

Phoenix FM News Items Broadcast Date: Tuesday 01 March 2011

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Main Contact:	www.fsb.org.uk or Keith.brown@fsb.org.uk
Events:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Essex FSB's Brentwood Network Group meets every other Thursday at Ashwells Country Club. Next meeting 10 March 20112. Essex FSB's Billericay Network Group meets on first Thursday of each month at Deli37 in Billericay High Street. Next meeting is 03 March 2011.3. Nexus Network Group meets at Great Warley every Thursday from 6.45am.4. The Christian Business Network Group is meeting in Billericay on Thursday 03 March 2011 from 6.00pm until 8.30pm5. Social Networking for Business is meeting in Billericay on Thursday 10 March 2011 from 6.00pm until 8.30pm6. The Essex Business Network's Brentwood Group meets alternate Thursdays at Marygreen Manor starting on 03 March 2011 from 7.00am until 9.00am.7. The Brentwood Eagles Business Network International Group meets every Thursday at Warley Park Golf Club from 6.45am.8. The Select Network Group meets at Maylands Park Golf Club each Friday from 6.45am until 9.00am.9. More details of all events can be found at www.fsb.org.uk/essex/events
Brentwood News:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Markets for Brentwood? The trial markets in Brentwood Town Centre seem to have been well received by traders and shoppers so Brentwood Council is now looking at extending that to be a regular feature of the town's shopping experience.2. Baker Labels has moved to Brentwood from Walthamstow. The family run firm which was founded in 1973 employs 46 people who will be based at the firm's new premises in Hubert Road, Brentwood.3. Brentwood Conservatives have launched their manifesto for the Council Elections which take place on Thursday 05 May 2011. Among the 43 pledges eight refer to businesses and they are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. We will work with local Post Offices to explore opportunities for council services to be available to these offices, providing residents with local contact points and helping support vital local facilities.b. We will conduct an annual Brentwood Business Audit with businesses across our Borough, listening and responding to their feedback.c. We believe in strong relationships with the Federation of Small Businesses and Chamber of Commerce and will be close partners as we work together for our Borough.d. We will continue to develop a Town Centre Strategy to build on the work we have done to date to support local retailers and encourage more people to our town centre and shopping parades across the town.e. We will work with "The Big 9" employers of our town to promote the local economy for the benefit of all local businesses.f. We will continue to work with our business partners to deliver Business Summits and Retailers Forums to promote open dialogue between the Local Authority and commercial sector.

	<p>g. We are committed to developing and improving the Brentwood Renaissance Group, to improve our Town Support, through working with the Borough's main businesses, local retailers and residents. We will launch the "Brentwood First" campaign designed to provide focused attention and ensure delivery.</p> <p>h. We will carry out a full review of parking charges in the Town Centre and in relation to the Crossrail project, ensuring charges are fair, justifiable and have the input of both residents and retailers.</p> <p>4. It is interesting that businesses don't get a mention in the section on The Big Society yet it is businesses which currently do a lot of that activity such as working with schools and charities, the clean up of Kings Road at the end of last year etc. We will wait to see what the other parties say about business in their manifesto and as a non party political organisation let our members see the proposals put forward so they can make their individual minds up about how to vote.</p> <p>5. With fish pedicure premises being the flavour of the month in Brentwood as we've mentioned before it was a little worrying to hear that the Health Protection Agency has launched an investigation this week after concerns have been raised by environmental health officers that the fish may be responsible for spreading infections between users – watch this space for the results of that investigation.</p> <p>6. RESTAURANTS and pubs have attacked a new food rating system for potentially crippling business by "unfairly" labeling them unhygienic. Nearly 40 establishments across the borough have been warned that improvements need to be made under the "scores on the doors" system launched by <u>Brentwood Borough Council</u> in partnership with the <u>Food Standards Agency</u>. It gives all restaurants, pubs, takeaways, cafes and other establishments that sell and prepare food a star rating of between zero and five, but it has received a backlash of criticism since scores have been published online. Many are demanding another visit by the council's environmental health officers and have bombarded the town hall with complaints. Ratings are on the Food Standard Agency's website and premises are being asked to display them to the public with a sticker provided. Visit www.food.gov.uk/ratings</p>
<p>Billericay News:</p>	
<p>Area Topics:</p>	<p>1. Credit Cards and Credit Checks are a challenge for many businesses as the cost of card processing can be high and finding out if a potential customer is credit worthy can be costly and difficult. That is why on Thursday 03 March 2011 Essex FSB is holding one of its Essex Voice of Business Briefings with experts on these two topics speaking and giving advice. More details including how to book are available at www.fsb.org.uk/essex/events.</p> <p>2. Last weekend saw an announcement of a £160 Million expansion of retail space at Thurrock Lakeside Shopping Centre which means extra shopping space equivalent to four football fields, creating around 1500 jobs. When that is implemented we will see Thurrock having an even bigger impact on Brentwood's retailers.</p>

<p>County Topics:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do You Want More Construction Work? Chelmsford: Wednesday 30 March 2011 3.00pm until 7.00pm BuildEssex is running this free to attend event. Despite recent spending cuts Construction and Highways Frameworks valued at more than £800 million will begin in 2011 - come and meet the new and prospective main contractors to find out what you need to do to get a share of the work on roads, schools and other projects in the built environment in Essex. 2. Lovers of fine food and drink will be spoilt for choice when Essex's biggest culinary festival comes to Cressing Temple Barns on the weekend of July 9-10. The first Essex Food and Drink Festival will be a celebration of food and drink from across the county with chefs, producers and restaurateurs all showing what makes Essex such an exciting place for food lovers. In particular, the festival is a big opportunity for the county to showcase what local producers have to offer and Brentwood Brewing Company is already booked in as an exhibitor but we are sure there are more local firms who can benefit from exhibiting their products. The best Essex ale, jams, teas, cupcakes, and ice cream, will be some of the products available to try and buy at the event. Advanced tickets are £5 per person per day, on the day they are £6, and children under 12 go free, to book call 0845 6037624 or go to www.thisistotalessex.co.uk/foodfestival
<p>Campaigns:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Essex FSB (Federation of Small Businesses) has called on the county's Members of Parliament to start slashing Government red tape and free up business to create jobs and prosperity. Essex FSB Chairman, <u>Iain Wicks</u>, said: "Yesterday we saw the number of people out of work rise by 44,000 and a very worrying figure of one in five young people being out of work. "Today we have a report from the National Audit Office showing that entrepreneurs have to cope with more than 60 regulations each and updates arriving weekly at an estimated cost to the economy of more than £13 billion. "It doesn't take a genius to work out that cutting red tape and encouraging businesses to prosper will create the jobs we need. "How can any business owner keep on top of 60 plus regulations, each of which probably have their own dedicated Government or Council inspector, and at the same time focus on making a profit in their firm to create jobs and wealth? "The coalition Government was elected on a platform which included cutting the red tape that is tying businesses in knots and it is time we saw some action which is why Essex FSB has today written to our local MPs asking them to take on the role of Red Tape Busters, get their shears out and start cutting! "The FSB is already running a campaign, with support from local Euro MPs, to try and persuade the European commission it must axe one old regulation before it introduces a new one and we would like to see our Westminster MPs go even further and start actually reducing the number of regulations."
<p>Information Needed:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insurance Providers Removing Pubs As Clients The FSB would be interested to <u>hear</u> from members that have had problems getting insurance as insurance providers look to remove public houses from their client base. 2. Get Your Views Heard Before The Budget

	<p>As always, the FSB will be submitting evidence to the Treasury ahead of the Budget (Wednesday 23 March 2011) on behalf of all members. However, for members that wish to <u>contribute to the consultation</u> in their own right, submissions will close on Wednesday 2 March 2011. <u>Email</u> the FSB press office if you would like to be a case study.</p>
<p>National Topic:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you're aged 16-30 and need funding to get your new business idea or project off the ground, the Shell LiveWIRE Grand Ideas Awards offers up to 6 x £1,000 prizes every month to the most innovative ideas submitted by new businesses (in their first 12 months of trading). Winners of the monthly Shell LiveWIRE Grand Ideas Awards will also be offered a range of <u>'value-added prizes'</u> throughout the year. <i>You've got until the last day of the month to enter the awards so apply now by logging in at the bottom of this page!</i> New for 2011 Each month, the three Grand Ideas Award winners with the highest judges' scores will automatically be put through to our 'Hot 40' shortlist for the £10,000 Shell LiveWIRE Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, with the remaining winners added to a pool of 'sift entries'. 2. New Counter Terrorism Vulnerability Assessment Tool For Businesses The current terrorism threat assessment for the UK is classed as 'severe'. Businesses in 'crowded places' such as high streets, shopping centres, near stadiums or theatres, are being encouraged to go through a straightforward <u>risk assessment</u> to assess and address, potential vulnerabilities to their business. 3. Essex FSB (Federation of Small Businesses) is encouraging businesses to use a new product launched by Crimestoppers to help combat thieves and burglars. Research suggests that where property has been security marked and that is made known burglars and thieves avoid such premises and look for easier prey. Using the Crimestoppers Property Protector can help businesses protect their equipment from being stolen and if it is taken and recovered by police means it can be returned to the rightful owner more quickly. Crimestoppers Property Protector is a clear liquid solution with each bottle containing special particles that create a unique code number and has enough to mark 200 items of property. Simply dabbing a small amount of the liquid on valuable items gives each item its own coded fingerprint which is then registered on a property registration database against the name of its rightful owner. The system is easy to use and registration is straight forward and even more importantly in the current financial climate it is inexpensive too costing £34.99 but until Thursday 31 March 2011 there is a £7.50 discount on that price when Crimestoppers Property Protector is bought from the Crimestoppers website. More details can be found at <u>www.crimestopperspropertyprotector.com</u>
<p>Business Awards:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Essex FSB has launched the Small Business of The Year Award 2011 – the third consecutive year we have run this competition in partnership with Newsquest Essex. Any business employing fewer than 11 people is eligible to enter and details are available from <u>Keith.brown@fsb.org.uk</u>. Deadline for entries is Friday 25 March 2011. 2. The European Business Awards sponsored by HSBC opened this week and close on Thursday 14 April 2011. More details from <u>www.businessawardseurope.com</u>

	<p>3. Awards For Excellence Open to any business in the United Kingdom there are 14 categories to enter. Application Deadline: Friday 04 March 2011</p> <p>4. East of England Director Of The Year Awards Open to any business in the East of England there are four categories to enter. Application Deadline: Thursday 31 March 2011</p>
General:	<p>1. Using social media can bring you new customers, raise your profile and Boost your profits.</p>
Other services:	<p>1. Weekly email newsletter giving details of events, contract opportunities and business awards plus special offers by emailing essexvoiceofbusiness@fsb.org.uk</p> <p>2. Follow on Twitter at FSBEssex for up to date news and event details</p>