



Q&A with **DAVID VANDERHOOK**

The Con Club/
Altrincham Business Task Force



Tell us a little bit about your business?

The Con Club is a relatively new business to Altrincham having opened in November 2016. The business has had a great deal of success from the outset. We are located on Greenwood Street opposite the almost now world-famous Altrincham Market Hall.

What are you doing to keep Gran T's at the forefront of the community's mind during lockdown?

So, the Con Club is Closed but we have been doing a little bit of social media to keep us in people's minds. All of our staff are on Furlough but that still allows them to do some charitable work, so we have been cooking for the NHS night shift twice a week. Deliveries and funding are being facilitated through the Altrincham Muslim Association

We also started a little Pan Asian and Sushi concept (Unagi) 6 weeks ago opposite New Market Square in a Silver Bullet kitted out with all the required equipment. The concept started out very well but since every restaurant has had to close the business has taken off with Deliveroo. We were able to keep all the chefs from Unagi working full-time as well so not burdening the taxpayer unnecessarily.

Can you share what help you've applied for in terms of grants and funding?

The Con Club's rateable value is too high to be eligible for any grants, but we are in conversation with Trafford Council. We have also applied for a business loan from our Bankers Santander. This is in the pipeline, but I suspect may be some way off being granted due to the sheer volume of applications being submitted.

Where are you up to with putting plans in place for our High Street reopening when it's safe to do so.

We will be doing a soft opening to start with depending on government restrictions.

How can other business owners contact you, if they want to know a bit more about what you've been doing?

I am very happy to talk to anyone who needs some of my 'limited' advice.

David@limeuk.com or 07989439180



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The Con Club

David@limeuk.com

