

IN THIS ISSUE: West London Business Awards 2022 host revealed | Last opportunity to register for next Better Futures+ cohort | Brentford FC extend life of kit for second season | AND more...

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WLB CEO Update

December 2021

Dear colleague,

The Omicron variant means these are once again tough times as the NHS and partners race to deploy the vaccine booster. Our message to colleagues is simple: "be careful, but keep doing business!"



In November we relaunched the [WLB Leaders' Forum](#) with a dinner at the House of St Barnabas; the feedback from those gathered to our board on WLB's current strategy and future opportunities was immensely valuable. Several members of the Leaders' Forum had been at [COP26 with WLB](#).

It was a pleasure to close the year - COVID precautions in place - with our **Christmas Reception** at the House of Commons. This was an opportunity to share that joining us for the **West London Business Awards 2022** at Twickenham as our host and master of ceremonies will be British Tennis champion, TV and radio presenter, and West Londoner, **Annabel Croft**.

Please peruse the newsletter below for inspiration and opportunities from across the WLB membership; and don't forget to [get registered for Better Futures+](#) support to transition your business to Net Zero - our next cohort starts the programme in mid-January.

I hope you get to enjoy some time off this holiday season with friends and family - With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew'.

Andrew Dakers
Chief Executive

Doing Better Business: Sustainability in Action in West London



WLB Member and Premier League club Brentford FC have announced plans to rollover use of their home kit for the 2022/23 season. The announcement has caught the attention of the national press as Premier League teams traditionally announce a new home kit design every season. BFC Chief Executive Jon Varney stated: *"We think this is a step in the right direction to help the environment a little. It can only be a good thing to reduce kit cycles where circumstances allow, and we will continue to work with Umbro to make sure the production of our kit is as sustainable as possible. It is only a little thing, but we believe it will help."*

[Read more >>](#)



London's first sustainable homotel is to launch in Chiswick during December.

room2 Chiswick, part of Lamington Group, has been constructed with the principles of a whole life net zero homotel, meaning that all the carbon emissions from conception through to end-of-life have been reduced and rebalanced to zero. room2 Chiswick will offer 86 crafted rooms- each including fully-equipped kitchens, large king or twin beds; in addition to an onsite restaurant. room2 Chiswick will operate at 89% less energy than a typical UK hotel, including two lab rooms, which learn over time how guests use the rooms. Tracking everything from energy, appliances, lighting and heating, water and air quality.

[Read more >>](#)

WLB Awards return to Twickenham Stadium in 2022



WLB is delighted to announce a return to Twickenham Stadium on Thursday 10 February 2022 for our celebration of the best of business in West London. The awards and gala dinner are open to all. The night hosted by **Annabel Croft** will spotlight all [our shortlisted businesses](#) who will also vie for the title of 'West London Company of the Year 2022'.

BOOK YOUR TICKET FOR AWARDS NIGHT

Business support

Hillingdon Council, using funding made available via the Government's Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) is launching the Hillingdon Enterprise programme.

Having successfully committed over £8m of ARG funding on sustaining and meeting the immediate needs of Hillingdon business during the covid crisis, the Council is now looking to target a further and significant element of funding to a smaller select number of Hillingdon based businesses, potentially bringing long term benefits in terms of jobs and business growth.

[Find out more >>](#)

Hounslow Council is conducting a Business Impact Survey to help develop a better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 and Brexit on businesses, both over the last year and looking ahead. The results of the

survey will inform the Council's and its partner organisations' response to business support both in the immediate and longer term, ensuring they focus resources on issues and opportunities of most interest and benefit to you.

[Complete the survey >>](#)

Policy watch

Member news

FREE Courses for Business from LMP Group

West London Business-member LMP Group have secured £1.6m of the Adult Education Budget for the London region enabling them to offer your staff (that are residents in London) fully-funded short courses in a variety of subjects.

[More >>](#)

Uxbridge College computing graduate joins Abbey Road studios tech programme

An Uxbridge College graduate in higher level computing is working with Abbey Road studios to develop an AI to help artists write their lyrics.

[More >>](#)

From 1 April 2022, the rate of National Living Wage paid to workers aged 23 and over will rise by 6.6%, or 59p, to £9.50 an hour. Apprentices will benefit from an 11.9% uplift to their current hourly rate of National Minimum Wage.

[Read more >>](#)

The Bank of England confirm interest rate rise of 0.25%. Lai Wah Co, Bank of England Deputy Agent for Greater London writes: *"The UK economy is continuing to recover from the huge fall in economic activity caused by the pandemic. As restrictions have been lifted, people have been spending more at shops in Greater London and other businesses across the rest of the UK. And businesses have generally grown more confident about making investment-spending decisions, many of which were postponed soon after the pandemic hit."*

[Read more >>](#)

Workscan helps City Harvest rescue Christmas

Innovative industrial placement portal, Workscan, is excited to announce a new partnership with City Harvest that will see them utilise their distribution network to provide 1,230 meals to those most in need this Christmas. This new partnership comes alongside Workscan, supporting the charity's upcoming 'Rescue Someone's Christmas' campaign.

[Read more >>](#)

Alexanders Group lead Christmas Food Drive for the Vineyard Community and Richmond Foodbank

Fast-growing removals and storage firm Alexanders Group has organised a Christmas Foodbank collection from the residents of Twickenham.

[More >>](#)

Launch of 'Empress Yard' community space

Responding to local feedback, Earls Court Development Company are delighted to reveal that a simple new open air temporary space named 'Empress Yard' on the former Earls Court 2 site will be available for local community event use from early December 2021 until around April 2022.

[More >>](#)

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