

BID TIMES

Summer 2016



Acocks Green Village BID

'AND IT'S A YES!! – The BID board of Directors are delighted to announce that following the renewal ballot in May/June that you all had the opportunity to the vote in, it was announced on Friday 16th June by the Electoral Reform Service that a second BID term has had voted in for Acocks Green Village!

The overwhelming majority of you our shopping centre businesses voted yes to a second term for your BID with a 75% majority and 82% by rateable value, from a turnout of 48% of levy payers.

The BID Chair Ian (Jeffries Hardware) said *"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those businesses that have voted and look forward to their continued support and involvement over the next five years as we move Acocks Green forward together. When putting together the business plan for the next five years we listened to what the businesses wanted, while at the same time trying to offer value for money. The yes vote clearly shows that the majority of businesses are happy with the plan and have confidence in the BID's fantastic team of staff to deliver its projects and objectives. Going forward, as per the new business plan, we will continue to build and develop the existing services – Town Wardens, Cleaning Services, Training, Marketing, Christmas Lights, Village Floral Displays, Promotions and Events – as well as develop new ones that will benefit businesses and the shopping centre"*.

From my perspective as your BID Manager, I have been leading the BID team since 2012 when the BID first started and I am dedicated to making Acocks Green an

even better place over the next 5 years, and want to personally thank you for your support so far.

As you know, I am always here to listen and try to help with any issues that you have on a day to day basis, either personally or a problem on the streets, so please feel free to drop me an email to agvbid@gmail.com or give me a call on 07415 638878 and I'll help if I can.

VILLAGE RADIO & SECURITY – Following a successful recruitment process a month or so ago, I am delighted to announcement that Maxine Steeples has joined us as



our 2nd Town Warden in the Village, alongside our existing TW John. Many of you will already know Maxine from her former role as a Police Officer in the area, and she comes to us with great professional credentials. Max has visited many of you already, but will be getting round to see as many of you as possible in the next few weeks to introduce herself.

Our BID security team is now back up to full numbers with 6 day cover from the Town Wardens and PCSO Amanda now also doing an extra day on patrol. This is great news for the Village and enables us to make the Village safer in general, but also means we can tackle the shoplifting, anti-social behaviour, beggars, street drinkers and anyone trading illegally or generally being a nuisance!

So welcome to the BID team Max! and remember everyone that if you have any problems or issues, your wardens are available to contact on either the dedicated BID security mobile 07539 296148 or if you are a radio user on S-37.

VILLAGE EVENTS – To celebrate the summer we are going for a ‘Fun in the Sun’ theme for our next street based fun day on Saturday 20th August



Special guests will be the characters of ‘PAW PATROL’ (pictured here) as this will be a great draw for our visitors and locals with children as this is one of the most popular TV shows/toy merchandise currently around.

As this is a summer theme and to increase the footfall on the day, we will also be having;

- ★ Free donkey rides, plus candy floss and ice cream!
- ★ Acocks Green’s very own Samba Band
- ★ Childrens entertainment from the ever popular Mad Dominic!

Music all day with FREE Thomas the Tank Soft Play Centre, Bouncy Castle, Facepainting and Glitter Tattoos!

Please get involved if you can and join in the fun, if you would like a stall (bring your own table please!) then just let me know and you can be part of the day with us. Give Dan a call on 0121 706 7581 for more information.

Come and join us for our

‘Fun in the Sun’

**in Acocks Green Village
on Saturday 20th August 2016!
11-4pm
(in the area near to Perios)**

Great entertainment for all!

- Meet the characters of ‘PAW PATROL!’ (12-1pm)
- **FREE** donkey rides!
- Dance along to Acocks Green Samba Band (1.15-1.35 & 2-2.20pm)
- Silly tricks, stilt walking and balloon modelling with our old chum ‘MAD DOM!’
- Party dances with BIDDY BEAR at 12.45pm
- DJ Jamie playing great music all day
- **FREE** Thomas the Tank Soft Play, Bouncy Castle, Facepainting and Glitter Tattoos!
- **PLUS** – candy floss, ice cream, refreshments and stalls galore!

‘Acocks Green ... Small Village, BIG ideas!’

acocks-green-village-bid
www.acocksgreenbid.com
[@acocksgreenbid](https://twitter.com/acocksgreenbid)

PLUS! – Another key date for your diary ... the BIG Christmas Lights Switch-on event will take place on Saturday 26th November, and back to play live for us after a 4 year break will be KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS! This amazing band are really popular and we are lucky to be able to have booked them as they draw crowds from miles around with their thousands of fans nation wide!



We will also be having tons more going on with Santa's Grotto, a life-sized snow globe for people to step into to have photographs taken, all ending after the switch-on with a firework show and confetti cannons! One not to be missed for sure! To get involved, again, give Dan a call or drop him an email on agvbid@gmail.com

VILLAGE IN BLOOM & OUR CLEANING TEAM – The Village in Bloom judging took place on 12th July, and I think we can all say that the Village looks fantastic right now with all the flowers and hanging baskets that you the traders fund via your BID levy. This coupled with the great work that the Bloom volunteers do, sets us aside from a lot of local centres when it comes to visual effect!



Pictured above with the Bloom judges, Hazel and the team at S & H Jewellers at the Swan Trio got involved as usual and created this fantastic huge flower made wholly of ribbons which was a really nice touch and added to the display.

Your BID cleaning team Ben & James worked hard up to the judging too, doubling up together with the back-vacs to rid the Village of the unsightly cigarette butts that despite the BID putting up 17 butt bins, still people seem to want to drop them where they smoke!

The judges started at the library where they enjoyed light refreshments and a presentation from Bloom Co-ordinator Fran Lee before starting out on their tour around the Village and wider area. The results of the judging will not be in until September at the Bloom presentation event, but we are hoping to retain our

fantastic Gold award that we gained last year. Watch this space in Septmeber's issue for the results!

Remember, your BID team are here to assist you all, we want a cleaner/greener Village, so if you do have any cleaning or graffiti issues that need addressing, then give me a call on 0121 706 7581 and we'll get it scheduled in to be removed as soon as possible.

ACOCKS GREEN HERITAGE TRAIL – I am delighted to announce after many months of hard work that the new Heritage Trail is now in place and tours are already planned. The trail spreads from the Village shopping centre across the wider area with 8 impressive heritage style boards, that are in keeping with our existing green/gold street furniture.

Led by Jon Morris and Mike Byrne, and assisted all the way by the BID! we managed to get £34,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to create this wonderful array of boards that depict 150 years of local history including the places and people that made the town what it is today.

The display boards themselves describe the history of Acocks Green, featuring a QR that people can scan that links directly to the History Society website which will give them more information as they stand in front of the board. Trail leaflets showing the location of the boards and online guided walks are also available and we shall be bringing some of these in to each of the businesses to have on your counters. The trail will celebrate the wonderful features, buildings and individuals of the area in days gone by.

Mike Byrne, former Village librarian and member of the Acocks Green History Society who has provided all the photographs and script for the boards hopes that this will enable many more people to get involved in the history of their town and to enjoy the photographs that the history society has gathered over the years. For more information on the history of Acocks Green, visit the website <http://aghs.jimdo.com/>

Pictured overleaf is an example of the boards, this is board one of our heritage trail, which is situated on Warwick Road near to the corner of Dolphin Lane.



From our point of view as a BID and representing you our businesses, we hope that the history trail will be another reason for people to come into Acocks Green; to enjoy the trail, learn about our history, to then complete the trail back in the Village and hopefully spend some money in our terrific shops, pubs, cafes and restaurants. We see it as a very positive thing for the area and we have high hopes that it will encourage more people to spend time and shop in the Village centre, which in turn will boost our local economy.

SNIPPETS....

- Talk about strength in numbers!! Following on from the petition by businesses and customers along the stretch of road from Icing World to E J Barbers who came to me with major concerns regarding the safety of shoppers as there was no pedestrian refuge from their side of the road to Aldi side, our Councillors took note and supported the petition. After a meeting with everyone onsite, they agreed that it was crucial to create a new crossing for the safety of shoppers and schoolchildren crossing. That is now underway and due to be completed by the end of August! Thanks to all who supported that.
- Two new Village notice boards will shortly be going up too, one either end of the Village. You will be able to contact me for anything you wish to include on/in there!
- Exciting new feature/statue is being created for the 'Green' since we lost the whistle feature back to its creator and owner Acme Whistles in Birmingham last year. The new feature, a beautiful metal tree-shaped sculpture is absolutely stunning and will

enhance the beauty of our planting, and embrace the success of our Bloom achievements. The design is under wraps for now, but watch this space for updates!

- The former Arden House office block is well underway being transformed into high-end quality apartments for professional people. The completion of these is scheduled for December this year!
- The new owners of the properties 'under the canopy' in the stretch from Wilko to Boots are keen to engage with the BID, and have already been to meet me on site to discuss the area. They are already approaching potential end-users for the current empty units and have big plans to improve the look and feel of their investment. They have also generously offered to contribute towards the Village Christmas lights display which is great news too.
- Our Village Facebook now has an impressive 3,028 likes! Please keep sending me your offers and promotions for me to feature for you to reach this massive audience!

acocks-green-village-bid 

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