

# Minority group aims to 'break down barriers'

A NEW not-for-profit company has been set up to manage the affairs of the Minority Business Network, which was set up more than a decade ago to support and represent ethnic minority businesses throughout Hertfordshire.

The MBN is a nationally recognised, voluntarily managed organisation with almost 600 members, which was previously funded by Business Link Hertfordshire as part of the Phoenix Share & Succeed project.

The newly formed Ethnic Minority Business Group (EMBG) will continue the MBN brand and intends to launch a number of new initiatives, including a new quarterly newsletter, Keeping In Touch, and a new website at [www.mbn.org.uk](http://www.mbn.org.uk).

The site contains business advice, booking information for networking events and special B2B offers and deals.

The site will evolve over the coming months into what promises to be a fully interactive platform for sourcing information, accessing services and communicating with other members and partners.

Keeping In Touch is edited by Mr Alok Mitra, MD of CJM Consultants, a chartered accountancy practice, based on the Casiobury Estate in Watford.

He explained: "EMBG was formed for the benefit of the business community.

"We are acutely aware of the issues and concerns that affect us all and we now need to take the initiative to help ourselves.

"The company's objectives are to promote, advance and co-ordinate the interests of the ethnic minority business community in their trade, business or professional activities.

"The company also aims to facilitate the integration of these business into the mainstream and to carry out such activities that may be necessary or expedient in order for the company to achieve this.

"With this in mind, our aim is to attract both minor-



**Alok Mitra, editor of Keeping in Touch, the quarterly newsletter of Ethnic Minority Business Group and MD of the chartered accountancy practice, CJM Consultants.**

ity and mainstream businesses to the group so that together we can continue to break down barriers."

One of EMBG's key priorities now is to secure funding from commercial sources and public bodies while

continuing to work with bodies such as the East of England Development Agency, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Prosperity, Business Link and the Learning and Skills Council.

**1,000**  
more people  
buy the  
Watford  
Observer  
every Friday  
since it  
turned  
compact\*

\*Source: Audit Bureau  
of Circulations  
ABC Jan - Jun 2004: 19,503  
ABC Jan - Jun 2005: 20,506

