



ANDOVER BID
WORKING FOR YOU

News Release

Businesses have their say about the future of Andover

Date: 17th January 2020

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over 60 local businesses had the opportunity to have their say about the future of Andover's Town Centre's ambitious rejuvenation plans. The BID had organized this opportunity on Friday 17th January for local businesses to attend an early morning forum and to hear from the team from New Master Planning, the ideas to keep Andover ahead of other local towns and cities.



Following an up-beat and lively presentation starting at 8am in the Guildhall, businesses were able to see hear the presentation and to ask the questions that mattered to them and to give their views about the future of the town. Cllr Phil North, leader of Test Valley Borough Council and several of his officers attended to listen to hear some of the business's ideas, also to address any concerns that businesses have. The consensus was that this is excellent news for Andover and that the future looks bright. There was a real buzz

around the room and feedback both positive and negative was noted. Proposals include the opportunity to redevelop and connect The Lights Theatre, Andover College, the new leisure centre and to provide more green spaces, cultural areas, interesting walkways river frontage areas to give greater opportunity to connect these important historic and cultural areas and for small business to become integral to the new plan. Given the attendance and feedback the meeting was a great success and was attended by many of the independent traders in the town as well as large employers, Be Wiser, Simply Health and some of the national retailers. Businesses in Andover spoke about Andover becoming a successful shopping and business area and maintaining what it already has whilst building on the strength of new ideas. Those attending the consultation were passionate about the town and there was a real buzz in the air as people became animated at the ideas and plans being proposed.

Steve Godwin the BID manager commented that *“this is a really exciting time for Andover because our High Street in line with the national picture, is changing. Footfall has declined in the last decade and 2019 was a terrible year for retail. We know that there are many reasons for this this, not least the changes in consumer behaviour, on-line shopping and out of town shopping areas. Andover has a real opportunity to re-invent the town, to build on its strengths and to rebuild the community and social life that has declined over the last decade. This is a major opportunity for all of our businesses and particularly for the future of our local independent businesses and retailers who are so valuable to the town, Making Andover Town a more diverse centre, connecting the town with the College Campus and looking at bringing in more cultural events and smaller diverse businesses and retailers is the key to our future sustainability”*.

With the help of the BID, the independent shops have formed their own group called Andover Indies and who meet on a regular basis to discuss business problems and solutions. Cllr. Phil North was invited by businesses to attend an Indies meeting and has agreed to do so in the near future to hear the views of the local independents and to look at how TVBC can help encourage more local independent businesses and footfall into the Chantry



Centre and the Town Centre in the coming months. He commented that TVBC are totally committed to the town and that since taking ownership of the Chantry Centre, service charges have reduced in that centre. Local parking charges are another step in the right direction and from April, the Spring Lane car park will offer 2-hours free parking whilst other council car parks in the town will allow two hours for £1, however businesses felt that more needs to be done in the immediate future to help them and particularly the independents currently retailing in Andover to stay in the town.

Notes to editor:

Andover Business Improvement District (BID) is an arrangement whereby businesses come together in a formal way as an ideal mechanism to form and develop a dynamic business environment to promote footfall and dwell time within the town centres. The Andover BID has a 5-year term and is funded by over 200 businesses within Andover Town Centre. The BID came into operation in April of 2019. The BID is an independent, not for profit company with a Board of directors who represent levy payers. They are responsible for the governance of the company and oversee the BID strategy with funds for investment of c£1,000,000 over five years.



For media enquiries please contact Steve Godwin at Andover Town Centre BID Limited.

For more information about Andover BID please visit www.andoverbid.org. To contact us telephone 01264 930063 or alternatively email info@andoverbid.org.uk