

# BID TIMES

Christmas 2015



**WELL** silly season is upon us once more folks! This year has flown by with so much happening and so many events. We finally saw an end to the Local Centre Improvements in September after much Village disruption that affected a lot of your businesses. Hopefully now though you will agree that Acocks Green is looking great, and the Christmas lights look fantastic!



The big Frozen switch-on event doubled footfall on the day leading to many tills ringing! More about next year's events as you go through my newsletter, but just to say thanks to you for your support throughout the year, and we look forward to seeing you at the events in 2016. Pictured below the BID team get to grips with special guests at the switch-on, Elsa & Anna from Frozen!



**BID2** - 2016 is a big year for the BID team as we go to renewal ballot in May/June, with businesses having the opportunity to vote, and hopefully supporting the BID for a second 5 year term 2017-2021! This will enable us to build on the great work, and Village improvements that have been achieved to date in our projects listed here;

- ★ A safe & secure Village, Storennet radios and Town Warden service
- ★ Clean, green and graffiti-free
- ★ Free business training and guidance
- ★ Numerous Village street fun days and events to increase footfall
- ★ The wonderful array of Christmas lights
- ★ The beautiful Village planting scheme, hanging baskets and support for 'Village in Bloom'
- ★ Dedicated Village website and huge and constantly growing social media following
- ★ Free Special Offers leaflet advertising for the 'Shop Local' initiative
- ★ Marketing & advertising of the Village and our events
- ★ A BID management team ready and willing to lobby on your behalf and assist you with any problems and issues

The results of the survey that we asked you to complete in September/October this year were very positive with 84 being returned to us from 174 businesses. Of those that responded the majority of you felt that the BID has done some great work in its first term, and of those 84 responses, more than 70% said they would vote Yes again for a second term BID, which is great news!

Your views and suggestions have been a great help in shaping the BID2 business plan 2017-2021, and a draft

version of that will be available by the end of January 2016. Thereafter, I will be holding group sessions in the library for you to have a look at this and discuss the content with me, and I will also be visiting you all individually to ascertain your views.

It's very important that you have your say, we want to deliver as far as possible what it is that you our businesses want for Acocks Green over the next 5 years, so please get involved!

Remember it's 'Your choice, your voice, your vote'!

**VILLAGE RADIO & SECURITY** – As a result of us being successful in securing some external Police funding for retail crime, I have managed to fund 5 more radios for the next 12 months. This means we now have 40 radios on the streets and working effectively to combat crime and anti-social behaviour on your behalf.

Your BID Town Warden John is also now working in partnership with the West Midlands Police on a new web-based crime and incident reporting and sharing system, Facewatch. The Facewatch initiative has been funded for the next 3 years by the police, and they are engaging all the 11 BIDs across Birmingham in this.



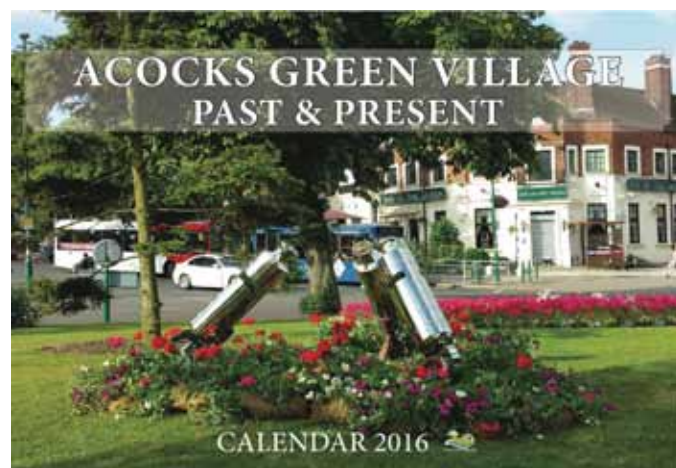
John will be visiting you in the next few weeks to demonstrate the system and to train you how to use it to report effectively and share intelligence and information.

If you would like a trial with one of the Storenet radios then email me at [agybid@gmail.com](mailto:agybid@gmail.com) or call John on the dedicated security mobile **07539 296148**.

**EVENTS 2016** - We will be holding 4 events in 2016; Easter Extravaganza, Mid-May Madness, Sizzling Summer Spectacular and the BIG Christmas Switch-on in November! Lots of opportunities for you to get involved, with entertainment, live bands, circus acts, games, stalls, Samba bands and fun all the way! Email us with your ideas and we'll pop along and see you.

#### SNIPPETS....

- ★ The Section 106 monies that we successfully applied for is starting to roll in, funding more Christmas lights, an apprentice Village cleaner, 7-day town warden cover, new and enhanced planting in 2016, 2 new Village notice boards, the removal of the large ugly electronic sign down near the canopy shops, and lots more!
- ★ The BID in Partnership with RISC Associates will be holding half-day workshops to address issues such as; victims of business crime, conflict management and physical intervention, threat & risk assessment and security strategies. Look out for an invite to the workshops during January!
- ★ Our Village Facebook is now on 2,950 likes, Twitter followers over 500! Send me your offers or anything else you want to promote to the people who follow us on social media. This is FREE advertising everyone!
- ★ New supply of the 2016 'Village Past & Present' calendars if you are interested in purchasing any of these to sell in your shops. Email [agybid@gmail.com](mailto:agybid@gmail.com) now for more details!



**On behalf of the BID team and Directors, can we wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2016!**

**Sandy Gianni, BID Manager**

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