

BID TIMES

January 2014



Acocks Green Village BID

WELCOME to the New Year edition of BID Times! We had a good start to the year with the BID AGM on 15th January with the attendees enjoying an overview of last year's activities, with some good things to come for 2014. You will find a few bullet points in the newsletter of the highlights of 2013.

'CLEAN & GREEN IN ACOCKS GREEN' – I am delighted to tell you all that we had a successful recruitment process in December and as a result, we have taken on Ben (pictured below), who is your new cleaning operative in the Green. Ben has lots of experience in the



area and lives locally too. Even on his first day in post, Ben got to work on the 8 pieces of unsightly graffiti that

had appeared since November when we lost the former cleaner John, and since then Ben has been trying to clear the backlog of litter that had built up on the streets.

Speaking of graffiti, as pictured in the Christmas issue, the large, ugly 'tag' has now been removed from above Betfred on Mallard Close, and in the next few weeks, this area is to be treated with anti-climb paint around the access points to the canopy, to prevent this happening again. Anti-climb paint does not dry, and therefore anyone coming into contact with it will have paint left all over their clothing. We have been working together with the Police 'Target Hardening' team on the best way to tackle re-offending, to stamp this out altogether.

Below, Ben gets to grips with painting out the graffiti that again appeared overnight in the alleyway off Warwick Road.



The Britain in Bloom volunteers have also been out in force and are already clearing up the Village at the weekends, and starting to prepare for Acocks Green's entry for 2014. Some of the freestanding planters have already been planted up for the Spring, and look great!



CRIME & SECURITY – The 3 month trial period for the BID Security Warden, Shahir, went fantastically well, with him experiencing his fair share of ‘action’ during that time! Not least of all in the first week back after the Christmas break, when a well-known criminal descended on the Village with the intention of stealing from our hardworking local traders! The offender was picked up on CCTV cameras after businesses using the retail radios alerted the CCTV centre, and Shahir followed him, monitoring the situation.

After the thief stole a television from Sainsbury’s, Shahir gave chase, and the offender was cornered by him and some other brave souls from our businesses. When the Police arrived at the scene, they found the offender’s car packed full of stolen electrical goods! This was a great ‘collar’ all round, and Sainsbury’s TV was returned to the store.



At the AGM on the 15th January, due to the success of the security warden trial, the attending businesses and BID Board Directors voted to keep the security warden on in Acocks Green. The Police were also asked for their views, and the official word was that offending had reduced during the trial period. So Shahir is back on our streets, now wearing the BID security jacket, so you can’t miss him!

If you haven’t already met Shahir (pictured above chatting with Wilko’s security guard Amin) his Retail Radio call sign is S-37 and the BID security mobile number **07539 296 148**.

FREE BUSINESS TRAINING – The latest round of free one day courses will be starting again shortly, and you will be receiving visits and flyers from us and the colleges nearer the time. In the meantime, if you have any training requirements, and you would like to talk through your options as to what is available, then email me on sandy@acocksgreenbid.com

EVENTS – The BID events sub-group is meeting late January to discuss the quarterly street events that we will be holding in 2014, so those dates will appear in the February issue of BID Times. If you have any great ideas for events themselves, or you have any suggestions for acts, singers, dancers etc at any of the events, then email us your ideas to; daniel@acocksgreenbid.com

2013 HIGHLIGHTS....

- The BID budget is being well looked after, and we are still well on target with an estimated £15,000 left in the budget to take us up to April 2014.
- 4 Street events were held in 2013, with masses of locals and visitors alike coming to the Green to enjoy the fun, music and entertainment, as well as looking round the great selection of shops we have.
- A fantastic planting display and Christmas lights show made the Village look great, which added to the beautiful look of the new street furniture that was installed last year.
- A dedicated BID cleaning operative was brought in to take care of the Village, and to ensure it is clean, litter-free and all graffiti removed as soon as it appears.
- A new BID security warden put on the streets, along with 50 retail radios to combat shop-lifting, criminal behavior and street drinkers. Great partnership working with the retailers, Police and CCTV.
- 15 businesses took advantage of the free training courses put on by the BID in partnership with the colleges, and many took advantage of the young apprentice scheme.
- 97.4% of people have paid their BID levy to date, which enables us to do all these things in the Village on your behalf, so a big thank you for that!

AND FINALLY....A warm welcome to the Village is extended to newcomers Smart Mobile, Cash Fall Amusements, Ibrahims, Thai Nail Bar, Toy & Pet Centre, Glorious Hair & Beauty and the Westley Fish Bar under new ownership.