

Newcastle Town Centre Partnership / Business Improvement District **Update March 2016**

Town Centre Partnership Closure

As reported at the December Scrutiny the decision has been made to cease the Town Centre Partnership as it was agreed that this would duplicate and waste resources now the BID is operational. The footfall counter is now being transferred to the BID and the final accounts of the TCP will be produced over the forthcoming months.

BID progress

- The BID has been operational since 1st October 2015, the team have moved to their new offices: Office 14 & 15, 31 Ironmarket, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 1RP. Telephone: 01782 922712.
- The BID has aligned its financial years to the traditional March to April.
- As of 3rd March the outstanding BID levy payments were £29,208 equating to 19% of levy due. Discussions with the BID advisor say that this is in line with what would be expected. The BID Board has made a decision to chase payments once the new levy invoices are due in April, this is based on the low individual charges compared to the costs of seeking court action.

Christmas Lights

- The Council are preparing to enter into a contract with the BID for the delivery of the 2016 Christmas Lights. This will enable the BID to enhance the lights which they purchased in 2015. The BID is also discussing purchasing additional lights utilising some of the levy funding as businesses see this as an important project to support the key retail period.

Events

11th - 20 th March	Gandeyes Circus*
25 March 12pm	Good Friday service - market cross, & Easter Egg Hunt*
26 March 11.30am	Sentinel Cross - comes through town *
Easter hols	Free family pottery workshop in town - St Giles *
Easter hols	Family Fairground on Goose St car park*
16th April	The Lord Mayor's Town Crier Championship*
8th April	Newcastle in Bloom Launch activity*
29th April - 2nd May	The Lymelight Festival
28th - 30th May	Jazz & Blues Festival
12th June	The Big Lunch (Queen's gardens)*
25th June	The Homecoming (modern circus-performance event pending Arts Council funding)

* These events are led by another organisation and are supported by the BID

Town centre vacancy rate

The vacancy rate as at December 2015 was 10.7%, this is a reduction on the September rate of 13.8%.

Footfall figures - Jan 2016 with comparatives												
Weekly PFM Count Summary - Commencing Sun 10 Jan 2016												
Location No	Location	Sun 10-Jan	Mon 11-Jan	Tue 12-Jan	Wed 13-Jan	Thu 14-Jan	Fri 15-Jan	Sat 16-Jan	Weekly Total	% diff to prev year		
783	Newcastle-u	2,363	5,370	3,966	5,223	4,685	5,747	7,216	34,570	14.65		
compared to same week in 2015:												
Weekly PFM Count Summary - Commencing Sun 11 Jan 2015												
Location No	Location	Sun 11-Jan	Mon 12-Jan	Tue 13-Jan	Wed 14-Jan	Thu 15-Jan	Fri 16-Jan	Sat 17-Jan	Weekly Total			
783	Newcastle-u	1,426	3,948	5,359	5,178	4,665	2,533	7,044	30,153			
compared to same week in 2015:												
Weekly PFM Count Summary - Commencing Sun 17 Jan 2016												
Location No	Location	Sun 17-Jan	Mon 18-Jan	Tue 19-Jan	Wed 20-Jan	Thu 21-Jan	Fri 22-Jan	Sat 23-Jan	Weekly Total	% diff to prev year		
783	Newcastle-u	1,859	5,358	5,175	5,419	5,179	6,400	8,006	37,396	8.74		
compared to same week in 2015:												
Weekly PFM Count Summary - Commencing Sun 18 Jan 2015												
Location No	Location	Sun 18-Jan	Mon 19-Jan	Tue 20-Jan	Wed 21-Jan	Thu 22-Jan	Fri 23-Jan	Sat 24-Jan	Weekly Total			
783	Newcastle-u	1,604	5,280	5,215	4,394	5,155	5,364	7,378	34,390			