OPPORTUNITY
OMEGA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
Summer 2015

Foreword
Andrew Sutherland from Miller Developments, a partner of Omega Warrington Ltd (OWL)

As it seems that spring is now finally with us, we are looking optimistically towards a sunny year ahead for Warrington and local people. Business interest, construction, jobs and training initiatives at Omega continue to grow in a big way and, through this newsletter, we’ll be keeping you up to date on progress.

With business and job opportunities well underway, we are also now looking in more detail at the rest of Omega South and what this can deliver for Warrington as part of a well-considered masterplan. At the end of May/start of June, we are coming to talk to the community about our proposals for this next stage of development, which will include new homes, community, retail and leisure facilities. We encourage you to get involved in the consultation – see article below.

Finally, we continue to be inspired by the great work undertaken in our local community so please read on to find out who is being supported as part of this year’s ‘Community Bid for Funding’ initiative. Thank you for your patience as we build Omega, and for your ongoing interest and support!

LIVING ON OMEGA – COME AND SEE PROPOSALS

As with all parts of the UK, Warrington needs new homes for its growing population (around 5,500 up to 2027) and Omega can help to deliver some of these.

Omega South is an ideal location to create a sustainable development with business premises and jobs alongside 1,100 new homes, large open spaces, play areas a school (see next page), plus medical and other facilities such as food shopping, local shops and restaurants. However, the team appreciates that there is lots of work to do to make this site work for all these different types of development and this involves serious consideration of local roads, public transport and the M62 junction.

With this in mind, the team would like to hear your views as it develops outline proposals and carries out its transport and other studies. We invite you to come along and view initial proposals, talk to the team and give us your thoughts at one of the public consultation events opposite.

From 29 May 2015, you will also be able to view all the exhibition presentation materials online at www.omegaopportunity.com and give us your feedback through the website.

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS
(drop in anytime between the hours below):
Thursday 28th May 2015 Great Sankey High School, Great Sankey - 4–8pm
Friday 29th May 2015 Kingswood Community Hall, Westbrook - 12–4pm
Monday 1st June 2015 St. Michael’s Parish Hall, Burtonwood - 2.30–6.30pm
Rewarding Your Community

In the Omega newsletter at the end of 2014, OWL called for this year’s entries towards the ‘Omega Community Bid for Funding’ initiative. The initiative was first launched in summer 2013, as part of the team’s commitment to the local area, to recognise and hopefully assist the tremendous work carried out locally, both by charities and community initiatives.

After much deliberation, the chosen winners for 2015 are:

**Warrington Integrated Sports Club (WISC)**

WISC is a sports club for adults with disabilities and varying levels of learning disabilities where their families and carers are welcome too. The club, run by local volunteers, helps members to stay active and integrate in the community through sport. The funding will go towards the group’s mini-bus to support them over the next year in taking members to club nights and competitions.

**Burtonwood Community Centre**

The community centre is a much loved local facility catering for a whole range of community clubs and activities for all ages, including annual fundraising events for local causes. The Centre has a safe, fenced off garden area with huge potential and has successfully won funding to help enhance this space. Funding will go towards new landscaping, a vegetable patch, a sheltered area, garden furniture and a patio area. All of the community centre’s clubs and local people will benefit from an improved space for social events, relaxation and education.

**Bigger and Better Barrow Hall Primary School**

Warrington Borough Council has begun a major investment programme to expand the primary school facilities for schools in West Warrington to meet current and future needs.

One key part of the programme includes a brand new, state-of-the-art school on the Omega South site which will replace and provide more school places than the current buildings on Barrow Hall Lane. A planning application has just been approved (14 May 2015) and it is intended that construction will commence this summer to enable the school to open its doors to new pupils in September next year.

Improvement works to Junction 8 will help to make the new school-run less congested as will the opening of the new Skyline Drive in autumn 2015 which will connect Junction 8 of the M62 with Omega Boulevard by the Royal Mail depot. A new dedicated footpath will also be created providing a more sustainable option to car travel and a safer link into the school for those on foot.

Other parts of the Council’s programme include increasing and expanding school places at St Phillip (Westbrook) CE Primary and Chapelford Village Primary. Two other schools in the area could also be expanded if needed.

**Active Hope**

This charity uses outdoor and adventure activities as a tool for reaching and connecting with disadvantaged and/or disengaged young people in Warrington. The team provides specialist equipment and instruction for activities such as mountain biking, climbing, rope courses, archery, orienteering, raft building and kayaking so that all young people can participate, no matter what their background. Their successful bid related to funding for new mountain bikes which, as part of an experienced team-led programme, will benefit hundreds of children over the next few years.

Congratulations to all the winners and we look forward to reporting back on their progress in the next Omega newsletter.
JOBS CORNER

Introducing... Will Preston, Warehouse Assistant Shift Manager at Hermes

Warrington local, Will Preston has progressed through the ranks during four years with Hermes and tells us a little bit about his flourishing career...

What job at Hermes were you doing to start with?
I live in Whitecross and got a job as a fork lift truck (FLT) driver at Hermes in Appleton four years ago.

What were you doing before then?
I left school at 16 and was unsure of what career I wanted to do. I was initially attracted to a ‘hands on’ type of job and got a job in joinery. After the recession I was made redundant. I used the job centre website and found the FLT driver role and thought this was a good opportunity to explore a new career.

What job development support did you get to help you progress?
Hermes provides a chance for progression to anyone who is keen. After 4-6 months in the FLT driver role, my manager gave me the opportunity to take on Team Leader responsibilities once a week. After a while, I shadowed my manager and took on the responsibilities for longer periods until I was given the Team Leader role full time.

What job are you doing now?
I am now a Warehouse Assistant Shift Manager closer to home at our Omega business, making sure the day to day operations are running well and to deadline. I help to look after a small team and the best part of my job is ensuring our team meets its targets.

What would you say to other young people who are looking to find work at Omega?
Generally, my main advice is always to show enthusiasm but also find ways, when you get an opportunity, to demonstrate that you can learn and do more.

Omega has provided an opportunity for organisations like Hermes to expand and I have seen how it has created more jobs in the company. I would suggest that people keep a look out for jobs, particularly in the local papers, as there seem to be more and more opportunities arising at Omega.

Good jobs, good pay

Omega’s new businesses are keen for local people to know that jobs on site, in the warehouses and the offices within them, are varied and well paid. If you are looking for warehouse operative or administrative work you may be looking at around £20,000 per year plus overtime. If you are a qualified HGV driver, you can earn anywhere between £24,000 to £31,000 per year. Those looking to be a supervisor or manager could earn between £33,000 and £38,000. All salaries are indicative only and will depend on individual roles and company rates.

Job development training programmes are also available so anyone can aim high.

Warrington’s hard hats worth £8m

Across all construction projects to date, 42 contracts have been awarded to businesses based in Warrington with a total value of just under £8m. The North West as a whole has also been celebrating with some £37m of construction contracts going to businesses within 25 miles of Omega. Watch this space as there’s more construction to come!

Made in Warrington: Manufacturing forged at Omega

At a time when the UK saw the manufacturing sector slow at the end of 2014, Warrington is proudly bucking the national trend at Omega.

A deal struck recently with a new occupier will bring the first, much welcomed, manufacturing facilities to Omega, and a further feather in the cap for Warrington in the North West.

Plastic Omnium is a world-leading manufacturer for the automotive industry. Its leap into the Omega family represents a £23m overseas investment by this French company and the securing of hundreds of jobs in its state-of-the-art manufacturing and offices building.

Colin Daniels, Chief Executive of the Warrington Chamber of Commerce said:

“The Chamber of Commerce welcomes manufacturing to the site with open arms. The jobs created in this development will include a mix of skilled work in technology and engineering alongside logistics and office roles; exactly the right mix of jobs we want to see for Warrington.”

For more information on contracts, job opportunities or apprenticeships, please contact:

Jo Jackson, Employment Development Manager, Warrington & Co
Tel: 01925 442635
jojackson@warrington.gov.uk
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As you will all be aware, construction activity at Omega is all go and we thought it would be helpful to give you a short update on progress.

On Omega South, you will see steel frames in place for our two newest occupiers, Plastic Omnium and The Hut Group. For the former, cladding is now progressing and the building should be completed in August 2015, with the manufacturing occupier then taking several months to carry out the internal ‘fit out’. For The Hut Group, we expect the building will be completed in October 2015 and fitting out at ASDA is expected to be finished in early 2016.

If you want to get closer to the action, you can log on to www.omega.reachtimelapse.co.uk/thg/ to see live images of both The Hut Group and Plastic Omnium construction sites.

We also wanted to let you know that Scottish Power Energy Networks are carrying out works in Orion/Omega Boulevard and we apologise for any some short-term disruption this may be causing in the area.

If you have any issues to report, contacts for all contractors are available on the Omega website omegoopportunity.com/community/construction or you can call our main enquiries number at the bottom of the page.

Omega plays host to Granada Tonight

As part of the General Election coverage, Omega was paid a visit in April by ITV’s Granada Reports team and filming crew. ITV’s producers were filming a series of general election specials and felt that Omega, with its strong growth and investment credentials, was the perfect backdrop location for their programme on the North West economy.

Well known ITV North West journalist Lucy Meacock set up camp in one of Omega’s impressive new business premises, belonging to thriving on-site business Hermes, and interviewed one of its representatives along with Colin Daniels from the Warrington Chamber of Commerce.

The Omega team will continue to embrace the local, regional and national media spotlights which all help to secure further business interest, local investment and jobs for Warrington.

IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT US

If you have any questions about Omega generally, have any thoughts about the topics in this newsletter, or are experiencing problems from the site, you can contact us via our community engagement advisors – details on the right. Omega Warrington Ltd may not be able to deal directly with your enquiry but we can certainly help by directing your queries to the right people.

General enquiries
Jo Sistern, GL Hearn, Community Engagement advisors for Omega Email: omega@glhearn.com Tel: 0344 225 0003

Safe Haven for an Orchid Paradise

Whilst Omega is about jobs and business, it is also about creating an environment which people want to spend time in and this means protecting and enhancing local wildlife.

Although wildlife on the site was discouraged for many years during its Burtonwood Airbase history, nature reigned in the end and distinct orchid colonies can be found peppered throughout Omega South. Marsh (pictured), Bee and Helleborine Orchids can take decades to establish in colonies as found thriving here, so the Omega team has taken huge steps to protect them, whilst ensuring development can still happen.

Last month, a specialist team lifted whole colonies of orchids in around 3,500sq m of turf using specialised equipment; the colonies were then relocated in large attractive grassland swathes along ditches and pond banks. The final result is a carpet of marsh orchids along wet basin banks and bee orchid colonies placed in higher, drier areas where they belong. This huge piece of work will create a stunning, protected environment for these beautiful flowers, and the wildlife which they attract, for a long time to come.