

MP hears about crowdfunding campaign

A LLANHILLETH-based firm has launched a crowdfunding appeal to help finance a new product which can be both composted, and recycled.

And Blaenau Gwent MP Nick Smith paid a visit to The Pure Option, which won the Environmental Business of the Year Award at last year's South Wales Argus Business Awards, to hear about the crowdfunding campaign.

Mr Smith spoke with Charles and Deb Richardson about their idea to create a one-size fits all solution to disposing of 'plastic' cups.

Mr Smith said: "Compostable items are great in that, even if they are not disposed of correctly, they deteriorate in a way which is good for the environment.

"While compostable cutlery and cups are widely available,



Deb and Charles Richardson at The Pure Option, Llanhilleth with Nick Smith MP

my understanding is that most local authorities do not allow these items to be placed among food waste because of the type of material used. And neither, currently, can they be recycled.

"Finding a way to make items both compostable and

recyclable is a great idea and a smart solution to preventing unnecessary waste.

"I think pioneering projects like this are worth supporting as we head into a future where green industries will be crucial and where protecting our planet becomes absolutely essential."

Mr Smith has also written to secretary of state for the environment Theresa Villiers to ask for details on what the government is doing to promote and encourage wider use of compostable cups and other utensils by the food processing industry and what support it is providing to fund research and development into the production of compostable cups.

For details on The Pure Option's campaign visit: crowdfunder.co.uk/create-a-hot-cup-that-is-recyclable-compostable



Simon Williams, of Storage Giant

Third award win of year for self-store specialist established during the recession

A company which started life as a single unit concern in Newport, at the onset of the recession, and is now a multi-million turnover business, has won its third award of 2019.

Self-storage expert, Storage Giant, has been recognised as the Best Domestic Storage Provider 2019 South Wales, in the Build Real Estate and Property Awards.

Storage Giant's self-storage empire was established by entrepreneur Simon Williams in 2007, and it now has nine operating sites across England and Wales, with a further seven sites in its active pipeline.

Storage Giant expects to have 20 store locations secured before the end of 2019.

Simon said: "I'm very pleased to see Storage Giant recognised in the Build Real Estate and Property Awards, hot on the heels of two international award wins earlier this year, from Acquisitions International.

"Storage Giant is going through a very exciting period of growth, mostly through development of its own stores, but also sometimes via carefully selected acquisitions. We have acquired various self-storage businesses over the last few years, but we much prefer to develop our own stores, as we learn so much from each one we develop.

"The Storage Giant Story is one of steady, managed growth and it offers, I feel, a lesson for entrepreneurs not to be discouraged from following their instincts during times of uncertainty."

Rent-a-day office space now offered at estate

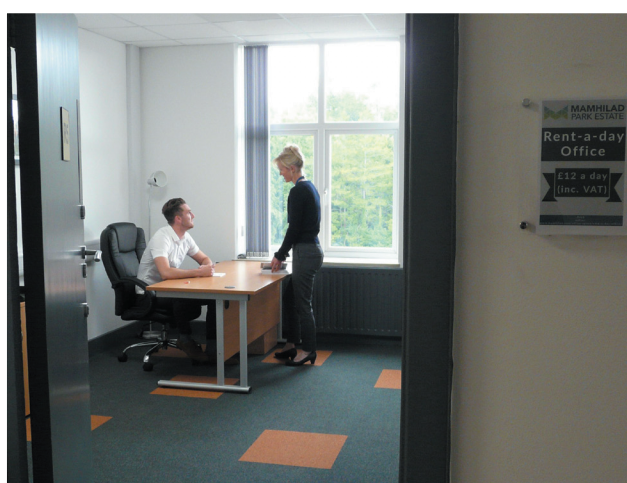
A Torfaen business park is offering offices to rent on a day-to-day basis.

Mamhilad Park Estate, which is owned by Pontypool-based Johnsey Estates, has launched a rent-a-day scheme at its modern office complex aimed at giving new businesses and more established concerns total flexibility.

Manager Gemma Johnsey-Plumley, of Mamhilad Park Estate, said: "We know we have a fantastic product here at Mamhilad Park Estate from the feedback we have from existing occupiers. We now want to spread our net as wide as possible to introduce more people, in particular start ups, to what we have to offer.

"Those who are just establishing their businesses can take advantage of the rent-a-day office accommodation. The idea is that we are encouraging new businesses to take that step away from their spare room 'office' and dip their toe in the water of having an office away from home.

"The businesses looking to use an office on an ad hoc



ADAPTABLE SPACE: Mamhilad Park Estate, in Pontypool, has launched a rent-a-day scheme and is also marketing recently released, high-spec, refurbished office space. Pictured are Mamhilad Park Estate manager Gemma Johnsey-Plumley and marketing executive Sam Williams. Picture: DBPR

basis are able to experience having a modern, well-equipped, comfortable office environment on a park which has all the benefits expected from a modern business park.

"There is free parking, wi-fi and on-site facilities such as a crèche, restaurant and gym all in a gorgeous parkland setting.

"We believe the rent-a-day office, which can be booked

online on our website, will be attractive to a number of users from new businesses through to more established firms who may need a base in the area on a regular or irregular basis. We believe that there is a latent demand locally for this kind of extremely flexible office provision."

The business park is also creating more office space due to high demand.