

BID TIMES

February 2017



Acocks Green Village BID

WELCOME to the first newsletter of 2017, and our 2nd term as a BID. Acocks Green is just one of the 227 active BIDs currently in the UK (279 in total including those currently at development or ballot stage). BID's are seen very much as the way forward now for towns and cities to invest in their own trading environment with BID levies alone bringing a massive 75.5 million pounds into the UK economy. More and more places (local centres across Birmingham included) are looking to develop a BID in their areas, with 31 new BIDs coming into being in 2015-16 alone, along with 18 successful second term renewal ballots, of which Acocks Green Village was one.

We are very proud as a Village that our businesses felt that the work of the BID in the previous 5 years was reason enough to vote it in for a 2nd term, and from my team's perspective, we are dedicated to providing you with the best possible service over the next 5 years!

VILLAGE RADIO & SECURITY - As the 50 radio users will know, we now have a new digital system in place with our preferred supplier Apex Radios, who after a few teething problems with frequency issues, have provided us with a slick system, which helps us to keep our Village safe and to tackle shoplifting and anti-social behaviour issues as they arise.

For the start of our 2nd BID term, we also have a new enthusiastic Town Warden, CJ O'Neill who joined us recently to work alongside our Senior Town Warden John, to provide 6-day cover on the streets.

In fact, we have new faces all round as we welcome our new PC Andy Collis, who joins us from Kings Heath, following the departure of PCSO Amanda Conlon to

Sheldon area. Andy comes with a wealth of experience of working alongside businesses, having been the former PC patrolling Kings Heath high street.

Many of you will have met Andy and CJ already (pictured below with John), and this new formidable team have already worked well together to put a few troublesome and well-known characters out of shop lifting action already this year!



I know you will join me in welcoming the whole team to the Village. They are all radioed-up when on duty with their callsigns being John (37), CJ (14) and Andy (99), and for our non-radio users in the Village, the BID security team can be reached on 07539 296148. We will shortly be holding a training day for radio users with Apex and the BID, dates for this will be circulated in due course.

EVENTS 2017 – We are aiming to hold 3 street-based events in 2017, the first being our 'Easter Unleashed!' event on 8th April, which will incorporate the 'Acocks Green's Got Talent' competition in the afternoon. The following event being held in the Summer will have a

'Superhero' theme, and of course our brilliant Christmas Switch-on fun day will be in November as usual!

The popular covers band 'Revolver' (pictured below at one of our summer fun days) will be joining us once again to do a live set for our April event, along with a chance to have a go at Bhangra dancing, plus all the usual live music, kids entertainment, dancing, Biddy Bear, rides, games and stalls!



Please try your best to get involved and raise the profile of your own business in the process! Bring along your own table, set up a stall and bring a piece of your business to the streets for the day! For a chat about how to get involved email Dan on agvbidinfo@gmail.com or call 07494 307630.

FREE BUSINESS TRAINING – Following our renewed relationship with Solihull College, we have visited many of you recently to ascertain any requirements you may have for training and upskilling your staff. We have had lots of interest so far and the College is in the process of putting together some dates for the training and we will be contacting you shortly to sign you up for these free short courses.

If we haven't got round to seeing you yet, or since our visit there is something that you are interested in learning more about, then email me on agvbid@gmail.com and I'll see what we can do for you. Courses we are currently promoting consist of;

- Understanding Risk Assessment and Health & Safety
- Basic food Hygiene/Food Safety
- Basic First Aid & Fire Awareness
- Effective Teamwork and Communication
- Basic Website Creation, E-Commerce and Social Media

- Word, Excel, Outlook and Publisher (beginner, intermediate & advanced)
- Self-Management Skills
- Assertiveness and Conflict Management Skills
- Customer service
- Dressing a Great Shop Window

And many more ... These are just an example of what we can offer you free of charge through the BID, but if you have any other requirements or would like to discuss having an apprentice, then please let me know.

CLEANING & GRAFFITI REMOVAL – Our young Apprentice James left us this month after serving a year with the BID as part of his Facilities Management course at BMET College. We wish James all the best for the future, but not to worry, we still have our very own dedicated BID cleansing and graffiti removal operative Ben, who is back working alone to keep our Village spick & span and graffiti free! If you spot any particular problems regarding cleanliness, litter or graffiti then radio Ben on call sign 77, or ring the office on 07494 307630 to report it.

SNIPPETS....

- The 2 new traditional Village notice boards finally went in during December and are being well used to promote events and activities locally
- The new metal tree-shaped feature which will be a significant presence on the Green shortly is in the final stages of completion by local company WR & J Collins of Hall Green. Watch out for installation in March as this magnificent feature will become iconic in the Village!
- We're talking to you about a Village loyalty card, and also free hanging baskets for businesses!
- Look out for the 'Acocks Green BID Business Awards' coming later this year!
- Village Facebook now stands at 3,190 likes and Twitter followers ever on the increase, so send me your offers and stories to share with the community!