

Halesowen Area Committee – 22nd November 2006

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 12th September 2006.

Town Centre Infrastructure

4. Further to the pollarding of trees in Peckingham Street (involving the removal of branches to allow healthier branches to develop), the Council's Green Care service has now removed cages from the trees in the town centre. This has had to take place as it was found that certain trees had outgrown and were being damaged by their cages.
5. Repainting of town centre lamp posts continues to take place in the town centre.

Christmas Lights Switch On 18th November 2006

6. At the date of preparation of this report, Halesowen Chamber of Trade is due to hold Halesowen Town Centre's annual "Christmas lights" event on Saturday 18th November 2006. A fun fair has been arranged for the day, hosted by BRMB's radio presenter Tammy Gooding with Halesowen Chamber of Trade members handing out mince pies and chocolates to shoppers. The Australian celebrity actor Patrick Harvey (who portrays Conner in 'Neighbours') is booked to entertain the crowd and switch on the town's new Christmas lights. A verbal update will be given at the Committee on this event

Sandvik Tree Christmas Lights Switch On 4th December 2006

7. This is an annual event with representatives from Sandvik UK who have sponsored the permanent Christmas tree inviting the Mayor of Dudley to switch on the town tree lights. The event is expected to have approximately 100 local school children (including children from Leasowes Community College) singing Christmas carols accompanied by a school brass band in Somers Square. Town Centre Management will hand out mince pies to dignitaries, parents, children and spectators, followed by the Mayor switching on the tree's lights on.

Halesowen in Bloom

8. Halesowen Chamber of Trade and the Halesowen in Bloom Committee wish to express their gratitude to Sandvik UK for their support for the launch of Halesowen in Bloom this year and their kind offer for further support in 2007. The pagoda planters have now been removed and will be returned in the spring. The quartile planters fitted on the pillars have now been planted for the winter season. Town Centre Management are now in discussion with other prospective sponsors for further planting schemes to be added in 2007.

Finance

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

Law

10. 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

11. 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

12. 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.



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List of Background Papers

None