
Halesowen Area Committee – 24th January 2007

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Town Centres Management

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Halesowen Area Committee on the service provided by the Town Centre Management Service in relation to Halesowen Town Centre.

Background

2. Town Centre Management supports the six priority themes of the Council Plan which are Caring, Regeneration, Environment, Safety, Learning and Quality of Service Matters and is committed to its delivery. This will be achieved by listening to what people say, responding to what local people tell us, be accountable for performance and providing value for money. The Town Centre Management service strives to meet all the council priorities through the service and support it provides to the local community.
3. The information contained in this report provides a summary of progress made by the team since the last report presented to this Area Committee on the 22nd November 2006

Town Centre Infrastructure

Relaying of Sewer on High Street

4. Severn Trent have informed the Council that the sewer running between High Street (Queensway) and Birmingham Road is in need of replacement. They propose to commence relaying the sewer towards the end of February 2007. The sewer which is approx 1.3m deep will be re-laid by using hand digging methods. This is to keep any disruption to a minimum, allowing pedestrian access to the town, keeping access open to all High Street businesses. This work will take approximately three to four weeks.

Purchase and Installation of bench in Peckingham Street

5. At the last Halesowen Area Committee approval was given for a grant from the Delegated Capital Budget for the purchase and installation of a bench to be sited at the top of Peckingham Street. The Bench and installation kit has been ordered and is expected to be installed in February 2007.

The Repainting by RAF Trainees of the Queensway Centre for the Elderly.

6. Town Centre Management working with the RAF arranged for painting and repair work to be carried out at the Queensway Centre for the Elderly. Paint and materials were purchased with the support of a grant from the Delegated Capital Budget. The work was carried out by 22 RAF trainees led by Flight Sergeant John Grundy and Corporal Jeff Willis on Saturday 11th November 2006. In addition to repainting the ground floor kitchen, lounge, toilets and reception as originally requested, the team of young trainees also painted the upstairs lounge and external doors to the property.
7. By way of expressing the Centre's gratitude to the Area Committee and the RAF Elsie Maybury (Centre Co-ordinator) invited Deputy Mayor, Councillor David Stanley, on behalf of The Mayor for Dudley, Councillor John Woodall, Councillor Harold Jackson MBE, Flight Sergeant Grundy, Corporal Jeff Willis and RAF trainees to visit the Centre on Friday 15th December 2006 for afternoon tea.

Christmas Lights Switch On 18th November 2006

8. Halesowen Chamber of Trade held Halesowen Town Centre's annual "Christmas lights" event on Saturday 18th November 2006. A fun fair took place throughout the day. Entertainment was hosted by BRMB's radio presenter Tammy Gooding. Halesowen Chamber of Trade members handed out mince pies and chocolates to shoppers. The Australian celebrity actor Patrick Harvey (who portrays Conner in 'Neighbours ') entertained the crowd. Patrick Harvey and Doug Stenson, Managing Director of Sandvik Ltd the day's main sponsor then switched on the town's new Christmas lights. This was accompanied by two confetti canons firing and creating a very seasonal blizzard effect enjoyed by all.

Accord Barbershop Quartet 2nd December 2006

9. Town Centre Management booked the Accord Barbershop Quartet to entertain both Halesowen's retailers and shoppers. Unusually instead of having the Quartet static in Somers Square the singers visited retailers singing both to them and their customers. They were well received by one and all.

Sandvik Tree Christmas Lights Switch On 4th December 2006

10. Traditionally, Sandvik Ltd has provided a Christmas tree for Halesowen town centre. A celebration carol concert with the Mayor of Dudley as Sandvik Ltd's guest honour has then taken place to switch on the tree's lights. In 2004 Sandvik supported the purchase and installation of a permanent tree in Halesowen. By way of reaffirming its close ties with Halesowen, Sandvik Ltd has requested that the annual ceremony continues to place. This year Deputy Mayor, Councillor David Stanley attended the carol concert on behalf of The Mayor for Dudley. The carol concert in Somers Square had approximately 100 local school children singing (including children from Leasowes Community College) and was accompanied by a brass band. Town Centre Management handed out mince pies and chocolates to dignitaries, parents, children and spectators. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor David Stanley and Doug Stenson, Managing Director for

Sandvik Ltd thanked the teachers and children for their marvellous carols and wished everyone a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Finance

11. The activities discussed in this report are delivered from existing budgets.

Law

12. The promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of an area is supported by Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Equality Impact

13. A primary role of the Town Centre Management Service is to encourage inclusivity amongst all sectors of the community, including the needs of children and young people.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that the contents of this report are noted and that reports are provided at future meetings on the activities of the Town Centre Development Service.

Bernard Meade

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List of Background Papers

None