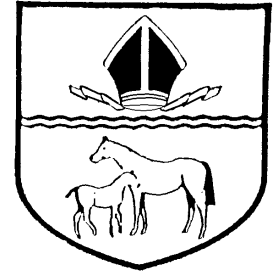


# East Cambridgeshire District Council



Ref: 178/08  
Author: Tony Taylorson  
Date: 21/11/08

## Press Release

### YOUNG MUMS WIN EAST CAMBS DRAGON DEN

A not-for-profit organisation ran by young mums providing healthy eating cookery classes to hard to reach groups has won a rent-free office in East Cambridgeshire.

'Mums about food' beat off stiff competition in a 'Dragons Den' style contest to win three months free office space at e-space north, the business centre owned and managed by East Cambridgeshire District Council.

Emma Furness, one of the founders of the firm, had to pitch to four 'Dragons' and explain why her business, which gives healthy cooking lessons to young parents, toddlers, and local schools, needed the office to expand her business.

In a gripping finale, the Dragons\* were left with a head to head between Mums about food and another local company, Camfargo European Limited which provide courier services throughout the UK.

In the end the Dragons felt 'Mums about food' would gain more from the free office space.

Councillor Ron Bradney, Economic Champion at East Cambridgeshire District Council, said: "It really was a dramatic finish to our three month search to find a company that would most benefit from getting a rent free office. I was very impressed by the standard of the business pitches from the short listed companies and how they stood up to the scrutiny from the Dragons.

"We all know the difficult economic conditions which face small businesses at the moment which is why the Council were so keen to run this competition and use the e-space centre as it is so flexible in helping start ups to succeed. I am really excited by the prospect of having Mums for food in our business centre and I hope it helps them grow and prosper in the future.

Emma Furness said: "Winning this competition is going to make a huge difference to Mums about food. It will allow us to plan more, help us to be more organised and ultimately allow our business to grow. I can't wait to get started as I know this opportunity is going to help us to grow and grow. I am so excited to say I have got an office!"

\* The Dragons are: Debbie Davies, editor of the Ely Standard; Stephen Alton, Local Business Manager of the Ely branch of Barclays Bank; Roger Hetherington, Local Advisor Manager, Business Link East; Gary Hartwig, Managing Director of Packwell D & S Limited based in Chettisham.

For further information on e-space contact 01353 865 300 or visit [www.espaceely.com](http://www.espaceely.com).

## **ENDS**

Notes for editors:

For further information contact Tony Taylorson in the Press and Public Relations Office on 01223 688285 who can supply photos of the event and contact details for Mums about food.

The e-space business competition is supported by Business Link East, Ely Standard, Barclays Bank and Pooley, Bendall and Watson solicitors.

### **e-space north**

e-space north is a friendly, open business centre in a pleasant rural setting. The building based in Littleport provides relaxed informal meeting areas, green spaces and on-site catering. The centre offers a cost-effective and supportive business environment for small and growing businesses.

e-space North has 34 serviced offices ranging from 150 to 650 sq ft. All units offer flexible easy in, easy out terms with one-month rolling contracts.

To learn more about the e-space business centres visit [www.espaceely.com](http://www.espaceely.com)

To learn more about e-space north visit [www.espaceely.com/north/home](http://www.espaceely.com/north/home)