



# BIGGLESWADE BUSINESS FORUM

**7TH OCTOBER 2024**  
9:30 AM - 13:00 PM

**ORCHARD COMMUNITY  
CENTRE, BIGGLESWADE,  
SG18 8SZ**

## FORUM OBJECTIVES:

For all delegates to understand:

- Understand the current business, locally & the bigger picture.
- Identify opportunities for growth & change.
- Tap into appropriate business support information sources.
- Connect with other businesses and organisations to promote the town as an excellent place to invest.

**9:30AM**

**Arrival, registration, networking, exploring  
information boards**

**10:00AM**

**Welcome, domestics, "Why are we here?"  
(Town Mayor)**

**10:15AM**

**Business in Biggleswade  
(TCM Chairman & Deputy Chairman)**

**10:30AM**

**Business in Bedfordshire including UKSPF  
(CBC Head of Business)**

**11:00AM**

**Break and networking**



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**11:15AM**

## **Panel Discussion**

- How is the UKSPF helping business?
- Which other business focused funds & grants are emerging?
- What scope is there for business apprenticeships & career paths?

**11:45AM**

## **Panel Discussion**

Delegate questions & answers.

**12:00PM**

## **World Café**

Session for delegates to discuss the three questions. Delegates visit each table (up to 10 minutes) talking to business envoys and other delegates.

**12:50PM**

## **World Café**

Each table feedback.

**13:00PM**

## **Emerging Actions & Close** (Town Mayor)

### **INVITED PANELISTS:**

- Biggleswade Town Council
- CBC Business Team
- South East Midlands Growth Hub (SEMGH)
- Universities



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## WORLD CAFE - STEP BY STEP

### **SETTING:**

Create the right environment, most often modelled after a café, where people feel invited to contribute i.e. small round tables. There should be 3-6 chairs at each table. Small group sizes are essential.



### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:**

Explaining the process, setting the context, explaining the etiquette and putting participants at ease.



### **SMALL GROUP ROUNDS:**

The process begins with the first of three rounds of conversation. At the end of the twenty minutes, each member of the group moves to a different new table. Only the table host stays to welcome the next group and briefly fills them in on what happened in the previous round.



### **QUESTIONS:**

Each round is prefaced with a question designed for the specific context and desired purpose of the session. The same questions can be used for more than one round, or they can build on the previous questions.



### **HARVEST / FEEDBACK:**

In the final plenary session, individuals are invited to share their thoughts with the rest of the large group and these are recorded, usually on a flipchart.

Bringing together and sharing ideas at the end of the World Café process links individual contributions and themes to inform a broader perspective and develop possibilities for collective action.