

Business

This is the official business page of The Beeston Express, where we feature local businesses, large and small, with news to share. Our aim is to keep Beeston Express readers living in the wider community up-to-date with what's going on in the business world, either as items of general interest or if it may directly affect them (such as changes to tax laws, for instance). However, we request that, if we are running advertising editorial, advertising in The Beeston Express supports it.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

A2B Cars get moving

TAXI company A2B Cars are expanding their network with a return to Beeston.

The new High Road base will become part of the network of six offices spread across Nottinghamshire, utilising a fleet of more than 120 vehicles for the taxi company.

Bringing Beeston back into the extended network is expected to provide better choice for local customers. General Manager Ian Brough said: "It's time to return. We did operate in Beeston a number of years ago, then areas of the business were sold, changes were made and we concentrated more in areas such as Kimberley. However, we still have our loyal customers locally – hotels, nursing homes, stores and such like.

"Now our work load and driver fleet has been increasing significantly

hereabouts and we are poised to become a reliable choice for customers in the area.

"You can get anywhere in Nottinghamshire with A2B Cars. Our aim is to focus on providing that 'little bit extra' of customer service.

"We offer a call-back service, a drop call to let you know your taxi has arrived and is waiting outside. Our uniformed drivers, who are all CRB checked, could provide you with in-car credit card payment if that's what you want.

"One of our key advantages is our set fares. We have a published list of set fares to regular destinations – to any of the country's airports and not just East Midlands, for example, to the QMC or City hospitals, and the city centre. However, if we give you a quote for a particular journey you want to make, we stick

to the price quoted.

"We have a diverse fleet of cars that we're very proud of. It includes executive cars, wedding cars, minibuses and wheelchair accessible transport."

Directors John Spencer and Steve Austin founded the company in 2000, and it now operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

When A2B Cars was purchased by CBC Taxis, a well-known local cab company, in 2005, it was decided to adopt the name A2B Cars as it was more established, having operated in Nottingham since 1981.

Mr Brough joined the company as general manager in 2007.

Mr Spencer said: "I've seen this company grow from five cars to 120 since 2000. Nowadays we use state-of-the-art technology that makes us so much more

efficient – I shudder to think how we managed when all we had was radio contact! Satellite technology makes us so much more efficient, and that makes us so much more cost-effective."

A2B Cars will be officially opening their new office on the High Road in June 2010. They can be contacted on 922 3777 or at www.a2b-nottingham.co.uk

ADVERTISING FEATURE

CK Pet Supplies

KEVIN and Louise Wakefield are passionate about rabbits. They met at a rabbit show and breed and exhibit rabbits nationally. Now son James, aged 10, also breeds and shows rabbits, having been brought up immersed in his parent's hobby.

But Kevin and Louise are keen to share with other pet owners their knowledge of not just rabbits, but other small animals, reptiles and birds. They have set up CK Pet Supplies on Wollaton Road, Beeston, to supply animal foodstuff, pet paraphernalia – and free advice.

Kevin, aged 40, worked at Pets Pantry, Beeston, for

a number of years before it closed.

He said: "I've always loved small animals as pets and was keen to continue with that interest. I've kept rabbits and small animals for thirty years, and have been breeding and successfully exhibiting rabbits for a number of those years, winning a number of very prestigious shows. In between times, I've become a well-respected judge.

"I was also brought up surrounded by dogs as family pets with my favourite, the German Shepherd, playing a major part of my life. And my father always kept birds

– he still does – so I grew up learning about birds as well. My brother exhibits budgerigars and canaries these days.

"Add my background to the experience gained through working at Pets Pantry, and I've acquired a fair amount of knowledge about pets over the years, and in particular small animals as pets. I wanted to carry on being able to share this knowledge with anyone who seeks it."

Kevin's partner, Louise, shares his love of animals. As well as keeping and exhibiting rabbits of her own she breeds guinea pigs. Cats are also a favourite with Louise and she has

raised a number of litters over the years.

As a sideline, Kevin started to manufacture a variety of animal housing a few years ago. This side of the business has become successful in its own right, and Kevin finds himself supplying pet shops right around the country with his bespoke runs and cages.

Kevin and Louise have a wealth of knowledge to share, particularly about the care of rabbits.

They invite you to call in to C K Pet Supplies at 154 Wollaton Road, Beeston (near the Wollaton Road allotments) for friendly and expert advice.

BID News



BEESTON BID
Your Beeston Your Future

Go Beeston

BID Manager Matt Robinson reports:

"IN the past few months I have been chasing voluntary contributions and I am very pleased to report they are all in.

Henry Boot plc has offered the Beeston Business Improvement District (BID) management team an office in The Square along with the funds to refurbish it. Being situated in the heart of the town is essential as it gives easy access to the BID team, and all the support mechanisms you need when you need them.

Having an office in the centre also means that the BID management team will have its fingers on the pulse of the business community and can be proactive to any changes.

In addition to the office, Henry Boot will also put £12,000 per year into the BID pot.

Trent Barton have offered free marketing on their buses and the Trent Barton Consortium are considering their financial support for the BID when they win their bid for the tram contract.

The Business Plan

The breakdown of 'budget costs' in the Business

Plan does not include the significant levy payments that will come in from Tesco and Lidl, all of which add up to a powerful budget that will enable the Beeston BID to reach significant goals.

During the next few weeks, everyone involved will receive an eight-page summary giving a snapshot of what might be expected from the BID. In the meantime, visit the website at www.beestonbid.org to download the full Business Plan document.

Keep an eye open

There will be another Open Meeting for the BID 'GO BEESTON' in early June when I will give a presentation of the business plan that will propel Beeston into the limelight and bring more people to shop and do business in the town.

I'll also provide an update on the all-weather Touch Screens to be situated at four strategic positions in the town.

The date of the meeting will be published here, so keep a look out for it.

Matt Robinson

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Beeston store gets new look thanks to council grant

A BEESTON-based kitchen and bathroom store has been given a fresh new look, thanks to Broxtowe Borough Council's 'Keeping Up Appearances' grant scheme.

Lifestyle Kitchens and Bathrooms received a cheque for £1054.50 as a 50 percent contribution to the cost of improvements to the store's signage and paintwork.

The 'Keeping Up Appearances' scheme has

been running for more than a decade to help improve the look of retail and commercial properties on the borough, with grant aid of up to £2000 being available to put towards repairs and restoration.

For more information about the scheme, contact the council's Economic Development team on (0115) 917 7777.