

BUSINESS

REDCAR | CLEVELAND



Business Bulletin

September 2026

Gripps Farm opens its gates as one man's dream becomes reality



Photo caption: the late Sid McAuley, second from left, with son Jordan, daughter Kerys and wife Tracy.

Gripps Farm in Brotton has opened to the public, bringing to life what those behind the venture describe as a "dream years in the making". The idea came from Brotton-born businessman Sid McAuley, who bought the previously dilapidated farm in 2022 with plans for it to become his retirement home, before setting out to create a family attraction where visitors could get closer to traditional farm animals and more unusual creatures.

Planning permission for the change of use was granted by Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, but sadly Mr McAuley died from cancer in October last year before seeing his vision fully realised. His wife Tracy, daughter Kerys and son Jordan have since helped bring the project to fruition.

Mr McAuley had said there was “nothing in East Cleveland like this at all” and hoped the farm would help boost tourism in the area.

Following the opening, Brotton ward councillors Barry Hunt, Graham Cutler and Martin Fletcher congratulated the farm on social media, saying it “looked amazing”. A post from Gripps Farm also paid tribute to Mr McAuley, describing the opening as the fulfilment of his vision.

The post said: “This isn’t just the opening of a new business, this is the fulfilment of a dream that started with one man’s crazy idea...but if you knew our dad, you’d know he never did anything by halves.”

It described Mr McAuley as an “absolute legend”. “Larger than life, full of ideas, endlessly determined and someone who made a lasting impression on everyone he met” adding that every part of the farm had been created with him in their hearts.

Gripps Farm is now open six days a week, including bank holidays, and is home to more than 130 animals. An adventure park is also under development, while the café and farm shop are supporting local and regional suppliers wherever possible.

Read more by clicking the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Public consultation opens on PSPO extension





Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council is seeking views from businesses and residents on its proposal to renew, with variations, the "Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (Anti-Social Behaviour and Nuisance) Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)" for a further three years (until 19 October 2029).

The PSPO gives police officers and council community enforcement officers discretionary powers to take enforcement action by issuing on the spot £100 fines (fixed penalty notice) to members of the public who breach its provisions controlling alcohol consumption and prohibiting public urination and defecation and aggressive begging and antisocial behaviour and nuisance in 11 town and village centres across the borough.

You can view the "Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (Anti-Social Behaviour and Nuisance) Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)" [here](#).

Please note the Order does not make it an offence to consume alcohol in the specified areas. But it does make it an offence to consume alcohol in these places when asked not to by a constable or authorised person. It also makes it an offence to refuse to surrender any alcohol or container for such alcohol when asked to by a constable or authorised person.

The controls on alcohol consumption imposed by the Order do not apply within the curtilage of licensed premises, including club premises and the area outside cafes, bars and restaurants where licensed premises have placed removable furniture, such as tables and chairs because they have a pavement license.

You can find out more about the council's proposals including viewing consultation documents and completing a short online questionnaire by visiting the link below.

The deadline for responses is **Wednesday 7 October 2026**.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Final call for fully funded workshops



If you're an aspiring entrepreneur looking to launch a new venture, or an established business aiming to grow or expand into new markets using AI, now is your last chance to book onto a variety of fully funded workshops designed to help companies at every stage of their journey.

Aimed directly at new businesses, the programme features 'Start Up in Tees Valley: Redcar and Cleveland' delivered by Enterprise Made Simple at Redcar Civic Centre on Friday 11th September. This all day workshop will provide knowledge and support for those at the beginning of their business journey.

Friday 11th September | 9am – 4pm

[Start Up in Tees Valley: Redcar and Cleveland](#)

Delivered in partnership with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the workshops offer straightforward advice, practical tools, and valuable networking opportunities to help your business move forward.

Places are limited and these upcoming sessions are your final opportunity to secure a spot:

Tuesday 8th September | 10am – 3:30pm

[Innovation to Commercialisation: A Practical Roadmap to Market](#)

Wednesday 9th September | 9am – 12.:30pm

[Grow with Google Tees Valley: AI Essentials for Business](#)

Thursday 10th September | 1pm – 4:30pm

[Get Found, Get Noticed and Get More Customers](#)

View the full programme and book your place today by clicking below.

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Business support opportunities

Data Insights and Machine Learning courses



Teesside University are delivering a technical programme designed for anyone looking to build advanced data capability and unlock deeper insight from their data. Focusing on the practical application of data analytics and machine learning, giving you the tools and techniques needed to prepare data, build models and extract meaningful insight, including hands-on learning with tools such as Power BI and Python.

Funding of up to 90% of course costs is available for eligible learners, delivered by Teesside University in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority as part of the Adult Skills Fund.

For more information click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Funded support to recruit young people



YOUTH GUARANTEE

FUNDING OFFER TO EMPLOYERS

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>▶ £1,000
additional payment for hiring apprentices aged 16-18.</p> | <p>NEW
FROM OCTOBER 2026</p> <p>▶ £2,000
for SMEs who hire apprentices aged 16-24.</p> | <p>NEW
FROM JUNE 2026</p> <p>▶ £3,000
for employers who hire 18-24 year olds who have been on Universal Credit for over 6 months.</p> |
| <p>▶ No NICs
for employees under 21, or apprentices under 25.</p> | <p>▶ £2,000
for employers who hire foundation apprentices aged 16-21.</p> | <p>▶ Jobs Guarantee
Fully subsidised work for long-term unemployed 18-24 year olds.</p> |



Employers looking to attract new talent and develop future skills can benefit from a range of government-backed programmes through Jobcentre Plus. **The Build Your Future Workforce** initiative is designed to help businesses recruit, train and retain young people aged 16 to 24, while reducing recruitment costs and supporting workforce growth.

- **Work Experience Placements:** Offer young people practical workplace experience for between one and eight weeks, helping them build skills while giving employers access to enthusiastic candidates and fresh perspectives.
- **Work Trials:** Trial potential recruits for up to 30 days without paying wages, as participants continue to receive their benefits. This provides a low-risk way to assess whether a candidate is the right fit before making a permanent offer.
- **Jobs Guarantee:** National rollout is planned for Autumn 2026, the scheme offers eligible 18 to 24-year-olds, who have been on Universal Credit for a minimum of 18 months, a six-month paid job of up to 25 hours a week. Employers providing jobs will be reimbursed 25 hours per week at

the age relevant National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage for 6 months. National Insurance Contributions and minimum automatic enrolment pension contributions, where relevant, will be covered for 6 months.

- **Youth Jobs Grant:** From 30 June 2026, employers can receive £3,000 for each eligible 18 to 24-year-old they hire who has been claiming Universal Credit and seeking work for six months or more. The grant is paid in two instalments and helps reduce employment costs while building a motivated workforce. Eligible roles must be at least 25 hours per week and expected to last four months or more.
- **Apprenticeships:** £2,000 payment for non-levy paying businesses from all sectors hiring an apprentice aged 16 to 24, available from October 2026.

Additional £2,000 payment if you are hiring a foundation apprentice aged 16 to 21. Foundation apprenticeships are available in construction, engineering, digital, hospitality, retail, and health and social care.

£1,000 to support a young person aged 16 to 18 (19 to 24 with education, health or care plan or care leavers) when they start their apprenticeship training.

- **Other support:** No employer NIC contributions for employees under 21 years old or for apprentices under 25 years old.

For more information on how to access the funded support mentioned above please visit the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade website by clicking on the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Land and property opportunities

Rental opportunities at the new Eston Precinct



The New Eston Precinct development is due for completion in **November 2026**, with expressions of interests now open for seven new retail units.

The scheme will feature 14,650 sq ft of accommodation arranged in an L-shaped parade with prominent frontage to the High Street and a new landscaped public space, with dedicated parking off Lodge Road.

Units will be delivered in shell condition with glazed shopfronts and roller shutters, supported by secure rear servicing, a shared service yard, and delivery facilities including a loading dock.

The precinct is intended to host regular events and revive an outdoor market, creating a vibrant destination for retailers and the local community.

Click the link below to view the brochure for information on the site.

You can register an interest by contacting Portland Dodds Brown via the following contact details.

Richard Wilson

M: 07894256309

E: rwilson@portlanddoddsbrown.co.uk

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Nursery opportunity at Dormanstown Family Hub



Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council is inviting interest from nursery providers for an exciting opportunity at Dormanstown Family Hub.

The council is seeking a nursery operator to provide **year-round childcare for children aged 0–5 years. This includes funded places for children aged from 9 months to 4 years, in line with early years statutory guidance, and provision that is suitable and inclusive for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).**

Located in a well-populated area, the Family Hub offers an excellent opportunity to support families within Dormanstown and the surrounding communities. The available space includes partition walling, allowing it to be used either as one open-plan area or as two separate rooms. Both rooms benefit from children's toilets, with approximately 79 sqm of internal space in total and an outdoor play area of around 284 sqm.

The property is available to let by licence or lease.

Bid Deadline: 12 Noon on 25th September 2026

For more information, please click on the link below or contact Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's Strategic Assets team via strategicassets@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

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Commercial unit available at The Palace Hub



An exciting opportunity has become available to rent a commercial unit on the Esplanade in Redcar. A part of The Palace Hub, the property occupies a prime kerbside position on Redcar seafront, benefiting from excellent visibility and footfall in one of the town's most prominent locations. Prospective tenants can also benefit from the exciting regeneration taking place across the seafront, including "[The Lookout](#)" which is currently under construction.

This ground floor unit of circa 500 sq.ft in size comprises a modern open plan space with extensive glazed frontage overlooking the Esplanade, providing excellent natural light and visibility. Fitted out to a good standard, the unit includes ancillary preparation and storage space together with fitted stainless steel workstations and sinks. A commercial service and delivery yard is available at the rear of the building.

The unit is suitable for a variety of retail, leisure and commercial uses, subject to the necessary planning permissions.

Bid deadline: 12 noon on 25 September 2026

For more information, please click on the link below or contact Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's Strategic Assets team via strategicassets@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

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News

World's first for Redcar and Cleveland



Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council has teamed up with the Wilton Centre-based firm Universal Matter and Tarmac to use graphene-enhanced asphalt in the resurfacing of Locke Road.

The project is thought to be the UK's first commercial application of the technology, moving it beyond test installations and into wider real-world use.

Around 260 tonnes of asphalt were laid across 2,300 square metres of road surface as part of the resurfacing scheme.

Graphene is an advanced material made from carbon and, when added to asphalt, is designed to help roads better withstand the wear and tear caused by traffic and weather.

Universal Matter, the developer of the technology, said independent testing suggests it could increase the lifespan of road surfaces compared with conventional asphalt.

While the long-term condition of the road will continue to be monitored, supporters believe graphene could help roads stay in better condition for longer and reduce the need for maintenance.

Councillor Carl Quartermain, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: *"We were proud to be an early adopter of graphene-enhanced asphalt, working alongside Universal Matter and Tarmac to trial an innovative product developed here in our borough and we are delighted to have now used it successfully in the region's first commercial application of the technology."*

"Many people feel that road surfaces do not last as long as they once did, but the reality is that our highways are carrying far greater volumes of traffic and heavier vehicles than in previous decades."

"That is why it is so important that we continue to explore new materials and technologies that have the potential to improve durability, reduce the need for maintenance, and deliver better long-term value for taxpayers."

To read more, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Nova Pangaea completes successful aviation fuel trials



The Redcar and Cleveland-based company with a unique process to create sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from waste biomass has completed successful endurance trials that further validate its technology.

The trials, which took place at Nova Pangaea Technologies' demonstration plant at Wilton, show continuous stable operation in production runs of up to 72 hours and achieved above target yields.

It marks another step forward for Nova Pangaea, which will be raising funds to progress its first commercial plant, and comes as the aviation industry seeks ways to scale up SAF production using other sustainable raw materials to end the current dependence on waste oils and fats.

[Nova Pangaea](#) is working with British Airways and LanzaJet on Project Speedbird, an initiative supported by the UK government to produce carbon-negative aviation fuel from local waste biomass to decarbonise the aviation sector. For Speedbird, Nova Pangaea will construct four UK facilities to produce bioethanol from local wastes for upgrading to SAF.

Read more by clicking the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Hutchinson Transport wins new Univar contract



Redcar and Cleveland-based Hutchinson Transport has secured an additional UK distribution contract with Univar Solutions after its performance on an existing agreement gave the chemical distributor confidence to place further work with the family-owned operator.

The new contract will see Hutchinson transport solvents from Univar's Cadishead facility to customers across the UK.

It builds on an established relationship under which Hutchinson already provides nationwide distribution for a range of Univar speciality chemical products.

The additional award expands Hutchinson's role with Univar into UK solvent distribution and provides further evidence of its ability to support chemical manufacturers and distributors that require responsive planning, consistent communication and firm operational control.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Great Taste Award for Prohibition Cocktails



Independent bottled cocktail producer Prohibition Cocktails has received a coveted Great Taste Award for its signature Espresso Martini.

The Redcar and Cleveland-based drinks company has been awarded one star in the 2026 Great Taste Awards for its classic Espresso Martini, with judges praising its "deep crema", "sound concentration" and "well-managed sweetness", alongside its "chocolatey/mocha depth" and creamy palate-feel.

Founded in 2022 by husband-and-wife team Jordanne and Francesca Gott, Prohibition Cocktails

produces a range of premium bottled cocktails and alcohol-free alternatives from its production site in Redcar and Cleveland.

What began as a small independent drinks business, 'Prohibition Cocktails' has grown significantly over the past four years, now annually serving tens of thousands of cocktail and mocktail creations for customers, retailers, corporate clients, and events across the UK.

"Having our Espresso Martini recognised by Great Taste feels particularly special because it's one of the cocktails that has been with us from the beginning," said Francesca.

"When you're producing something yourself, you spend so much time tasting, tweaking and obsessing over tiny details that it's sometimes difficult to stand back and look at what you've created. Having independent Great Taste judges recognise the things we've worked so hard to get right, particularly the texture, balance and crema, is a lovely moment for us.

Knowing that fewer than four in ten entries receive a Great Taste star makes it mean even more. We've grown enormously since we started in 2022, but we're still an independent business making and bottling our cocktails here in Teesside, so we're incredibly proud to be able to put a Great Taste star on one of our original products."

Read more by clicking the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Community news and opportunities

Public Health South Tees launches Hydration Stations Initiative





Public Health South Tees is encouraging businesses to join its new Hydration Stations Initiative, helping residents, visitors and workers access free drinking water.

The initiative aims to create a network of locations across the Public Health South Tees area where people can refill water bottles free of charge, supporting community health, reducing inequalities and encouraging sustainable behaviours.

Features of hosting a hydration station include:

- Free to join for businesses, organisations and community venues.
- Hydration Stations provide free tap water refills during normal opening hours.
- Participating organisations receive an official Hydration Station sticker and welcome pack as well as support from the Public Health South Tees team throughout the onboarding process.

- Locations can choose to be promoted through Public Health South Tees marketing channels and an online map.

How to Get Involved

Businesses interested in becoming a Hydration Station can register by contacting Public Health South Tees via email at publichealthsouthtees@middlesbrough.gov.uk

For more information on the programme including the wider benefits and steps involved in providing a hydration station click the link below.

FIND OUT MORE

Events

ETCH Networking





Date: Wednesday 9th September

Time: 10am – 11:30am

Venue: Loftus Arts, Westfield Terrace, TS13 4RG

Creatives based in Redcar and Cleveland are invited to a free, friendly and relaxed meet-up at Loftus Arts, offering the chance to connect with other creatives from across the Tees Valley.

ETCH is an opportunity allowing all creatives to come along and meet-up, where you will share thoughts and information regarding funding, workspace, events, advice and support; without any of the usual business jargon.

The session is all about inspiring, encouraging and motivating creatives, with topics including bid-writing, social media, intellectual property and more.

For more information and to register, please click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

NEPRO Innovation: North East Supplier Event



Date: Wednesday 16th September

Time: 9:30am – 12pm

Venue: Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough, TS3 6RS

Constellia and NEPO are hosting a free supplier event at Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough, on 16 September. The event offers North East businesses the opportunity to meet local public sector buyers, network with fellow suppliers and learn how to access public sector opportunities through the NEPRO Innovation framework.

Attendees will hear from Middlesbrough Council about its procurement priorities and supplier partnerships, while the Constellia team will explain how businesses can access opportunities through its marketplace, which connects suppliers with more than 240 public sector organisations across the UK.

Ideal for businesses already working with the public sector, looking to grow in the North East, or seeking opportunities nationwide. Hartlepool Council will also be in attendance to meet suppliers and discuss how local authority teams are looking to engage with the supplier community through NEPRO

Innovation.

For more information and to book your place, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Tees Expo Autumn 2026



Date: Thursday 17th September

Time: 10am – 3pm

Venue: Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough, TS3 6RS

Looking to raise your profile, build new connections and uncover growth opportunities?

Tees Expo returns this month for its Autumn edition, expected to bring together more than 500 business leaders and industry professionals from across the region.

With over 70 exhibitors, inspiring speakers and dedicated networking opportunities, the event provides the perfect platform to showcase your business.

Book your free delegate place by using the link below.

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[Business Engagement Team privacy notice](#)



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