

BID TIMES

Autumn 2015



Acocks Green Village BID

WELCOME to the autumn 2015 issue of BID Times. Lots of things happening as we approach 'Silly Season', more apparent this week as we have just ordered the Christmas lights display for this year! See more about the big switch-on this year in the events section...

BID2 - Following a successful feasibility stage for the proposed BID2, we are now well into the planning stage and more than half of you have helped us by completing the BID survey that you recently received from us (shown below). This has been a great help in shaping your views; you're telling us what you have found useful and effective in terms of projects that the BID is delivering in its first term, what you would like to see continue into BID2 and also some new ideas going forward.



Have Your Say on the Acocks Green Village BID Projects!

The Acocks Green Business Improvement District (BID) is at the detailed planning stage for the renewal of the BID that, if successful, will run from 2017-2021. We very much value your input and opinions and therefore would like to know what improvements your business would like to see in the village which will result in more trade, improved footfall, a better business environment and other projects in which to work and enjoy Acocks Green for many years to come. This is likely to include the existing and successful BID projects that we have delivered since 2012, as well as any new ideas you may suggest. Please feel free to add your own ideas as we do value what you have to say.

Your ideas and feedback will help us to identify what the most common issues and project areas that we will include in the draft business plan for BID2, and this will be what your business will be going on in May/June 2016. Surveys have shown that local people who have pride in their area do so because of helpful staff, good value & choice, cleanliness and friendly people, events and markets, beautiful floral displays and good Christmas lights. We hope in the years that the BID has been in operation to date in Acocks Green, we have delivered these things and more by working in partnership with you the businesses.

We would be grateful if you could return the survey to us by Friday 18th September using the contact details at the end of the survey or if you call the BID office on 0121 706 7581, one of the staff will collect it.

If you would like a chat with the BID Manager, Sandy Giamis then call 0121 638 8783 to arrange a time to meet to discuss it, or email agvbid@gmail.com

For general information about the Acocks Green Village BID visit www.acocksgreenbid.com

It's very important that you have your say and tell us what you think as in May/June next year we will be asking you to vote as to whether you would like a second BID term which will run from Jan 2017-Dec 2021 if successful.

Remember your views are crucial - Your voice - Your choice - Your VOTE!

Your name: _____
Your role within the organisation: _____
Your business name: _____
Email address: _____ Tel: _____



The BID team works hard in the Village to make the place cleaner and graffiti-free, safer, increase footfall through our events, marketing, advertising and lobbying on your behalf for local improvements.

So please, if you haven't done so already, return your surveys to us as soon as possible, or give me a call; 0121 706 7581 or email agvbid@gmail.com and I'll come and collect it from you. If you want to chat about the survey, your thoughts or feelings on BID2 or anything else related, then let me know, and we can arrange a time for me to call in and see you. Remember it's 'Your choice, your voice, your vote'!

EVENTS The big 'Frozen' Festive switch-on fun day is all set for Saturday 21st November, with the switch being flicked at 4.15pm by children's favourites 'Elsa & Anna' from the film Frozen (pictured).



Lots more going on during the day with Santa's Grotto, Children's entertainer Jack Frost, demonstrations by Insanity exercise group and 8 Limbs Muay Thai, the choirs from Kimichi and Acocks Green School giving us some festive tunes, Stage 27 giving us a sneak preview of their new Panto Aladdin, free kids games and entertainment, local cover band 'Revolver' singing LIVE, and stalls and music all day!

As always, there is lots of opportunity for you our businesses to get involved on the day, email us with your ideas and we'll pop along and see you. Sainsburys have already agreed to do free food tasting, and Hazel from S & H Jewellers in Swan Trio is currently working with CEX on the content of the Acocks Green Village Christmas promotional video for 2015! So please, join in the fun and let's make it the best switch-on ever!



VILLAGE OPENING – The official opening of the new-look Village was carried out with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Councillor Tahir Ali on 23rd September. We have had 10 hard months of disruption and in a lot of cases, a severe loss of trade, and we sincerely hope now



that all the works are complete, and the Village is looking the best it ever has, that trade starts to pick up & that all our traders enjoy a prosperous Christmas, 2016 and beyond!

The new tree planting along the route is due to happen this month too, and with that comes the end of the digging and orange barriers that have been our ‘blot

on the landscape’ for so long! The Village in Bloom team also did us proud this year and it was a fantastic achievement and down to their determination and hard work, that won us GOLD at the awards ceremony in September. Thanks go to Fran Lee the coordinator and her amazing team of volunteers for making this happen (pictured is Fran receiving the award)



Thank you all once again for your patience during this time, we know how difficult it has been for you all, but let’s hope we have now turned the corner and can start to enjoy the new-look Acocks Green, and lots more people

come in to the Village to shop, eat, drink and enjoy the changes!

VILLAGE RADIO & SECURITY – The Village security radio scheme Storennet is working really well since our Town Warden John took up post 6 months ago, with all businesses engaging so well, that we are now having a further 5 radios due to demand from the businesses, that will take the numbers up to 40. This is great news as it means that people are really getting to grips with identifying anti-social and criminal behaviour and reporting it into the other users, CCTV and John and we can address this immediately.

The next Crime Forum meeting is coming up soon and we will be looking at areas of prevention when it comes to offenders, and John is meeting with the new Inspector David Keen shortly to have a look at banning orders and ASBOs, and how we can make them work to help us to keep Acocks Green safe and secure. If you need John for any security issues, radio him on **S-37**, or contact him on the dedicated security mobile **07539 296148**.

SNIPPETS....

- The Section 106 monies from the proposed Morrisons planning application has now been paid to the Council and the BID has applied for £78,000 of that money for projects and improvements to the Village (awaiting decision)
- The BID has provided the Business Rates Valuation Office with all the support information relating to claims to loss of trade during the Smart Route works. For those who have applied, this should help!
- Our Village Facebook is now on 2,850 likes, Twitter followers on almost 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!
- The NEW 2016 ‘Village Past & Present’ calendars are currently being finalised and will be available for sale before the end of October. Email agvbid@gmail.com now for more details!
- New! Acocks Green Heritage Trail to be launched in December! This will be another great reason for people to visit the Village!

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