

Annual Report 2016



# Chairman's Report



The past year has seen our new manager, Graeme Laws come quickly up to speed.

The Board have asked him to play an active part in encouraging the development of the Studio School, now open.

In addition, a number of activities involving students at other schools on the area have been organised to prepare them for the world of work.

Bicester Vision had a major presence at the Business In Oxford – City & County event at Said Business School which was an important opportunity to communicate the benefits of companies locating in Bicester.

This is particularly relevant with the new Chiltern Railways Bicester-Oxford service which starts on Dec 12th.

Adrian Shooter

# **Future Meeting Dates**



Based on feedback from members our Full Partnership Events for 2017 will now happen every second month. They will last two hours plus ample networking before and after the main event.

These new look meetings will include guest speakers and shared learning from our partner members. Themes for the events may include; Vision for Bicester, Effective Marketing, Attracting Investment, Skills Agenda, Healthy New Town and Company Wellbeing.

If you would like to contribute to one of our events please contact the Partnership Manager with an expression of interest.

#### Contact

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#### Social Media

Twitter: @bicestervision LinkedIn: /groups/4147186

Date	Bicester Vision Meeting Dates			
05/01/2017	Exec Board Meeting			
02/02/2017	Full Partnership Event			
02/03/2017	Exec Board Meeting			
06/04/2017	Full Partnership Event			
04/05/2017	Exec Board Meeting			
08/06/2017	Full Partnership Event			
06/07/2017	Exec Board Meeting			
10/08/2017	Full Partnership Event			
07/09/2017	Exec Board Meeting			
05/10/2017	Full Partnership Event			
02/11/2017	Exec Board Meeting			
07/12/2017	Full Partnership Event			



# Partnership Manager's Report

Bicester vision started the year planning for a new business incubator. Our aim is to work with Cherwell District Council to create a flexible workspace that anyone can use. It will encourage those who are starting or sustaining a new business idea. It will provide desks, Wi-Fi, coffee and business mentors. We hope that it will be a professional space where good ideas can be turned into sound businesses. It should be available in Spring 2017.



In April we exhibited at the 'Business in Oxford' event at Said Business School. We proudly waved the flag for Bicester and let the county's business community know that Bicester is open for business. We were accompanied by Zeta, Brethertons, Spratt Endicott, Bicester Heritage, Bicester Village, The Dorchester Group and Bicester Town Council. We gave a one-hour presentation on Bicester as a thriving business destination and exhibited a sizeable stand on attracting inward investment. Throughout the day we were supported by future students of the Bicester Technology Studio, who used Google Glass and other cool technology to capture a flavour of the event, which we hope will be online soon. www.businessinoxford.com

In May we helped coordinate this years Cherwell Business Awards Dinner at Oxford University Begbroke Science Park were the proud hosts of the prestigious Gala Dinner for the 2016 Cherwell Business Awards. The event took place on Friday 20 May in a marquee in the picturesque Jacobean walled garden of Begbroke Science Park. Over 230 guests gathered to celebrate the success of some of the best businesses in our district. The awards ceremony itself was hosted by Kirsty Leahy, well-known breakfast presenter from Banbury Sound. Bicester Vision co-sponsored the Micro Business Award and its partners sponsored a further four awards. Winners were presented with an elegant, engraved glass trophy plus a certificate. We donated a gift voucher for the raffle and in total it raised £1,180.00 with all the proceeds going to the winner of the Charity & Community Award - Banbury and District Bus Project.

The winners of the awards were:
New Business Award: J D'Cruz Ltd
Employer of the Year Award: Nicholsons Nurseries Ltd
Innovation & Creativity Award: Walraven UK Ltd
Retail Award: Andy's Barber Shop
Charity & Community Award: Banbury & District Bus Project
Business Person of the Year Award: Simon Biltcliffe, Webmart Ltd
Micro Business of the Year Award: Burgess Reclamation
Small Business of the Year Award: Butterflies Healthcare
Apprenticeship Award: High Spec Composites
Established Business Award: British Bakels Ltd
Cherwell Business of the Year: British Bakels Ltd

In the Summer we brought together heads from all the secondary schools in Bicester to discuss business initiatives and opportunities to collaborate. Following on from this we have donated over £4000 to the schools to enable them to participate in business Master Classes run by Young Enterprise. This will help young people build on eight key skills for development and success: communication, confidence, financial capability, initiative, organisation, problem-solving, teamwork and resilience. www.young-enterprise.org.uk

In July, it was with great excitement that, we toured Bicester Technology Studio (BTS). Although still under construction at the time, we could see its potential and waited with anticipation for it to open and be filled with the next generation of budding entrepreneurs. On the final few months we canvassed local business communities heavily to commit time, and resource to supporting the future cohorts of students in their workplace, project-based learning needs. In August we accompanied Activate Learning and the BTS senior leadership team to the Department for Education to complete the final Readiness for Opening Meeting. Bicester Vision held its September Partnership meeting in the newly opened building and enjoyed the opportunity of running a workshop with both our partners and teachers. www.bicestertechstudio.org.uk

Throughout the Autumn we have been working on developing a new web portal for partners and visitors. It will provide useful information related to businesses in Bicester including a business events page, business directory and access to published papers and reports from our meetings.

2017 looks like being another great year which will see the creation of the Business Incubator, attendance at Business In Oxfordshire 2017, Cherwell Business Awards and the likely participation in other inward investment events.

#### Grae Laws, Partnership Manager





# Bicester Vision Partnership

CREATING A BETTER BICESTER THROUGH THRIVING COMMUNITIES

BICESTER VISION EXECUTIVE		BICESTER HERITAGE	Bicester Heritage	Represented by Daniel Geoghegan	
BicesterChamber	Bicester and District Chamber Of Commerce	Represented by Ben Jackson and Peter Cox	ELGENTER-CTE.	Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa	Represented by Carol Barford
	Bicester Town Council	Represented by Councillor Richard Mould and Sue Mackrell	ma BRITA	BRITA Manufacturing (UK) Limited	Represented by Ste- ven Thornton
BICESTER VILLAGE	Bicester Village	Represented by Miranda Markham	CLARKHOWES INSUPRINGED. APPLIET RECORDS	Clark Howes Group Limited	Represented by Tony Sarin
Brethertons	Brethertons	Represented by Shaun Jardine	BARRUS	E P Barrus	Represented by Robert Muir
Cherwell DISTRICT COUNCIL NORTH OXFORDSHIRE	Cherwell District Council	Represented by Councillor Lynne Pratt and Karen Curtin	IP HEYFORD PARK	Heyford Park Settlements	Represented by Paul Silver & Placi Espejo
Chiltern Railways  If you think our way, travel our way.	Chiltern Railways	Represented by Stephen Barker	<b>@uv</b> Integration	Integration Technology Europe	Represented by Adrian Lockwood
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	Oxfordshire County Council	Represented by Councillor Lawrie Stratford and Lisa Michelson	London & Metropolitan	London & Metropolitan	Represented by Chris Harris
Specialist Lighting	Zeta Specialist Lighting Ltd	Represented by Phil Shadbolt	The state of the s	Ministry Of Defence	Represented by Lt Col Lyndon Robinson & Major Adam Lloy
ziran	Ziranland	Represented by John Liggins	P3Eco Ltd	P3ECO	Represented by Ian Inshaw
BICESTER VISION PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS		Sainsbury's	Sainsbury Supermarket	Represented by George Brittain	
a2dominion	A2 Dominion Group	Represented by Steve Hornblow and Louise Caves	spratt endicott	Spratt Endicott Solicitors	Represented by Jane Ward
adalta real	Adalta Real	Represented by James Hill		The Cooper School	Represented by Ben Baxter
BANBURY AND BICESTER COLLEGE	Activate Learning	Represented by Bernard Grenville- Jones	Membership is open to any employer in Bicester and surrounding villages. Please contact the Partnership Manager for more information.		



# Bicester Vision Accounts 2015 - 2016



INCOME		
Partner Contributions		
Local Government Contributions	35,500	
Bicester and District Chamber Of Commerce		
Oxfordshire CC		
Cherwell DC		
Bicester Town Council		
Private Sector Contributions	37,150	
Integration Technology Limited		
A2 Dominion Group		
Countryside Properties		
BRITA Manufacturing (UK) Limited		
P3ECO		
Value Management		
Chiltern Railways		
Clark Howes Group Limited		
E P Barrus		
Dorchester Group		
London & Metropolitan		
Oxford & Cherwell Valley College		
Stockdale Land		
Tesco		
The Cooper School		
Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa		
Bicester and Cherwell Innovation Centres		
Meeson Williams		
Brethertons		
Hill St Holdings		
Clear View Traffic		
Zeta Group		
Bicester Heritage		
Public Sector (not Local Government)	3,000	
MOD Bicester Garrison		
Total from Partner Contributions		75,650
Brought Forward		
Underspend from Previous Years	81,765	
TOTAL INCOME		157,406

Employee Related Costs	
Salary and On Costs (Project Manager)	49,208
Recruitment (New Project Manager)	2,211
Project Manager) Expenses	3,221
. reject manager, z.peneec	54,64
Training, Meetings, Conference and Subscriptions	0 .,0 .
Meeting Costs	3,223
	3,223
Office and Stationery	0,220
Printing, Postage, Photocopying and IT	2,410
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2,410
Events and Marketing	2, 110
Marketing and Promotion	1,109
ividiketing and Fromotion	1,109
Website Design	1,103
Ongoing Maintenance and Hosting	66
Origonity Maintenance and Hosting	66
AGM 2012 Costs	00
Design and Print of AGM Document	2,628
Event Costs	187
Event Costs	2,815
Professional Fees	2,013
Admin and Secretarial	4,341
Accountancy	3,615 <b>7,956</b>
Sponsorship	7,950
Oxford Green Contruction Showcase	200
Business in Oxford 2016	5,000
Cherwell District Council Micro Business Awards 2016	600
Cherwell District Council Micro Business Awards 2010	
	3,475
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	75,69

# Could you be a winner in 2017?



#### The Cherwell Business Awards is now in its 6th year and there are 10 award categories:

Apprenticeship of the Year

Business Person of the Year

Charity & Community

Employer of the Year

Established Business

Innovation & Creativity

Micro Business

New Business

Retail

Small Business

The 'Overall Business Winner' will be chosen from shortlisted businesses for the above awards.

### How to get involved:

- Nominate a business or business person for an award. Deadline: 31st December 2016
- Apply for an award. Deadline: 31st January 2017

Nominate or apply online at: www.cherwellbusinessawards.co.uk

Winners will be announced at the prestigious Gala Dinner on Friday 5th May 2017 at Heythrop Park.









The Cherwell Business Awards 2017 Sponsors









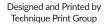


























# Bicester Vision Meetings

#### 2016: KEY MESSAGES

JANUARY

- Shaun Jardine, Brethertons, confirmed as new private sector Bicester Vision Board member.
- Bicester Vision's role as a member of the Strategic Delivery Board is confirmed as being to provide a strong business voice and a focus on job creation.
- Bicester Vision is to raise with Cherwell & South Northants
   District Council the need to give careful consideration to the
   interface between residential and employment space and
   the need to create small office space to attract higher quality/
   higher skilled jobs to the area.
- Bicester Vision investigates ways in which to reinvigorate town centres with the help of a presentation from Real Towns.
- The Partnership agrees to provide (if needed) funding of up to £35k towards the establishment of an "Innovation Loft" to help in 'growing on' the town's new businesses.
- Involvement with Bicester Technology Studio School building the local links between business and learning is encouraged through a presentation by the School.
- Sponsorship of £4,200 is approved for Young Enterprise enabling delivery of employability training to 4 secondary schools across 6 year groups in the coming year supporting Bicester Vision's aim of encouraging links between education and employers/jobs.
- The Board agrees to operate an "open door" summer partnership meeting to allow people/organisations not currently in Bicester Vision membership to attend and see a little of what the organisation is trying to achieve.
- Bicester Vision to produce a briefing note for Cherwell District Council outlining issues/challenges faced by developers in building suitable office space in the area and to look at what might be possible in relation to the business rate incentive programme.
- The Business In Oxfordshire event provides an excellent platform for showcasing Bicester's potential. The 'pitch' given on the day will be adapted/used for other similar events.
- Bicester Vision to assist in co-ordinating a visit to the town from the Oxford University Vice Chancellor to highlight the potential offered by the area.
- Bicester Vision and Bicester Chamber agree to continue to work closely together and to consider closer collaboration on specific projects/areas in the future, looking at consistent messaging referencing each other's organisation in external comms.
- Franklin's House is confirmed as the preferred option for the Business Incubator. Dependent upon the success of this, further Incubators will be investigated.
- Bicester Heritage (hosts for the Partnership meeting) provide an update on plans for development of the site.
- The Partnership receives presentations from Young Enterprise, The Management Academy (whose aim is to help encourage young people with the necessary raw talents to develop/hone their skills from an earlier age), Bicester's Independent Retailers Group, and Military Skills In Business

- highlighting the skills that ex-military personnel can bring to business
- Partners share updates on events, activities happening within their own businesses that may be of interest to others.
- Bicester Vision's one-off contribution to the establishment of the Business Incubator confirmed as £10,000 to enable space to be offered free of charge (initially) within Franklins House to business wishing to grow.
- Sponsorship confirmed for the Cherwell Business Awards 2017.
- Bicester Vision to take part in a meeting with Bicester Chamber, Bicester Town Council, Cherwell District Council and some of the town centre traders to look at what is happening in Bicester town centre.
- The Board agrees the format for the new Bicester Vision website, to be launched in November.
- Cherwell District Council are requested to include information in the Growing Bicester newsletter on the number of jobs created in the last 3 years and the number of jobs due to be created on land committed for development.
- Board confirms Bicester Vision's focus is on jobs and agrees to create a 'Features and Benefits' document on membership and to look holistically at the various economic development groups in operation in the area, considering how to maximise the return from the resources available whilst minimising any duplication in the process.
- Presentation given by Brita on development/new product plans and on the use of LEAN management systems within the business - sharing with Partners some of the practices and techniques they might implement within their own organisations.
- Business Incubator location confirmed as being at Franklins House (ground floor), this project being linked to the Eco Business Centre on the NW Bicester site in terms of operation.
- The Partnership agrees to forward a paper to the Oxfordshire LEP on what an effective local government structure might look like and urging the LEP to press for a swift resolution on issues surrounding this so that a devolution deal with Central Government might be progressed, potentially bringing £millions to the area.
- Board agrees to send letters to Oxfordshire LEP, local MPs and Rt Hon Sajid Javid (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) pressing for urgent resolution to issues with local government structures preventing progress of a devolution deal.
- Bicester Vision to be part of the Bicester Strategic Delivery Board Task & Finish Diverse Employment Base panel and will also review outputs from the recent retail study.
- Adrian Shooter announces he will be stepping down as Bicester Vision Chairman after 5 years' service. New private sector Chairman to be agreed at the AGM on 8 December.

# AUGUST

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# OCTOBER

- New Bicester Vision website will be launched w/c 28 November
- The creation of a business directory to be housed on the Bicester Vision website through which a wide variety/number of businesses might be contacted is under discussion.
- Bicester Vision to discuss at AGM on 8 December the possibility of assisting in co-ordinating a "Creative, Culture and Business" month in the New Year aligned with work to establish a 'cultural space' within the town.
- The Executive Board formally puts on record its thanks to Adrian Shooter for his Chairmanship of Bicester Vision over

the last 5 years. The new Bicester Vision Chairman will be announced at the AGM on 8 December 2016.



### Cherwell District Council

#### Garden Town continues to Flourish

Over the past 12 months Bicester has shown how a Garden Town can flourish by investing time, money and support in developing the community.

Public engagement has been at the heart of Cherwell District Council's (CDC) work to grow Bicester. In spring, hundreds of people turned out to have their say on the Garden Town consultation, outlining their aspirations and priorities for the town. This information is being fed into the Bicester Masterplan, which has now been commissioned. There will be a focus on improving movement around the town and revitalising its centre, the top two priorities identified through the public consultation.

An integral focus during 2016 has been our work with, and support of, community groups and activities such as sponsorship of the Big Lunch, the Bicester Bike Day and the OYAP-organised Sheep Street Dance event. We also encouraged organisations to bid for grants as part of the new SPARK funding initiative which was obtained through Bicester's status as a Garden Town and a Healthy New Town.

In March 2016, Bicester was named as one of ten Healthy New Towns in the UK. This allows us to focus on creating opportunities for healthier, active lifestyles while attracting further investment to the town. Designation coincided with the naming of the Whitelands Farm Sports Village at Kingsmere. Work here is about to begin on the creation of a new sports pavilion to complement the existing cycling/jogging track and the new sports pitches which will be available for the 2017/18 season. When complete the Sports Village will host a variety of sporting clubs from Bicester and the surrounding areas.

Throughout the past year, CDC has spearheaded numerous initiatives which have attracted funding, created jobs and showcased Bicester as a flagship town. Key projects completed include:

- Franklins House in Pioneer Square, which includes a CDC Linkpoint and a Travelodge hotel. It also houses a new stateof-the art library provided by Oxfordshire County Council
- Construction of the Savoir Fare café in Garth Park, delivered through grant funding towards the construction. This complements the new children's natural playground also situated at Garth Park.

• Improved signage and bridges at Bure Park Nature Reserve to encourage more people to take advantage of the outdoor area. This was made possible by securing a total of £48,000 of funding.

The past year has also been one of firsts. At Graven Hill, the first plots were released for general sale as the UK's largest self-build scheme continued to move forward while over at North West Bicester the first residents moved into the Elmsbrook development. And because of the significance of Bicester's housing growth, the long established Build It Live! show held its first ever event in Bicester, this attracted thousands of visitors over a two-day period. The event proved so popular it was recommissioned and will return again in 2017.

Aside from new homes, the housing developments have also created job and apprenticeship opportunities. £57,000 of funding from OxLEP has been used to establish an apprenticeship training agency; this will deliver opportunities in construction trades such as plumbing, carpentry and bricklaying – where major skills gaps have been identified.

66 The vision we have for Bicester is proving successful. This is demonstrated by our ability to attract funding that will improve and enhance the town for its residents, businesses and visitors for years to come.

During the past 12 months, we have demonstrated the benefits that this investment can bring. We have seen the creation of new homes, an increase in job opportunities and new and improved facilities that benefit the wider community.

Bicester continues to attract unprecedented levels of interest from those who are watching and learning from what we have done so far. As we prepare to enter 2017, we will be looking to build upon the successes of this year and to focus upon the priorities identified by those who live and work in the town. 99

Cllr Barry Wood, Leader of Cherwell District Council



### Cherwell District Council

#### **Economic Growth Service**

Cherwell District Council's strategic planning and economic growth service provides a range of support to businesses, residents and visitors to Bicester and the wider Cherwell district.

#### Local plan delivers growth

Following the adoption of the Cherwell Local Plan in 2015, a significant 367 home completions in Bicester alone were recorded in the financial year to March 2016.Planning applications for commercial development are also now being received, and significant developments were completed such as the new Tesco store. With an additional 130 hectares of employment land allocated, developers and businesses have the green light to expand their operations to create further jobs in the town. www.cherwell.gov.uk/planningpolicy

#### Support to business expansion

Business enquiries are received each and every day from indigenous and inward investing companies though the Cherwell Investment Partnership led by the Council. We are the local partners for the two Local Enterprise Partnerships covering Bicester, and can assist access to Government services provided through UK Trade and Investment. Practical help with finding premises, recruitment support and all operational matters can also be assisted: see <a href="https://www.cherwell-m40.co.uk">www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1272</a>

#### Help with recruitment and skills

Bicester Job Club moved into the new library whereby job seekers can now gain daily access to help in finding work. Employers are also assisted in their recruitment drives with several major job fairs being held in 2016 to attract around 30

employers and 150 job seekers and career changers to each. Apprenticeship and careers services are regularly on offer to meet individual needs of employers and people at the start of their careers, whilst vacant positions are advertised through a 'Job Match' service. www.cherwell.gov.uk/jobclubs

#### Strengthening the town centre

During 2016, the Retail Success project combined the energy and ambition of town centre traders with the experience and expertise of 'Grey4Gold' advisers commissioned by the Council. The fact that around 10,000 new households will be formed in Bicester over the next 15 years means that traders have been supported in their preparation of their business plans to offer products and services to maximise the opportunities arising. Given the positive response to the service and action plan, it is hoped to extend this support into 2017. www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=11245

Contact:

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leadership and making things happen. With such exciting plans ahead, the town needs everybody to pull together and BicesterVision has an important role in enabling this to happen, drawing upon the strengths of people committed to the town, for the benefit of all.

Sue Smith, Cherwell District Council, Chief Executive



### Bicester Chamber of Commerce



The Chamber have had a busy year contributing and leading a number of local activities including:

- Identifying the challenges and things that matter to local small businesses and campaigning onthese - including Car Parking Tariffs', Roadworks, Town Centre and much more
- Monitoring the impact of local decisions and actions on business across a range of appropriate matters and acting on these were felt necessary
- Raising awareness of known concerns, interests and views via the local media, its own on-line presence and in regular meetings with influential strategic bodies and the wider community
- Bringing together like-minded local businesses people to

connect, network and share information through its own, shared and/or collaborative events with other business organisations.

- Sharing appropriate news and information via its website and social media as well as press releases
- Holding occasional social, as well as information based, events
- Face-to-face contact with businesses and other relevant organisations
- Supporting the Cherwell Business Awards as a Sponsor and as part of the organising team

#### The Chamber in 2017 will be:

Continuing with all the above activity, updating its website, taking a role with Strategic Delivery Board for Bicester, looking to enlarge both its executive and membership base.

Expressions of interest are always welcome. Please visit our website for more information via: www.bicesterchamber.co.uk also you can find and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



### Ziranland Limited

When Bicester Vision started our ability to work directly in partnership with the three tiers of local government, the Chamber and the businesses of Bicester enabled the speedy delivery of Phase 1 of the Pioneer Square Shopping Centre.

The 2nd phase of Franklins House evolved through very close liaison with Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council to deliver a mixed use building involving commercial lettings, with bespoke offices for Bicester Vision members,

Brethertons, as well as the new library for Oxfordshire County Council. We continue to work on development opportunities in Bicester and the surrounding area and involvement in Bicester Vision helps us to understand many of the local needs, constraints, issues, and gives us the opportunity to meet with the right people to solve problems arising within the town and its environs.

- John Liggins, Managing Director, Ziran Land Limited





### Bicester Town Council



May 2016 welcomed a new Mayor in ClIr Jolanta Lis and her duties started with a Civic Parade and the opening of the brand new café in Garth Park.

Garth Park has seen many changes this year what with the café and a brand new children's play area with zip wire, water splash area and new climbing equipment. There is still more to come as a new picnic area is currently being installed next to the play area.

The Bicester Town Council summer events programme

started In June with the Carnival where the whole community came together at Pingle Field. Even the rain didn't deter the crowds lining the street to cheer on the procession.

Our next event welcomed the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra to the Bicester Heritage site for a fantastic promenade concert in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday.

With a Robbie Williams tribute and an 80s night, Garth park was alive this summer with musical entertainment and for the children there was the annual Teddy Bear's Picnic and Activity Day.

Ongoing things to look out for from the town council include the refurbishment of 3 other play areas around Bicester and the forthcoming Christmas Lights event on 1st December.





66 Bicester Town Council has been part of Bicester Vision since its inception and are pleased to be able to work alongside the business community and all tiers of local government to make Bicester the 'go to' place for business opportunity.

Sue Mackrell, Bicester Town Council



# Bicester Village

#### **Sheep Street Dance**

Sheep Street Dance, was the first major initiative in Oxfordshire Youth Arts Partnership's programme of cultural development in Bicester.

Bicester was treated to 4 spectacular hours of colourful, thought-provoking and skilled dance performances culminating in a dramatic and breath-taking routine on scaffolding by Motion House Theatre witnessed by around 450 people in Sheep Street, something which has never happened in Bicester before.

The dance events were made possible with funding from OYAP's sponsor Bicester Village.

This highly successful inaugural event builds on OYAP's goal for Bicester Arts "working towards tomorrows vision for a more creative and cultural town".





#### Bicester Village Apprenticeship Programme

Encouraging a learning culture in Bicester and working towards raising educational attainment is one of the aims of Bicester Vision and its partners.

As a major employer of over 3000 local people Bicester Village is one of several Bicester Vision partners offering a wide range of excellent career opportunities for people of all ages.

The Bicester Village Apprenticeship has grown significantly in 2016. This year 30 apprentices are working in Bicester Village boutiques and continuing to "learn while they earn".

Steve Nicolson from the National Apprenticeship Service says "The Bicester Village Apprenticeship programme must be one of the most desirable in the retail business offering the opportunity to work with some of the world's top brands.

It prepares future managers for their careers working in some of the world's leading brands retail stores. The apprentices are fully embedded in the brand values and high standards of customer service expected by the stores at BV.

This is their opportunity to become a manager working with some of the most sophisticated and respected businesses in the world".





### **Brethertons LLP Solicitors**

#### Sweet Two thousand and Sixteen

It would be fair to say that 2016 has been a momentous year for Brethertons.

There cannot be many Bicester locals who have not passed by their new offices in Franklins House on their way to the car park at Sainsbury's. Moving into these offices was the culmination of a 10-year project initiated by CEO Shaun Jardine.



Shaun explains, "I first started negotiating to come into Bicester long before Pioneer Square was opened. What is now Franklin House was originally to be built at the same time as Sainsbury's and the Vue Cinema complex, however the 2008 recession meant these plans were put on hold and the building was shelved. When Cherwell District Council

decided to develop the site I breathed a great sigh of relief. Whilst the plans were being developed they underwent quite a lot of change and the final building has been a fantastic result. We were able to design what we required and had the luxury of the builders building it!"





The Bicester office turnover has increased by 96% since the merger with Neasham Lloyd and has seen the number of employees in the Bicester office double from 11 to 22. This is reflected in an increased focus on the firm's Commercial offering which now covers all elements in Bicester; Company Commercial, Commercial Property and Employment law.

Since April 2016 Brethertons have occupied 5,000sq feet of new purpose built offices in Franklins House. The move has seen increased engagement with the local community and businesses.

Shaun adds, "As part of the launch programme for the new office we held a photography competition, #PictureBicester. We now have some fantastic prints adorning our office walls which showcase local people's talent having taken photographs of our local area with prizes being sourced from local store, Imagex. We also continue to run the Bicester Business Lunch Club with the January 2017 meeting being held in our offices!"

The firm's expansion plans in Bicester are not finished yet. With sufficient accommodation in Franklins House to accommodate a further 20 staff, they are planning strategic growth in the Bicester area and are keen to recruit lawyers to join the practice. The firm see Bicester's central location and connectivity to the wider region as key for future opportunities in both residential and commercial sectors.



Shaun confirms how Bicester Vision is an integral part of their plans to develop further within the business community: "Being a member of Bicester Vision has brought my staff into contact with like-minded people both in the business and public sector, all of whom care passionately about the future of Bicester. I have made many useful contacts and I am pleased that I have been able to support the work of the organisation.

Brethertons has benefited from the business networking opportunities that membership brings and I have enjoyed participating in discussions concerning the future of Bicester. I regard membership of Bicester Vision as a key part of the firms' strategy which is to grow business, be accessible and approachable for customers and to create a great place to live and work for my staff. That way everyone's a winner!"

# Oxfordshire County Council

#### Bicester Vision Transport & Roads Update

Bicester is a dynamic and changing place and it is essential that the right infrastructure is delivered at the right time to support the local growth. Transport is a key issue in Bicester and improvements to local transport networks are crucial to ensure that people are able to move easily as the town grows.

The Bicester Area Transport Strategy (Local Transport Plan 4) sets out Oxfordshire County Council's plans for the entire transport network within Bicester. A key part of the strategy is to update public transport and sustainable travel networks in order to reduce congestion caused by journeys made by car, as well as improving the peripheral routes around Bicester to reduce traffic coming through the town.



The core principles of the transport strategy concentrate on enabling efficiently functioning strategic roads and an emphasis on sustainable modes of transport within the town itself. The strategy focuses on improving access and connections between key employment and residential sites and the strategic transport system. Reduction in the proportion of journeys made by private car is proposed by developing the town's walking, cycling and bus networks between key development sites and the town centre and railway stations, increasing people's awareness of the travel choices available in Bicester, which should improve public health and wellbeing.

In terms of highway works, construction began in Spring this year on capacity improvements between the A41 roundaboutat Bicester Services and the junction at Oxford Road/Pingle Drive. The A41 roundabout will become a "hamburger" design, which will improve traffic flows and is timetabled to be completed in late 2017. This will be complimented by capacity improvements at Rodney House roundabout, associated with development at Graven Hill, which are expected to commence in early 2017.

Amid growing concerns relating to parking problems caused by non-residents on roads in Bicester and in the absence of Civil Parking Enforcement that may enable further residents parking zones, introduction of localised "no waiting" restrictions on these roads to prevent obstruction and assist the passage of large vehicles (such as fire appliances and bin lorries) has been proposed across Bicester and the consultation has recently closed. Delivery of these schemes is likely to be implemented in Spring 2017.

In terms of public transport, construction of a Park and Ride facility adjacent to the A41 and close to the Vendee Drive junction was completed in 2015 and is now served by the Stagecoach S5 service between Oxford and Bicester town centre. In addition, Bicester Village Railway Station was successfully delivered

in 2015 in order to make way for an amazing new East West rail service, which sees frequent trains to Oxford Parkway and London, as well as an eventual service east to Milton Keynes and Bletchley. It is expected that the service will extend to Oxford Railway Station in December this year. These two new facilities provide the ideal opportunity to promote Bicester as a location for new businesses and to promote sustainable modes of travel to residents making longer distance journeys.

However, the rail upgrading presents challenges too. More rail traffic means that there is more disruption to the road network where the two cross. A new rail bridge at Charbridge Lane is already being planned, but there are other challenges such as the rail crossing at London Road where options need to be developed further. Currently, there is no identified funding for a scheme.

Cycle and pedestrian paths around Bicester are being improved and new ones created so that people can get around the town easily, without having to use a car. Paths to rail stations, employment areas and shopping areas will be improved, and new paths will connect housing developments to the town. The County Council is considering new cycle schemes on Buckingham Road, Churchill Road, Queens Avenue and Middleton Stoney Road, as well as cycle parking in the town centre.

A Wayfinding Project for Bicester is being progressed with the aim of improving signage across the town. The current wayfinding signs in Bicester were introduced over 10 years ago. Inadequate signage creates a poor impression of the town centre, can be frustrating for those trying to navigate the town and does little to support businesses and tourism. Good wayfinding, on the other hand, can greatly enhance the visitors' experience, can facilitate an increased number of visitors to key destinations within the town centre and can support local businesses, which are of increasing importance to Bicester's economy and regeneration. As a result, Bicester requires expansion of and where necessary updating of the existing signage for pedestrians and cyclists. A wayfinding scheme across Bicester is expected to be delivered in Spring 2017.

The pace of change for Bicester does present challenges and it can difficult to keep up with everything that is underway. To address this, the County Council has joined up with the District and Town Council in Bicester and Bicester Vision to create the Growing Bicester website (www.growingbicester.co.uk) which is now live. This continuing partnership between the County, District, and Town to ensure joined-up working is the single place for information will provide the latest on what is happening on the new housing development sites, construction projects across Bicester, as well as transport improvements to support it all.

The County Council is a key partner in delivering infrastructure for housing and employment growth in Bicester. Essential to that is the close working across all tiers of government and the private sector to enable all Bicester businesses to prosper and create job opportunities for the community.

Lisa Michelson - Oxfordshire County Council



# Zeta Specialist Lighting Ltd

Zeta Specialist Lighting Ltd, the unique developer and manufacturer of mains and solar powered LED lighting systems is extremely pleased to share its exciting year with the Bicester Vision community!

Zeta operates in four key sectors; Signage, Solar, Commercial & Industrial and Street & Amenity. One of our main aims for 2016 was to move into the new and ever-evolving sector of LED street lighting. Zeta opened its doors for an exclusive Launch Event in the summer to showcase the new SmartScape street and area lighting solutions to market. We are extremely pleased to announce that this year Zeta won a prestigious contract to deliver 14,500 of its innovative LED street and area lighting solution to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. This represents a huge step for the business having won against significant, established competition.

As well as the major contract with RBWM, in December this Year, Zeta will be installing their SmartScape Nano into Telford Road industrial estate – where the company is based - as part of a trial for Oxfordshire County Council. The trial aims to understand how the Zeta solution will perform, in view to commissioning a roll out across the county which will save the Council over £500,000 per annum in operation and maintenance costs.



We look forward to new developments and challenges in this market, and to seeing where it takes us in 2017!

Zeta's other sectors have thrived this year as well: installing solutions around the globe as well as locally. In March, Zeta was invited to be involved in the provision of LED lighting and solar power for a new "green" café in Garth Park, Bicester. The octagon-shaped café's roof spines are adorned with Zeta's solar panels and the LED lighting inside is custom-designed to offer the best illumination.



As well as this project, eagle-eyed residents of Bicester may have noticed that the bus shelter next to Bicester Heritage, in Caversfield, is now powered by Zeta's Solar Shelter Lighting Kit. The solution provides illumination 365 days a year from dusk to dawn, increasing comfort and safety for public transport users in the area

Another local project that's come into fruition in 2016 is the development of a new type of energy saving solution for the North West Bicester Eco-Homes, in conjunction with A2Dominion. This solution incorporates the latest Tesla battery pack which retains power for the home rather than pumping energy back into the grid.

Not only is Zeta illuminating the local area with its innovative LED and solar products, but Chairman and CEO, Phil Shadbolt also continues his work locally, supporting organisations such as Bicester Vision, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Bicester Technology Studio and the all-new Bicester Incubator. Phil is passionate about developing the local area through these organisations, bringing new ideas and evolving existing ones.

Bicester Technology Studio has benefitted from Phil's guidance since its inception. He was involved in the first meeting with DfE in Westminster, pitching for the school to be commissioned. Zeta is a proud sponsor of the innovative educational establishment and look forward to taking on two work experience students as well as helping to shape the curriculum in the academic years to come.

Bicester Vision continues to sponsor Phil as a Board member for the Oxfordshire LEP. Phil works with the LEP to ensure that Bicester is always top of the Agenda for growth and innovation! Bicester Vision was also inspired this year to bring about the inception of the Bicester Incubator. Working closely with the Town Council and Cherwell District Council to develop operating models for the incubator and sponsor the development of this exciting project. We all look forward to seeing how this seminal project will progress and are looking forward to see exciting businesses flourish as a result.



Phil's outstanding contribution to Business and Innovation in the last 28 years has earned him the extremely high honour of receiving an OBE in 2016's New Year Honours List. In April this year Phil was very proud to have been invited to Windsor Castle to be inaugurated by Her Majesty the Queen. His team and family are extremely proud!

In 2017 Zeta hopes to continue the exciting new growth seen in the street lighting sector this year, as well as exploring new solar and Electronic Vehicle charging technologies including; the development of a low-cost, attractive EV charging bollard (trial units to be installed at its Bicester factory in December 2016), continued evolution of the Solar Road Stud alongside Clearview Intelligence and a brand new Solar Belisha Beacon for a leading supermarket.

### A2Dominion

A2Dominion has been involved with Bicester Vision since 2010 when NW Bicester was designated as one of the Government's first eco towns and A2Dominion became lead developers of the site.

This year marks the delivery of phase one of the 'Elmsbrook' development, which, when complete, will comprise 393 highly energy efficient homes and a local centre. The first 91 new homes were launched last year through our FABRICA by A2Dominion brand, and the initial residents moved in during April 2016. Built with zero waste to landfill during construction, the scheme is the first true zero carbon development of its size in the UK and it is one of only 11 communities worldwide to have been awarded Bioregional's One Planet Community status.

As residents moved in, a number of sustainable transport initiatives were launched to benefit the new community and help support our wider vision to reduce the number of local journeys made by petrol or diesel cars from 67.5% to 50% by 2026 at NW Bicester.

For example, we worked with local Bicester family firm, Grayline Coaches, to launch a brand new, bespoke, low emissions zone compliant bus service from Elmsbrook in June 2016. The service, which serves Bicester town centre and Bicester Village Train Station at peak times, is also accessible to existing Bicester residents. We also provided six weeks' free bus travel to new residents as an incentive to try alternative sustainable modes of travel.

All homes at Elmsbrook are located within 400 metres of a bus stop and a digital in-home information system, the Shimmy, provided to all households gives residents real-time bus information, making public transport more accessible, in addition live energy generation and consumption data.



We also partnered with the E Car Club to launch an electric car hire service in July 2016, the first in Bicester. Elmsbrook residents had the opportunity to register and claim a half price E Car lifetime membership and six free hours use, subsidised by us, to encourage them to trial the service. The vehicles, which have a range of 70-90 miles, are now available any time from  $\pounds 4.50$  per hour including hire, power and insurance to residents in the wider town to access too.

Other sustainable travel options include the launch of the Elmsbrook Brompton Bike Loan Scheme, providing free flexible bike hire, enabling residents to borrow one of four folding bikes a week at a time.

As well as sustainable transport, we also continue to explore innovative new technologies to enable sustainable living. Later this year, A2Dominion is going to be embarking on a ground-breaking trial with fellow Bicester Vision Member, Zeta Lighting and Tesla whereby one of Tesla's Powerwall batteries will be



installed in our five bedroom show house on site. Depending on the results of this trial, there is potential for one of these batteries to be installed in to homes on future phases at Elmsbrook.

The device charges using electricity generated from solar panels and powers homes in the evening, thus enabling residents to maximise self-consumption of solar power generation and even ultimately go off the grid.

The development has also received critical acclaim this year including scooping the award for Sustainability in the 2016 Constructing Excellence in London and South East Awards, as well as a bronze special commendation award in the Best Eco Living category for the Evening Standard New Homes Awards 2016. The project has also recently been shortlisted for a number of other accolades including Housebuilder Best Low or Zero Carbon initiative and Best New Build Project at the SHIFT Awards.

In preparation for the launch of our next tranche of properties at Elmsbrook, we appointed top 20 UK housebuilder and Bicester based practice Hill as the local principle contractor to deliver the second phase of the pioneering Elmsbrook development. Hill specializes in delivering distinctive, quality homes and will work with us to build the second 73 of the 393 highly efficient, true zero carbon homes which are planned at Elmsbrook.

Following a council planning committee with Cherwell District Council (CDC) in March 2015, we were also granted outline planning permission for 2,600 new homes to the North of Lords Lane, and a further 900 new homes and supporting infrastructure to the North of Howes Lane in October 2015.

This shows our long-term commitment to the local housing need as part of the wider Bicester garden town as set out in Cherwell District Council's emerging Local Plan, as well as to deliver a comprehensive mixed scheme where residents can make sustainable lifestyle choices.

In addition, on the 18th February 2016 we received a Resolution to Grant detailed planning permission for the A4095 Strategic Link Road, an essential piece of key infrastructure for the wider NW Bicester Masterplan and existing town transport network.

A2Dominion is also a lead partner alongside CDC in securing Bicester's town-wide status as one of the Government's 10 NHS-supported Healthy New Towns. Elmsbrook provides a flagship development with an innovative approach to creating a development where healthy living is at the heart which can provide opportunities for learning and replication for Bicester's planned 13,000 home strategic growth. Other partners include the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, the Oxford Academic Health Science Network and more.

We are looking forward to taking the next steps at Elmsbrook and inviting more people to come and enjoy life at NW Bicester.



### **Activate Learning**

#### Developing skills; driving growth

Activate Learning is a pioneering education group with a mission to transform lives through learning.

The group operates across Oxfordshire and Berkshire, as well as internationally, and is working to meet the skills needs of Bicester and its surrounding area. Over the last year, it has:

- Launched Bicester Technology Studio a new school for 14-19 year olds specialising in business and engineering. The curriculum at Bicester Technology Studio is supported by local employers and industry partners, to ensure that it develops the talent needed to drive local economic growth. The school's aim is to train tomorrow's business leaders and technological innovators; equipping young people with the skills and confidence they need to shape the future of their local communities and beyond. The new school building opened in September, welcoming its first pupils in Year 10 and Year 12. Over time it will grow to cater for up to 310 pupils and is helping to broaden educational choice in Bicester.
- Forged a partnership with Bicester Heritage Activate Learning group members Banbury and Bicester College and Activate Enterprise have relocated their classic vehicle restoration apprenticeship to Bicester Heritage. The apprenticeship programme, designed to meet a growing skills gap in this niche, high value sector, now offers learners the chance to train in a unique environment, surrounded by relevant employers. The full-time classic vehicle restoration programme continues to be delivered from the Bicester campus of Banbury and Bicester College, which is a national centre of excellence for training in motorsport engineering.









• Supported the development of young engineering talent, by hosting the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire Young Engineer Awards 2016. This event, supported by Oxfordshire engineering companies Lucy Group and Barrus, celebrated the achievements of young people on school programmes and apprenticeships across Oxfordshire. It was hosted by the Bicester campus of Banbury and Bicester College.



• Supported The Bicester School on its ongoing journey of improvement. Activate Learning is the lead sponsor for The Bicester School (formerly **Bicester Community** College). This summer the school celebrated a strong set of exam results for a second year running. In GCSEs, an impressive 82% of the 167 collecting their results achieved an A\*-C in English, exceeding national averages by 22%. In A-levels, the school achieved a 97% pass rate

of two or more A-level grades, which is 5% above the current national average. Double the number of students took A-levels at the school compared to the previous year, recognising the school's growing reputation for academic success.

## Bicester Heritage

'Silicon Valley for Classic Cars' reads the latest headline on Bicester Heritage, the cover story of Singapore's leading classic motoring magazine. Bicester Heritage's global reach has grown exponentially through 2016, cementing the unique business campus as the go to destination for historic motoring enthusiasts.

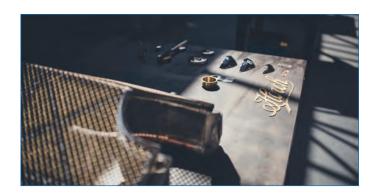
Comprising of over thirty best of breed specialist enterprises with a collective turnover of over £20m, the creation of this supportive ecosystem of skills has revolutionised historic vehicle ownership and the knowledge transfer needed to future proof the classic motoring market. Now worth £5.5bn annually to the UK and employing over 34,000 people the market has grown quicker than China's economy in the last five years.

The swift development and restoration of the former RAF Bicester site has contributed significantly to the local and wider economy through the provision of skilled employment opportunities and regular events, setting Bicester and Oxfordshire as the home of the latest flag bearing business in the motoring industry.

The UK's first accredited Historic Vehicle Restoration Apprenticeship has moved to Bicester Heritage in recent months. The scheme, which helps engineer the career paths for young enthusiasts in the motoring sector, has over seventy students on the course and is a hive of eager activity situated in close proximity to potential future employers.

On site events have grown significantly, with over 20,000 visitors through the gates over seven event days in 2016. The Sunday Scramble open day in particular, has become a staple event of the national motoring calendar with twelve percent of tickets going to the Bicester area and a third of the total to Oxfordshire







inhabitants. There is no doubt that the opportunity to explore this national historic asset and thriving ecosystem is of huge interest on both local and national levels.

As the fourth phase of restoration works begin this winter, bringing another thirty thousand square feet of workshop, engineering and office space online for new specialist businesses, the campus can without a doubt be seen as the latest global brand to be added to the roster for Bicester and the wider locality.

"The turnaround for the time-capsule airbase dating to the Twenties has been spectacular. Tumbledown war department buildings have been lovingly restored, tree-lined roads reinstated and more than 30 companies specialising in the restoration or sale of historic vehicles and aircraft have moved in to create a thriving heritage village." - The Evening Standard, 31st March 2016

"There is no reason Bicester Heritage can't become the global hub in heritage cars and planes – bringing talent, enthusiasm and business sense together. They apply a start-up hub attitude to the classic car business – an inspiring idea becoming reality." - Matthew Hancock MP, Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills





## Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa



Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa is home to some 100 plus employees, the vast majority of whom live locally. 2016 has been a very successfully year for us with an increase in weddings, celebrations spa breaks, golf breaks and conferences. We are home to Bicester's most prestigious Health Club with over 2,000 members; we are helping to keep Bicester in shape. In partnership with Bicester Village and Blenheim Palace we have helped welcome many new visitors from overseas in particular from Asia. Our continued collaboration with our partners is helping put Bicester on the map.







We offer the local community, golf, golf lessons, a Nursery and Creche, essential spa treatments, dining facilities, a place to celebrate special occasions with friends and colleagues such as Christmas parties, New Year's Eve, Valentines, Mother's Day and much more.

2017 will see the opening of our State of the Art Performance Gym, Open Water Swimming Lake, Climbing Wall, Covered Driving Range and an Assault Course.

The Performance Gym will boast training equipment for all levels of Gym users from beginners to elite athletes. The purpose built space allows the user to train with the latest Functional Exercises Rigs, Olympic Lifting Platforms, Suspension Training Systems and latest strength and conditioning equipment. Within this space there will also be a climbing wall suitable for beginners and advanced climbers. The Open Water Swimming Lake will sit alongside the Assault Course. Although purpose built with a 400m loop system; the lake can also be used for other activities such as Team Building, Canoeing, Paddle Boarding and Dive Training.

# BRITA Manufacturing (UK) Limited

BRITA Water Filters has been based in Bicester since 2004 and employs more than 100 people at their UK headquarters. BRITA, which marked its 50th anniversary in 2016, was founded in Germany by Heinz Hankammer, who created its first product, a filter for demineralizing water, in 1966. Since then, BRITA has become an internationally renowned brand and around 250 million people now drink BRITA optimised water worldwide.

As a world leader in water filters, BRITA takes its commitment to the environment very seriously, and its green credentials are one of the reasons it attracts successful partnerships with many top brand names such as Sainsbury's, Tesco, Costa Coffee and Argos.

In keeping with Bicester's Eco Town ethos, efforts have been made across the site, in Granville Way, to reduce energy and promote recycling. LED lighting has been installed throughout the Bicester site, and a speed-fit door installed in the warehouse helps to reduce energy and heating usage.

BRITA has designated 10 staff members who oversee waste management at the Bicester plant ensuring waste is recycled, reused or repurposed so that zero per cent goes to landfill.

Each year the factory use 110,000 cardboard boxes, which are all re-used, and the professional product packaging was swapped from polystyrene to recycled cardboard. Last year 889 tonnes of exhausted BRITA filter cartridges, which are used in jugs and taps, were recycled, and its transportation was cut by 11 per cent by reducing waste and clever loading of lorries.

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Over a 12-month period, statistics show that eco-savings have amounted to nearly 55,000 kg of CO2, the equivalent to 1,919 trees, and almost 29 MWh of power was generated.

BRITA is also firmly integrated in the town. A keen supporter of Bicester Vision, with a senior staff member regularly attending meetings, and more recently, BRITA hosted a board meeting at its site. BRITA also support three charities which are chosen by staff each year.

In 2016 these are Bicester's cancer support centre The Hummingbird Centre, a Buckinghamshire based specialist nursery, The Puzzle Centre and wounded service personnel charity Help 4 Heroes. Last year, staff raised £10,707 which was split between the three charities.

Staff have hosted cake sales and taken part in a range of fund raising activities including muddy obstacle course Rock Solid, a games console challenge, a World Cup sweepstake and the BRITA Charity Open Golf Day to help raise cash.

This year's golf day, in September, raised £2,000, and was supported by BRITA employees, friends and family, as well as local businesses and suppliers who work in partnership with BRITA. A popular event, it has been run for six years and so far raised £9.000 for BRITA's chosen charities.

BRITA also encourages its customers to support the charities by sending replacement parts out for free and suggesting a small donation towards the charity appeal.



### **EP Barrus**

Looking forward to 2017 it will be a proud and momentous year for Barrus as the company celebrates its 100-year anniversary.

The business today is diverse and challenging. Barrus markets and distributes its products across a wide range of sectors including marine, garden, and industrial. Mariner and Mercury outboard engines, Quicksilver leisure and fishing boats, John Deere and Yanmar marine and industrial diesel engines, Cub Cadet garden machinery, and WOLF-Garten and Wilkinson Sword garden tools are just a few of the market leading brands in the Barrus portfolio.



Headquartered in Bicester, Barrus is a family company co-owned with Machine Tool & Die Inc (MTD) based in Cleveland, Ohio, one of the largest producers of outdoor powered equipment in the world and a major supplier to the company's garden division.

Looking back at Barrus's long history demonstrates how the company has adapted constantly to changing markets. Starting out as a European distributor for hand and power tools, Barrus became an essential lifeline for Britain during the Second World War with the supply of hand tools, military tools and marine engines to the UK War Department and the MoD.

Over the years Barrus has been responsible for numerous innovative products and solutions including many firsts to hit the UK market. The list ranges from the first ride-on lawnmowers and gas-fired garden barbecues to the D-BAT, a diesel powered all-terrain vehicle, popular with the military and used in the James Bond Film 'Golden Eye'; FAST PIRS, an engine that can be rapidly restarted after being submerged, pioneered by Barrus for the RNLI and the armed forces, and a multi-fuel outboard engine developed for the UK MoD capable of running on four different NATO fuels.

Moving from London to Bicester in the late 1970s, Barrus chose the new location for its ideal geographical position as it was the centre of communications in Roman Britain. The Launton Road premises are the company's head office with storage and main despatch facilities within Heyford Park. Business growth and expansion over the years has enabled Barrus to create additional job opportunities and they are now a major employer in the town.

Throughout its 100-year history, Barrus has constantly sought to introduce new, innovative products with potential to the British market. Today, the company has long-standing partnerships with

major international suppliers representing over 30 leading brands which are distributed through over 3000 authorised Barrus dealers nationwide.

However, the scope of the Barrus business extends beyond the supply of products through its authorised dealer networks. A large proportion of business is with original equipment manufacturers, the MoD, RNLI and other military and emergency services organisations supplying specialist marine and industrial engines.

The company's expertise in specialist applications engineering support and custom-engine building has enabled Barrus to offer a flexible approach to the specific requirements of these customers. There has been significant investment in research and development with the creation of one of the world's largest, and most modern custom-engine building facilities right here in Bicester.

As a company dependant on maintaining a high level of engineering skills, Barrus recognises the importance of encouraging youngsters to take up a career in engineering. Over the years, the company has offered work experience placements to young engineering students from Oxfordshire colleges, universities and schools, and is delighted that many are now longstanding Barrus employees.





# Integration Technology Ltd

Heyford Park based technology business Integration Technology Ltd (ITL) is a world pioneering designer and developer of ultra-violet (UV) LED semiconductor packages used in digital imaging and electronics production as well as other emerging technologies such as medical device manufacturing.

Founded in 2000 at Upper Heyford, export markets today constitute over 95% of the business revenues. ITL serves the foremost industry OEMs, integrators and advanced manufacturing technology developers around the world, supported by direct regional offices in Europe, USA, and the Far East.

The company operates a flexible business model offering everything from fully configured solutions through to core technology components and product licencing. All R&D development and the majority of manufacturing takes place in Oxfordshire at Heyford Park.

With flux in various international markets and more latterly uncertainty created by the Brexit decision, ITL never the less has continued to plan for growing success and in 2016 extended its reach into Latin America by establishing a direct operation in Sao Paulo, Brazil.





This initiative followed an exhaustive 18 month local market research project, and early signs bode well for this new venture with several key clients already committed to adopting ITL technology in 2017, and many more under qualification.

The company believes that maintaining strong relationships within the local community has always played a vital role. ITL employs predominantly from within the Cherwell Valley area and for example engagement with local education is an important factor in recruiting and retaining the highly skilled staff needed for continued success.

Furthermore being able to have an influence over local planning and infrastructure decisions through organisations such as Bicester Vision is critical for the local long term sustainability needed for ITL to remain headquartered in the area.

In an ever changing and developing landscape ITL looks forward to 2017 and beyond.

66ITL employs predominantly from within the
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needed for continued success.



## Spratt Endicott Solicitors

In 2014 Spratt Endicott merged with Alfred Truman & Co, a firm with over 100 years of heritage in Bicester. The result is a Bicester office with unrivalled local insight and relationships, together with the expertise and specialist knowledge of a respected Legal 500 law firm.

We became partners in Bicester Vision in 2015, and recognised this was an excellent opportunity to work with local businesses and government in helping Bicester to grow and prosper.

As a law firm, we have always helped businesses to achieve their objectives and succeed, which is why we have been sponsors and active committee members of The Cherwell Business Awards, since their inception in 2011. Bicester Vision is a fellow committee member and sponsor, and we are all committed to celebrating business excellence year after year.

Spratt Endicott has experts in business law, commercial property, employment law, debt recovery and dispute resolution who support businesses in and around Bicester to achieve their growth aspirations. Our specialists can assist companies to relocate here, grow and move to bigger premises and create more jobs.





Since 2014, we have also increased our number of staff by 14% across our 4 offices, so we are a perfect demonstration of the single principle that Bicester Vision is based on, and that is the creation of jobs. We have great plans to grow our business in Bicester even further and are just completing the redevelopment of our first class office premises. Our office is situated on Sheep Street and we share Bicester Visions' commitment to the town centre. We want to attract talent, not just to our business, but to the whole of the business community in Bicester.

\*\*Owe are proud to be a part of the thriving business community in Bicester. We're keen to see people attracted to the area for work, rather than to have to leave by train for work. I feel strongly that job creation in Bicester is essential, and we're dedicated to playing a part in this. We feel privileged to be a part of Bicester Vision and look forward to playing a part in the growth and development of this exciting, aspirational area.

John Spratt, Chairman, Spratt Endicott





### **Bicester Vision's Priorities for 2017-18**

- Developing and delivering a plan for inward investment to Bicester
- Supporting businesses within Bicester with their growth aspirations
  - Working with government to develop a strategy for job creation



If you would like to communicate with Bicester Vision, we can be reached through any of these channels:

**Color:** 01869 324 244 in /groups/4147186 

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✓ info@bicestervision.co.uk

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