

BID TIMES

July 2013



Acocks Green Village BID

WELCOME to the new style BID newsletter. By popular demand, we have decided to move to monthly update sheets rather than a bi-annual newsletter, to give you a more regular update of what the BID is up to on your behalf.

‘GREEN AND CLEAN IN ACOCKS GREEN’ - Probably the biggest and most exciting piece of news is



the development of the BID’s own cleaning service. John Dunphy (pictured) joins us with a wealth of experience after working for 29 years on the Refuse and Street Cleaning at the Council.

Armed with the BID cleaning machine and a high-powered ‘Back Vac’, which speeds up the picking up of cigarette butts and small litter items no end, John will be working daily on the streets, concentrating on keeping the Village looking fantastic. This will include cleaning and litter picking right up to the shop fronts and the alleyways, which are not covered by the Council’s beat sweeper.

If you are on the Storenet radio scheme, John’s radio call-sign is S-37, so if you need him, try him on that, or the BID team on S-88. Also contact the BID office by phone on **706 7581**.

Keep an eye out too for the BID branded cigarette butt bins, installed at various locations round the Village, to encourage people not to stub their nub ends out on the roads and pavements!



PUBLIC REALM – I doubt anyone has failed to notice the fantastic new bollards, new benches and re-painted lighting columns that look great! We also have some new hanging basket columns and the tree bases will all be replaced with a stone/resin base.



PLANTING – As well as the lovely hanging baskets and metre boxes on the railings that the BID commissions each year, the In Bloom volunteers, headed up admirably by Fran Lee, have been doing a fantastic job on the Green, the central



reservation and in the Memorial Garden in front of the Library on Shirley Road. Pictured overleaf is the fabulous 'Edible Orchard' which sits on the old piece of derelict land on Mallard Way. The volunteers have been busy digging over the land and making it ready for planting fruit trees, a 'jam hedge,' some herbs and wild flowers. This will give biodiversity to a busy shopping village as the volunteers are also intending to install bird boxes, which will provide an excellent addition to the bee and butterfly attracting flowers.

In Bloom judging is on Tuesday 30th July, and we urge you all to join us in our attempt to receive a **Gold** award this year by cleaning your own shop fronts on the day, and putting out your own hanging basket or planter to add to the display.

CRIME & SECURITY – The Storenet radio continues to work well in the Village, with the radio users, CCTV centre and the Police working towards the common goal of making Acocks Green a safer place. You will probably know by now that the Village is now an **alcohol free zone**, and anyone caught drinking on the streets will have their bottles or cans taken away. Signs such as this one are up in the Village to serve as a warning to the offenders.



Any business wanting to go on the waiting list to receive a FREE Storenet radio from the BID should register your interest.

Email daniel@acocksgreenbid.com and we will let you know when one becomes available.

FREE BUSINESS TRAINING – The BID continues to have a fruitful relationship with South and City and Solihull Colleges, and you will all have the opportunity to attend the FREE one day training courses that are coming up starting shortly. These include;

- **September** – First Aid, Food Hygiene, Health & Safety/Manual Handling
- **November** – Customer service, Social Media/E-Commerce and Visual Merchandising

These courses are all FREE to BID businesses, so make sure you book onto them once you receive the flyers through the post. Alternatively, just email me or Daniel or call the BID office **706 7581** and we will register your interest.

As well as the free courses, remember that if you have any staff aged 16-24 that you would like to develop free of charge, the colleges can help with that. Or would you like to find out more about receiving a potential £1,500 grant for taking on a young person? Give us a call, and we can make this happen for you!

TOWN EVENTS – The BID has put on 2 street events so far this year, with the next coming up on 21st September. The event last month went down very well with the crowds, despite the mixed weather, and the event served to increase footfall in the town.



Lots of live music and entertainment was enjoyed by those who attended, and the 'Animals in Hands' act proved a winner, especially when the 15 foot Albino snake got to grips with Councillor O'Shea!

SNIPPETS....

- Smart Route plans for the A41 through the Village due to go to full public consultation in August
- The whip-round to purchase a life-saving defibrillator for the Village was a great success, helped by staff from Dazzle and the Clip Bar dressing up as nurses for the day and bucket-shaking! Great job guys!
- Section 106 monies secured for town centre developments
- **Don't forget** we have a 2,000-strong facebook following, so send us your special offers or anything you want us to tell people! Email me sandy@acocksgreenbid.com

