

SAFE & SECURE - The two BID Town Wardens have had an eventful year starting with the arrival of our new PC Andy Collis to strengthen 'Team Acocks Green'. Our quarterly crime forum meetings have taken place again this year with a regular group of businesses and security staff attending. This year saw the reintroduction of the shop-lifter document created by the Police and distributed throughout the traders, which often provides an early warning for those regular 'unwelcome faces' otherwise known as 'non-paying customers'!

BID Town Wardens John & CJ passed their Security Industry Association (SIA) exams this year which has given them a broader, industry-wide knowledge on how to handle people and situations. Your crime-fighting team are pictured below!



January saw us take up the offer of reduced-cost digital radios from Apex Radios and these have proved to be a significant improvement in terms of range and clarity on the former analogue ones. Early in the new year, we will be visiting the radio users to ascertain if you are up to date on how to use the radios, correct terminology and how often you sign in and interact. We have 50 of the radios connected to our Town Wardens, the Police and the CCTV Centre so it's imperative that those of you that have radios use them effectively to help us combat anti-social behaviour, shop-lifting and beggars in the Village.

And to conclude 2017 ...

As your BID Manager, I am always here to discuss any issues with, to help you with any problems with Council, business rates or levy issues, you only have to drop me an email and I'll help in any way I can.

This year I have managed to bring an extra £10,600 into the BID coffers from various applications for funding and community/business contributions, on top of the levy, plus the £23,000 I secured at the back end of last year from Section 106 monies. I will continue to look for ways to stretch our budget to enable us to be cleaner, safer and have more going on in Acocks Green. Please email me anytime on agvbid@gmail.com, for give me a call on 07415 638878 if I can assist with any issues.

My personal thanks go to the BID team of Ben (cleaning and Graffiti removal), Dan (Operations and Events), and John & CJ (Town Wardens) for all their work throughout the year and dedication to task.

The BID and what we collectively achieve would not be possible of course without you our traders, and the board of Directors who give their energy and time to help shape and guide the BID on a daily basis. Thanks to;

- Ian Jeffries, Jeffries Hardware—Chair
- Sabiha Farmer, Dazzle—Vice Chair
- Tim Brown, Costa
- Hazel Wilson, S & H Jewellers
- Ian McAuley, Hughes Fruits
- Paula Clarke, Wilko
- Tim Morgan-Fletcher, Sainsburys
- Javid Rasul, CEX
- Paul Murtagh and George Antoniou (Landlord representatives)
- Councillor John O'Shea
- Jon Morris, Community representative
- Inspector Sharon Revitt, WM Police

Have a great Christmas and here's to a prosperous 2018!

Your BID team ... making Acocks Green Village Safer, Cleaner with more going on!



BID TIMES

Christmas 2017



Acocks Green Village BID

Merry Christmas to you all, and welcome to the December 2017 issue of BID Times. We are now at the end of the first year of our 2nd term and we've had a good interactive year with you our traders. Over the next couple of pages, I'll give you an overview of our first year and what we have achieved together.

'Clean & Green in Acocks Green!' - The unwanted graffiti artists have managed to keep the BID team busy this year with around 49 pieces of graffiti being removed from walls and shutters which is almost 1 per week! Imagine what the Village would look like without the BID team working tirelessly to remove these to ensure our Village looks the best it can at all times!



We adorned the shopping centre again this year with 26 hanging baskets, 25 metre boxes on the railings and filling our 24 planters with the glorious display that led us gaining a GOLD award for Village in Bloom for the 3rd year running. Our Bloom volunteers admirably led by Fran Lee kept the community orchard and the 'Green' planting up to scratch, not to mention the community litter-picks and the recent planting of over 1,000 tulip bulbs which should ensure a great display come the Spring.

We were just a few points off winning the RHS Community Achievement Award this year, and that is the goal for 2018 along with maintaining our Gold status.

As you will remember these achievements were recognised this year when the BID managed to secure some external funding which enabled us to commission our very own tree sculpture to stand proudly on the Green (pictured below) to celebrate what we have achieved since first entering 'Britain in Bloom' in 2012.



The BID also encouraged you the traders to get involved by having free hanging baskets outside your premises that added significantly to the display. This is something we hope to build on next year.

We have recently carried out an assessment of our green and gold street furniture and intend to carry out a programme of maintenance and repainting of the benches and bollards in the Spring.

acocks-green-village-bid

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Free Business Training - Working in Partnership with Solihull College during 2017, we offered you free business training after doing an assessment of your training needs and requirements at the beginning of the year. These courses proved popular, with around 15 businesses taking advantage of these. Courses have included; Health & Safety and Risk Assessment, Food Hygiene, First Aid, Effective Team Building and Communication, and Website Creation and Social Media. We will be talking to you again in the Spring about any courses you want to look at and to encourage you to take advantage of this free BID initiative.

Promotion & Events - Promoting our businesses was a priority this year which led us to hold our first ever Acocks Green Village BID Business Awards!

This proved to be hugely popular with your customers and saw many votes being cast via our Facebook site which now has over 3,370 followers and our Twitter with 640! As I always mention in my newsletters, using the social media sites to promote your offers and stories is a fantastic way to reach thousands of people completely free of charge! Many of you do send me emails with offers to put on our pages but please get involved in this if you haven't done so already. Sharing your offers is free advertising and reaches our 3,370-strong local community, which they in turn share with their friends!

Going back to the business awards, we had lots of categories and the winners celebrated by receiving their trophies and certificates to proudly display in the stores. Winners included; Pinky Nails, Costa, Aruba Beauty, Inn on the Green and Bottle Shed, Wilko, Dorothy Perkins, Pasta Di Piazza, Icing World, Glover Priest, with the overall 'Business of the year' award going to Jeffries Hardware (pictured below with their winning stash!)



We will be holding the Business Awards again in 2018 and will be asking as many of you as possible to encourage your customers to not only vote for you, but to encourage their friends to use your stores too.

2017 saw us hold 3 street-based fun days, starting with 'Easter Unleashed' in April, followed in July by the fantastic 'Superhero Summer Special' which saw the likes of Batman, Deadpool, Captain America, Superman, Spiderman and Power Rangers descend upon the Village! This one proved very popular with the kids, along with all the free entertainment we always have that encourages people to visit and spend their money.



25th November saw our fabulous Christmas Switch-on event which was a great success. The entertainment started at 11am, and included live singers, children's entertainer Charlie Farley, the characters from kid's TV show PJ Mask, free fairground rides and games, facepainting, caricature artist and a bouncy castle/soft play area for the kids!

Our very own and unique Village mascot 'Biddy Bear' led the countdown to the switch-on at 4.30pm which was followed by a terrific firework finale! A great day was had by all and the Village was buzzing with people all day, which we hope reflected in your takings! A few photos from the day are pictured opposite.

