



PRESS RELEASE

FOOD AND DRINK FORUM ANNOUNCE NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM FOR THE FOOD WORKS^{SW} INNOVATION CENTRE

The Food Works^{SW} has announced the first 2 appointments to be based at the brand-new food and drink innovation centre due to open in Weston-super-Mare next month.

The site, on the Junction 21 Enterprise Area, was commissioned by North Somerset Council and is part of a multi-million pound development to create an enterprise zone for food manufacturers and agri-food businesses in the South West.

Senior Technical and Site Manager, David Nute, is the first member of staff to join The Food Works^{SW} team, followed by New Product Development and Innovation Manager, Zoe Plant.

David's wealth of knowledge has been gained from over 40 years of working within the food and drink industry. Starting from a small family bakery, David became the youngest Baking Manager at a major retailer's in-store bakery before working as Technical Services Manager for Allied Bakeries in 2008. David is now in a great position to offer his expert support and advice to upcoming food and drink businesses in the South West.

"I'm excited to be a part of this innovative concept, The Food Works^{SW}. My aspirations for the centre are to develop and support businesses in the South West to play a key role in supporting the sustained economic growth for both the businesses and the surrounding area."

The Food Works^{SW} will be supplying a range of facilities and services to businesses across the South West including food grade units and development kitchens and aims to become a vibrant centre of excellence for the food and drink industry.

Zoe Plant has also joined as New Product Development and Innovation Manager having worked within the industry for the past 22 years which included nine years in Product Development and 13 years as a chef rising up through the ranks from Commis to Sous Chef.

Zoe has created products for M&S and Sainsbury's ranges and has worked with famous faces such as Gordan Ramsey and Angela Hartnett and impressively, highly prestigious customers, the Queen and Prince Charles.

"I'm really looking forward to working with The Food Works^{SW} team to help food and drink businesses in the region with their new

products, ideas and questions. Having worked with many different food and drink businesses of all sizes throughout my career, I'm excited to help startups and scaling businesses to take their next steps."

As the first members of staff to be working at the Weston-super-Mare site, David and Zoe will be available for technical, new product development, training and innovation support to food and drink businesses both at the site and around the South West, with further support services to be developed alongside the launch of the food park.

The first phase of 12 purpose-built food-grade units, which are between 1,000 and 1,500 square foot, and four state-of-the-art development kitchens at The Food Works^{SW} will be available to lease from April.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Image

The Food Works^{SW} has appointed David Nute as Senior Technical and Site Manager [left] and Zoe Plant [right] as New Product Development and Innovation Manager at the Weston-super-Mare site due to open this Spring.

For more information please call Bryony Whiley on 0115 975 8810.

The Food Works^{SW} will be a vibrant new centre of excellence for nurturing local food and drink businesses, with state-of-the-art facilities, specialist food technical and business support, and expert advice. Connecting local producers to collaborate, innovate, identify new markets and create jobs within the sector.

Commissioned by North Somerset Council, The Food Works^{SW}, due to open in March 2020 will be a dynamic food and drink innovation centre offering food grade businesses, product development kitchens and a business engagement centre which will offer meeting and conference facilities.

The Food Works^{SW} site is funded by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership through the Local Growth Fund, administered by the West of England Combined Authority.

See website: www.foodworks-sw.co.uk

The Food and Drink Forum, based at Southglade Food Park, Nottingham, and Leicester Food Park has members across the UK, including manufacturers, food service operators, consultants and businesses providing services to the food and drink sector.

Its aims include championing the food and drink sector in the UK, developing strategic influencing partnerships, and acting as a centre for information and knowledge on all subjects relating to the food and drink sector.

See website: www.foodanddrinkforum.co.uk

Press release issued by Bryony Whiley, The Food and Drink Forum Ltd

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