

## HAVANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS (No 57)

FEBRUARY 2014

### UNEMPLOYMENT AND JOBS NEWS

#### Unemployment figures.

There has been a small increase in unemployment locally and across the region. Unemployment in Havant has risen from 1855 (2.5%) in Dec 2013 to 1929 (2.6%) in Jan 2014. It is not uncommon for unemployment to rise in January. Many people who had seasonal employment in the run up to Xmas may find themselves temporarily out of work at this time of the year.

#### Unemployed Claimants and Residential Unemployment

Rate:

January 2014

#### Havant

Census Area Statistic Ward	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Barncroft	116	6.4	54	2.8	170	4.6
Battins	148	7.6	86	4.1	234	5.8
Bedhampton	52	1.9	39	1.4	91	1.7
Bondfields	125	6.0	52	2.5	177	4.3
Cowplain	38	1.3	23	0.8	61	1.1
Emsworth	48	2.0	34	1.3	82	1.7
Hart Plain	107	3.8	51	1.7	158	2.7
Hayling East	82	3.3	44	1.7	126	2.4
Hayling West	56	2.6	26	1.1	82	1.8
Purbrook	68	2.4	23	0.8	91	1.6
St Faith's	65	2.6	40	1.5	105	2.1
Stakes	121	3.9	67	2.1	188	3.0
Warren Park	151	7.4	102	4.3	253	5.7
Waterloo	76	2.7	35	1.2	111	2.0
<b>Havant*</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>2.6</b>

#### National figures

- Unemployment (ILO) is 2,342,000 (7.2%)
- The number of claimant unemployed (JSA) is 1,215,700, (3.6%)
- The number of workless young people (not in employment, full-time education or training) is 1,300,000, (18.0%)
- There are 4.1 unemployed people per vacancy
- The employment rate is 72.1%
- There are now over 30 million people (16 mill men and 14 mill women) in work (47% of jobs are Part-time)

#### Welfare reform

Government figures show that 22 per cent of people claiming out-of-work benefits - such as Jobseeker's Allowance - have been to prison or convicted of an offence in the previous 12 years

Employees on long-term sickness absence are to receive additional support to get them back into work, under a Government-backed scheme.

Nearly one million people are on sick leave for a month or longer, costing taxpayers' £15bn in related benefits every year. 33% of these people work in public administration, education and health.

Two thirds of applicants for new disability benefit the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) have been turned down. The Department for Work and Pensions

(DWP) has received 30,000 claims per month for PIP, which was introduced for new claims in April. It is now being rolled out for existing claims of Disability Living Allowance (DLA),

## **BUSINESS NEWS**

### **Job forecasts and surveys**

Employers are expected to recruit more graduates this year, according to the Association of Graduate Recruiters. Numbers of vacancies rose by more than 4% last year, with the AGR predicting a rise of 10.2% in 2014. Growth sectors include IT and telecommunications, energy and banking.

The average apprenticeship post now receives 12 applications. However 27 people are applying for each position in education and training, which can include classroom assistants, while numbers reach 26 in media and publishing and 20 in information technology. 461,530 applications had been made for on-the-job training programmes between August and October last year – up by 43 per cent on the same period a year earlier.

A skills shortage among UK workers has been highlighted by figures suggesting a growth of vacancies and declining availability of candidates. Statistics for January published by KPMG showed job vacancies rose at a sharp and accelerated rate – the fastest pace in more than 15 years.

Public sector employers could be forced to lose 40% of their workforce over the next five years if NHS and education continues to be protected. General government employment is forecast to fall by 1.1m by 2018/19, the largest recorded reduction for fifty years – research by the Office for Budget Responsibility suggests

Employment levels will grow sharply in the first quarter of 2014 but at a slower rate than at the end of 2013, a survey suggests. The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development's (CIPD) found the number of employers who planned to increase staff levels before March 2014 was lower than the number in autumn 2013. The CIPD's measure – the net employment balance – showed the level had decreased from 24% in the autumn to 16% for this year's first quarter.

More than half of HR decision-makers within small and medium-sized businesses believe young entry-level employees are unable to handle clients, customers and suppliers. A survey of 500 HR professionals within organisations of up to 250 employees found 55% raised the concern, while 43% said the group didn't know how long to spend on a break or how often to take them. The same number also said young people lacked awareness of when to use personal mobile phones.

### **Jobs**

Up to 200 full-time posts may be lost at Hampshire CC council as they make a 12% budget cut to save £93m. There will be a cut of 10% of senior management posts.

Over 500 officer and staff posts (almost 10% of the workforce) are likely to be cut as Hampshire police make cuts of £25m

### **Local wage rates in the Havant area (selection of Jobcentre and other vacancies) (min wage is £6.31 per hr at 21+)**

<https://jobsearch.direct.gov.uk/JobSearch/Browse.aspx>

- Care worker £7.81 per hr
- Carpenter £10 -£12 per hr
- Call centre worker £6.50 per hr
- LGV 1 driver £9.50 per hr
- CNC Miller £11.50 per hr

- Asst Chef £8.20 per hr
- Solderer/assembler £7 per hr
- Office worker £8 per hr
- Welder £9 per hr

**Local apprenticeship vacancies in the Havant area (selection) (Min wage is £2.68 per hr)**

<https://apprenticeshipvacancymatchingservice.lsc.gov.uk/navms/Forms/Candidate/Apprenticeships.aspx>

- engineering technician apprentice £200 pw
- machine shop apprentice £185 pw
- Office apprentice £100 pw
- Data/IT apprentice £153 pw
- Fast food restaurant £130 pw
- Apprentice chef £150 pw

**Local business news**

Dan Freshwater has been appointed Chief Executive of Wheatsheaf Trust. He is currently Chief Executive of Birmingham Employment and Skills Training Network (BEST). He will take up his new post on 1 April 2014. Wheatsheaf deliver services to the unemployed from sites at Park Road South, Havant, The Hub, Leigh Park and Strouden Court, Warren Park

St Leonard's Rest Home, St Leonards Ave, Hayling Island, achieved the highest score with 991 in the first ever "Your Care" Rating survey. The survey, which obtained views from over 20,000 residents in 1,055 homes in 2013, had an average overall performance rating (OPR) score of 871 out of 1,000.

Hayling Ferry has received an additional subsidy from Hampshire CC to enable it to operate until Oct 2014.

Vegetarian pet food supplier Vegeco have moved to larger premises in Downley Point, New Lane, Havant. The firm was featured in a Channel 5 documentary on January 30th called 'The truth about your dogs food'. They also acquired another company in January that makes vegetarian dog food. Vegeco has offices in India and the USA.

**The News Business Excellence Awards**

The following Havant businesses were successful in this annual awards ceremony which was held on 31 Jan 2014.

**Small/Medium sized business**

- Winner: Dynamite Recruitment (Havant)

**Start-Up**

- Highly commended: Rosie Loves Vintage (Hayling)

**Customer Service**

- Winner: Squirrels Daycare (Wecock Farm)

**Team of the Year**

- Highly-commended: Verisona Law (Waterlooville & Portsmouth)
- Winner: Dynamite Recruitment (Havant)

**Community Contribution**

- Winner: Verisona Law (Waterlooville & Portsmouth)

**Overall Business of the Year**

- Dynamite Recruitment (Havant)

**Business start up grants**

The 2014/15 grants programme opens on 1 April 2014. Since the scheme began in 2010, 240 new businesses have been supported.

### Business events

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce Meet the Buyer event. Thursday 27 March 2014.  
Aegas Bowl, Hedge End, Southampton. Havant BC is a sponsor of this event.

### Retail

#### HAVANT BOROUGH TOWN CENTRES VACANT UNITS Feb 2014

Type of retailer	Havant	Waterlooville	Emsworth	Leigh Park
<b>Independents</b>	110 (48.46%)	71 (37.77%)	77 (71.30%)	38 (44.71%)
<b>Multiples</b>	86 (37.88%)	87 (46.27%)	24 (22.22%)	23 (27.06%)
<b>Charity</b>	11 (4.85%)	11 (5.85%)	4 (3.7%)	4 (4.71%)
<b>Vacant</b>	20 (8.81%)	19 (10.11%)	3 (2.77%)	20 (23.53%)
<b>total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>85</b>

Please note that the town centre data has been "rebased" to more accurately reflect the town centres. Nationally, 14% of shops are vacant.

### New stores opening

- Equivalenza Perfumes – Meridian Centre, Havant
- Fairy Cakes (Vintage Clothing) – North Street Arcade, Havant.
- Pizza take-away, Station Road, Hayling
- Police "pop-up" shop (Fri 11 April only –Waterlooville town centre)
- Hampshire Baits, Wellington Way, Waterlooville

### Shops closing/closed

- L & M Hutchins, High St, Emsworth ( a planning application has been submitted for change of use to an Estate Agents)
- In the Garden, Station Road, Hayling
- Paiges Fishing Tackle, Station Road, Hayling (now selling on-line)

### Markets

- Havant Market was cancelled on Sat 8 Feb 2014 due to adverse weather.
- Emsworth Farmers Market was cancelled on Sat 15 Feb 2014 due to high winds.
- Only 3 stall holders braved the weather at Havant Market on Sat 15 Feb 2014.

Waterlooville London Road Precinct will be subject to disruption due to renewing the main power cable, this work will ensure good supply for the next 50 years and is being installed following the two recent major power failures

### Reports

Another report on the High Street has been published: "The Deloitte Consumer review - reinventing the role of the high street". The report stresses the convenience of the High Street, the "Experience" of the High Street and the scope for the High Street to become an "Omnichannel" outlet (merging of physical space with digital capability)

<http://www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-UnitedKingdom/Local%20Assets/Documents/Industries/Consumer%20Business/uk-cb-consumer-review-edition-6.pdf>

### Tourism, Catering, Hospitality

AMF Bowling Alley at Portsdown Hill Road, Havant has closed. This site will now be redeveloped for housing. Homepage who were the only other business at this site closed last year. Planning permission has been approved for a new bowling alley at

the former BAE site in Waterlooville. However it is likely to be some years before this facility opens.

### **Events in March**

- Tues 4 March 2014. Charity Pancake race. London Road precinct, Waterlooville (1200-1330)
- Sat 15 March Emsworth Farmers Market, South Street car park
- Sun 23 March The Havant Borough Mile, Staunton Country Park, Leigh Park

### **Major events in 2014 (selection)**

- Sunday 27 April 2014. The Best of English entertainment and music will be performed on The Plaza at Eastoke Corner, Hayling Island (1200-1700)  
<http://www.haylingforstgeorge.co.uk/>
- 23 May - 8 June 2014. 70th Commemoration of D-Day Festival (various locations- promoted by Wemsfest)
- Sat 12/Sun 13 July Staunton Festival, Staunton Country Park
- Sat 26 July Waterlooville Food & Drink Festival (Provisional)
- 26 September - 15 October 2014. WemsFest: incorporating 2nd P G Wodehouse Festival (various locations in Emsworth and Westbourne).

## **COMMERCIAL PROPERTY/PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS**

### **INDUSTRIAL ESTATES**

The twice yearly survey of all 80 Employment Land Review (ELR) Industrial estates/business parks, etc has been completed. There is some movement of firms around the Borough and some evidence of businesses expanding by taking larger premises. . A copy of the full report listing all changes since Aug 2013 is available on request. Here are some changes for Hayling and Emsworth

### **EMSWORTH**

- One Stop Mobility, who sell disability aids, are now trading from 1 Station Approach. This industrial unit had been vacant for some time. Planning permission was granted for change of use to this Woking based company,
- 6 Seagull Lane (12000 sq ft yard with warehouse and other outbuildings) is on the market with LSH. Previous tenants included a container hire firm, garage, builder and a glazier.
- One for Ya Mum (tattooist) has opened a studio in Palmers Road
- S Roberts Upholstery have moved into Unit 10, Palmers Road.
- Douglas Knight Blinds have moved from Palmers Road to Wren Centre.
- Old Flour Mill, Queen Street is now fully occupied apart from a 858 sq ft office. Most tenants are either professional services or high technology firms.
- IFS financial advisers have moved to Old Flour Mill from 26 North St, Emsworth

### **HAYLING**

- Northney Marina still appears to have several empty units.
- Hayling Yacht Company are now using part of the former Howards Scrap yard in Mill Rythe Lane as boat storage.
- Havant Motor Salvage will be closing their Mill Rythe Lane depot at end of March. A planning application has been submitted for change of use to car hire depot.
- Brit-net website designers who are based in Station Road have rebranded as OKO.
- Station Road Tyres have opened at the site of the former Hayling Tyres in Station Road
- Unit 6 , Hayling Billy Business Centre is vacant



- Hayling MOT & Auto Centre are now trading from 254 A Havant Rd (formerly Hayling Trailers site)
- Littlemoor Engineering are closing their unit at Finchwood Farm Industrial Estate

### **Media**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> series of Blandings is being shown on BBC 1 at 1830 on Sundays. The series is based on the Blandings Castle books by P G Wodehouse who lived for many years in Emsworth. Some of the characters in the books are named after local places such as Emsworth and Warblington. The 2<sup>nd</sup> PG Wodehouse festival will be held at various locations in the Emsworth area from 26 September - 15 October 2014.

### **Funding**

Community Arts organisations Wemsfest CIC have been awarded £98,000 by Heritage Lottery Fund for their programme of D Day activities. Wemsfest were supported by the HBC Business start up grant.

### **Skills/Education**

Max Bullough, Head teacher of Hayling College will be retiring at the end of the Summer term.

University of Portsmouth has seen a rise in applications for this year. It received 31,000 applications by the UCAS deadline on January 15. 38% of 18 yr olds in the UK have applied to enter Higher Education in 2014.

The 2013 GCSE league tables (see HEDN Jan 2014) showed that Havant schools continue to under-perform with only 50.9% of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs (inc Maths & English) It is interesting to note the cluster of low educational achievement in SE Hants/IOW. The average for Portsmouth schools was 47.6% in 2013. The IOW also does badly with 48.7% in 2013. The worst performing education authorities in 2013 are:

- Knowsley 43.7%
- Blackpool 46.1%
- Portsmouth 47.6%
- Isle of Wight 48.7%

## **REGIONAL/GOVERNMENT NEWS**

### **PUSH/SOLENT LEP**

The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has submitted its draft Strategic Economic Plan to the Government - a £2.4 billion plan to drive growth across the region to 2020.

[http://solentlep.org.uk/uploads/documents/Solent Strategic Economic Plan - Executive Overview.PDF](http://solentlep.org.uk/uploads/documents/Solent_Strategic_Economic_Plan_-_Executive_Overview.PDF)

The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is seeking a prominent business leader to join its Board of Directors. The board is specifically seeking applications from business leaders working in aerospace, aviation, high-end manufacturing, logistics, ports and key international gateways.

The Green Growth funding programme has been launched. It offers funding to businesses involved in environmental technologies.

<http://www.futuresolent.org.uk/about-us/green-growth-programme-rgf/>

Another round of the Regional growth Fund has opened

A bid for €46m funding to develop the Solent economy has been submitted by the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

### **Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)**

The £30 million Growth Vouchers initiative to support business growth has been launched. Enterprise First are working in partnership with the (BIS) to deliver this new support programme for small businesses in the South East. Small businesses will receive free advice from Enterprise First to help them assess their needs.. Most small businesses will be offered match funding of up to £2,000 to help pay for the advice.

The Government has launched a new £10 million business support scheme to help flood affected businesses get back on their feet. Havant has been awarded £25,000. Economic development officers are working with local, businesses to asses the scale of need locally.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-floods-10-million-support-scheme-for-flood-affected-businesses>

### **HAMPSHIRE CC**

From 1st April 2014 Hampshire Ambassadors, which was established 18 years ago, will become Hampshire Enterprise Circle which will focus on bringing Hampshire entrepreneurs together, through networking events and practical workshops. The network aims will be to:

- Provide a forum to increase networking amongst small businesses
- Establish a Business Forum
- Develop market opportunities amongst network members
- Facilitate business development through practical workshops

### **BANK OF ENGLAND AGENTS REPORT**

- Growth in retail sales values in the past three months on a year earlier had been little changed
- Housing market activity had continued to strengthen across the country.
- Investment intentions were strengthening gradually.
- Annual growth in business services turnover had been little changed.
- Manufacturing output growth for the domestic market had risen further, while growth in manufactured exports values had remained steady.
- Construction growth had increased a little further,
- Credit availability had continued to improve gradually across the corporate sector,
- Employment intentions had increased a little, indicating expectations of modest headcount growth across the economy over the next six months.
- Capacity utilisation had edged higher in manufacturing on the month and, overall, was close to normal levels.
- Growth in labour costs per employee had edged higher, but remained moderate.
- Inflation in materials costs and imported finished goods prices had fallen
- Output price inflation had been little changed, remaining subdued
- Consumer price inflation had eased slightly further.

**My Journey Business Conference, Tuesday 8 April 2014, Guildhall, Portsmouth, 0900 -1300.** The Conference covers the following topics:

Smarter Working (technology; remote; flexible; work hubs etc.)

Smarter/Eco Driving (E-cars; car sharing; technology etc.)

Active Travel (cycling; electric bikes; cargo bikes; walking etc.)

Public Transport (current initiatives etc.)

Funding streams (Ngage; Sustrans; Hampshire County Council; Hampshire Chamber of Commerce

To register please email: [simon.cahill@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:simon.cahill@sustrans.org.uk).