

BID TIMES

May 2016



Acocks Green Village BID

'MAY MADNESS' is upon us with an exciting and fun street event coming up on Saturday 28th! The Circus themed May fun day is all about free entertainment to encourage even more visitors into our great shopping centre and into your stores!

Some great stuff going on to attract the crowds, we have a FREE all day Circus Skills workshop! Learn to juggle, plate spinning, ride a mini-bike or walk on stilts!

- Handle exotic animals, snakes or giant toads with the 'Animals in Hands' guys
- FUN Science experiments; the kids can make all kinds of mess and gloopy slime with 'Sublime Science'
- LIVE music with fantastic local covers band 'Revolver'
- FREE caricature artist, steel drum workshop, bouncy castle, glitter tattoos and face painting
- FREE food tasting and stalls galore

We are hoping for a great turnout, so please join in if you can and encourage people to visit your shops with some great offers for the day. We now have over 3,000 likes on Facebook, so anything you want me to promote specifically for the day itself, then just email me at agvbid@gmail.com and I'll put it on for you!

THE BID RENEWAL BALLOT is now upon us, and on Friday 20th May, you should receive your ballot paper to vote for the BID for another term. We encourage you to return your ballot papers as soon as possible, but in any case, it will need to be returned to the ERS (Electoral Reform Services) in London using the pre-paid envelope, by 5pm on Thursday 16th June to enable it to be counted!

If we are successful, then the new term (BID2) will run from January 2017 to December 2021. You have all had the business plan that you will be voting on (pictured below) but if you have lost it, or need any more, then let me know and I can drop one in to you.



It's important to note that there are now over 240 BIDs across the UK, with many more towns and cities going to ballot or to renewal this year. Businesses are now beginning to fully understand that without them investing in their own trading environments, then these commercial areas will go downhill drastically with Council and Police cuts. Shoppers will start to migrate to other centres that do have BIDs, and that are more attractive, clean, vibrant, safe and with more going on.

So it is important that you understand the impact that the BID has had on Acocks Green Village so far with £629,000 being invested in the last 5 years!

SO MUCH TO LOSE ... Your Village without the BID would mean;

- An increase once again in shop lifting, anti-social behavior, beggars and drinkers as there will be no retail radios, Facewatch or Town Wardens
- No specialised cleaning (behind shops, phone boxes, bins, and graffiti removal)
- No more free business training and guidance
- No more street events to increase footfall and showcase the Village to get your tills ringing
- No more Christmas lights display (the Council will not fund this as there is no money available)
- No Village planting, hanging baskets, or support for 'Village in Bloom' (again the Council no longer fund planting)
- No Village website or our busy social media sites
- No more marketing & advertising of the Village
- No BID management team to lobby on your behalf and assist you with any problems and issues you may have

So as you see, it's vitally important that you all Vote YES to keep the BID in place, to build on the fantastic work that has been achieved so far!

VILLAGE RADIO & SECURITY – It was with regret that we saw the departure of our second Town Warden Nigel, who unfortunately left us to take up a full time security position in another town. All is not lost however, as we are now in the final stages of the recruitment process for another Town Warden, and I will be reporting on who that lucky candidate is in my next newsletter.



Our stalwart Town Warden John is still with us however, and John has stepped up admirably to fill the gap in the

days and is currently working additional hours in the Village to try to ensure that we have cover on most days, along with our PCSOs.

If you have any problems or issues, John is available to contact on either the dedicated BID security mobile 07539 296148 or if you are a radio user on S-37.

CLEAN & GREEN IN ACOCKS GREEN – the BID cleaning team Ben and James are having their work cut out at the moment, with so much rubbish being dumped behind shops! Most of this is bulk refuse and we have no way of disposing of it, however what it does enable us to do is to segregate the rubbish and then report the large items to the Council in a hope that they can encourage the landlords of these properties to take responsibility for the removal of this unsightly mess!

We also recently engaged the services of a high-level graffiti removal company to get rid of the much larger pieces of graffiti (such as above Nationwide and Consul Sun Centre) as this brings the look of the Village down so much. The work is now complete and looks much better.

Remember that the BID team are here to assist you all, so if you do have any cleaning or graffiti problems, then give me a call on 0121 706 7581 and we'll get it scheduled in to be addressed.

SNIPPETS....

- Our Village Facebook now has a whopping 3,004 likes and Twitter followers is over 560, so keep sending in your offers or events for me to promote.
- Look out for the boards going in for the new Acocks Green Heritage Trail in the next 2 months! We will be having an official launch in July; another reason for people to visit the area, do the trail and sample the wonderful shops and services we have to offer!
- I am meeting Councillors and Engineers on site in the next week to discuss the possibility of a pedestrian refuge being installed near to Aldi. This is following a petition by businesses and customers along that stretch of road with major concerns about safety!
- And finally ... welcome to the Village to Boulevard Interiors, Friends News & Convenience Stores and Seaspray!

Sandy Gianni, BID Manager

www.acocksgreenbid.com E: sandy@acocksgreenbid.com T: 0121 706 7581