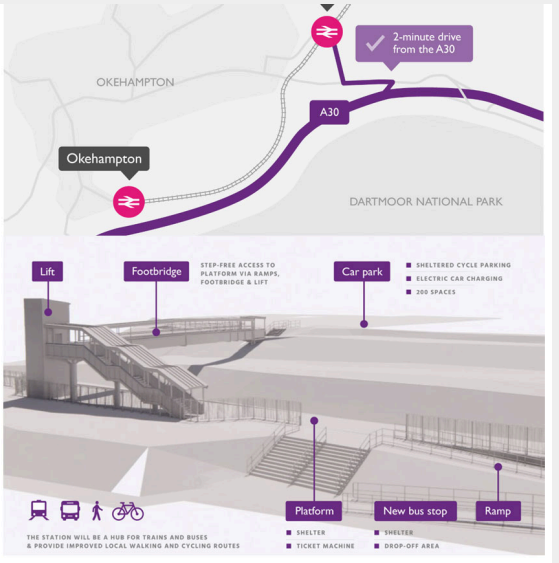
We have a helpful article explaining the different roles and ways you can get envolved with the BID, so if you are interested or curious, please read it **here** or email us at **bidmanager@okehamptonbid.co.uk**

We've won a Grant: Take the Train to Oke

This is the good news we have been very much looking forward to sharing. Our '**Take the Train to Oke**' project has been awarded **£10,930** from the Great Western Railway Community Fund, topped up with a further **£2,000** from additional contributions.
The project is all about making it easier for visitors to arrive by train and feel confident finding their way into town.

Read the full project story on our website.

Find out more



OKEHAMPTON
YOUTH COUNCIL

Okehampton Youth Council: Skills Workshop Day

Okehampton Youth Council is planning a **Skills Workshop Day on 28th July** and they need local businesses and professionals to get involved.
The idea is simple: give young people a practical, real-world taste of careers and life skills, delivered by people from their own community.
They are looking for volunteers to run short workshops, talks or demonstrations in areas including:

Finance and budgeting

- Digital and online skills
- Life skills and communication
- CV writing, apprenticeships and trade careers
- Hospitality, agriculture and environmental work
- Journalism, media and social marketing

This is a wonderful opportunity to invest in the next generation and put your business in front of a young, engaged audience.

Interested?
Contact **townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk** or call **01837 53179**

Edwardian Evening 2026: Working Group



It feels early, but planning for this year's Edwardian Evening is already underway. Over the next month, we want to bring together everyone who contributes to making this event happen, plus some business representation from across the town, to make sure the 2026 edition is the best yet.
If you would like to be part of the working group, we would love to hear from you.

Email **bidmanager@okehamptonbid.co.uk** to register your interest



Survey, thank you

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent survey. The response rate was excellent and your feedback is already helping to shape upcoming projects. We will be sharing findings and next steps in a future edition

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Okehampton Business Improvement District Ltd

Okehampton Business Centre, Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton, England, EX20 1FJ

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