



From left, Geoffrey Bolland; Professor Steve West CBE, Vice-Chancellor, President and Chief Executive Officer; Sacha Romanovitch, CEO, Grant Thornton; Chris Joy, Chairman, ACCA; Donna Whitehead, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean; Dave Martin, Call of the Brave; Professor Nicholas O'Regan, Associate Dean (Research & Innovation)

Supermarket giant aims to build new store

A town in Somerset could soon have a new Lidl store after plans were submitted by the German supermarket giant.

The company has put forward plans to demolish existing industrial units on Tapstone Road in Chard to make room for a new store and 114 car parking spaces.

The buildings were originally part of the Brecknell Willis site, but are now deemed surplus to requirement following the creation of a new factory unit.

If the plans are approved by South Somerset District Council, the chain's existing store on Boden Street will close.

The site for the proposed development lies to the west of Tapstone Road, just south of the roundabout with the A30 to Crewkerne and opposite the entrance to the Tesco supermarket and petrol station.

Access for the new store would be off Tapstone Road, instead of the current access from East Street.

The overall site which is being marked for redeveloped takes up 3.2 acres (1.27 hectares). The Lidl store will have a total footprint of 1,325 square metres – 2.37 acres (0.95 hectares) when the car parking is taken into account, which leaves 0.8 acres (0.33 hectares) for Brecknell Willis employees.

There would be 114 car parking spaces on the Lidl site, along with ten cycle spaces, seven disabled parking spaces and a further six spaces for parent-and-child parking.

It is estimated that the new store could create the equivalent of 40 full-time jobs.

Shortlist of happiest firms

The Bristol companies with the best working environments have been shortlisted for a workplace happiness award.

The nine businesses have been recognised for their approach to wellbeing and nurturing the happiness of employees.

The Workplace Happiness Award 2017, which is being organised by Bristol-based design consultancy Wylde IA, is now in its third year.

Maxine Bennett, director of Wylde IA, said: "This year has been the best yet."

"We've had a fantastic selection of different organisations enter our competition to find the happiest workplace in the South West."

"One thing they all have in common though is a genuine interest in the happiness and wellbeing of their staff and a desire to create the best working environment possible."

The companies that have been shortlisted include: Triodos Bank, Signature Recruitment, Heat Recruitment, Ghyston, Signs & That, PES, Shiner, Springfield Papers, ISL Recruitment.

The winner will be announced at a ceremony today.

How to create the 'new normal'

BY BUSINESS REPORTER
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The challenge of leadership in the world today is to move from self-interest to shared purpose, forging a new mindset that empowers communities and takes the long-term vision.

Sacha Romanovitch, CEO of the international accountancy firm Grant Thornton, told an audience in Bristol that rather than operating on an adversarial and hierarchical system designed centuries ago by "white privileged man", world leadership needed a fundamental change – a new normal.

She argued that the system today is founded on a short-term view, based around short-term financial results and electoral cycles. "We're into this world where we have a single measure of whether an economy is being successful is in terms of GDP, and yet we know that is really not a good measure at all."

Ms Romanovitch was delivering the annual Bolland Lecture at the University of the West of England as part of its Distinguished Lecture Series, and examined how leadership needs to change and how individuals can be empowered to play their part.

In her talk entitled "Shaping

a vibrant economy where no one is left behind – how we create the new normal", Ms Romanovitch said: "If we move from self-interest, from competition, from hierarchy,

'We have all borrowed the future from our children'

Sacha Romanovitch

there is a much better way that we can solve the problems of the world today."

She maintained that success was about unlocking the po-

tential of individuals and organisations to create a common purpose and connection – a new normal.

Grant Thornton is already putting this into practice, she said, by looking at how each individual in an international company can help shape a vibrant economy. In Bristol this has been demonstrated in its Live Lab enterprise, linking business to educators to develop talent for the future, and nationally in its 100 Faces of Vibrant Economy, celebrating new and inspiring innovators.

It was about inspiring people to step forward with their small ideas, so they will

go on to trust you with their big ideas.

She continued: "It's about thinking beyond just us to really thinking about how we include the voices that aren't in the room, and how do we inspire people to believe that they have power that is just waiting to be liberated."

She added: "We want to pass on something we will be proud of. We have all borrowed the future from our children."

"We need to adopt a new mindset and create a new normal."

The next speaker in UWE's Distinguished Address Series is Juliet Davenport, CEO of Good Energy, on October 25.

Former addict tells fundraisers how Prince's Trust helped him

Business leaders across the West raised £160,000 for The Prince's Trust at one of the charity's biggest regional events.

The money raised at the annual Red Dinner, which took place at Ashton Gate stadium in Bristol, will help unemployed and disadvantaged young people in the South West find employment or embark on training or education.

More than 460 business people from across the region attended the event, which was hosted by impressionist Jon Culshaw and saw actor and

singer Jason Donovan perform.

Entrepreneur Simon Hyett, 28, gave a speech about how the charity has helped him.

He said: "I had a difficult childhood, was repeatedly abused and as a consequence struggled with self-harm and drug addiction."

"Taking part in The Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme really was a turning point for me. I took part in the programme to explore starting my own business around my passion – snakes."

"The Prince's Trust gave me the skills and information re-



Actor and singer Jason Donovan performing at the Red Dinner

quired to start a business, and more importantly showed me that my life is worth more than I believed. This was the light at the end of the tunnel."

"Today I am free of addiction, my business is growing and I am volunteering as a Prince's Trust Young Ambassador, to help support more young people the way I have been."

The Red Dinner, which was sponsored by companies Superdry and LG Vestra, has raised more than £580,000 since its inauguration.

Euan Sutherland, chief executive of Superdry, said: "A

particular highlight of the evening for all of us at Superdry was hearing from the people the charity has helped."

"It's only when you hear the stories of their lives and what they have had to endure that you realise the impact the trust has at a grassroots level."

Andrew Davies, head of LG Vestra's Bristol office, said: "We understand well the power of investment and there is none so powerful as when it is placed in people – particularly young people who have not had the best start to their lives."