

## November Update from Dorking Town Partnership

### **Mayflower 400 Website**

Creators of the Mayflower 400 website would like to keep the site running and have asked Dorking Town Partnership for sponsorship at a cost of £1000. Further information is awaited before a decision will be made.

### **Artisan Market**

The market on 7<sup>th</sup> November was at full capacity. There was a steady stream of visitors throughout the day

### **Dorking Christmas Festival**

The Christmas Festival is on 28<sup>th</sup> November and will include stalls, entertainment, and a funfair. All details are on the Visit Dorking website.

### **The Business Show**

The business show was pencilled in to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022, however, following discussion with the Board this will be postponed to later in the year. This is so DTP can focus on the upcoming ballot as well as understanding what businesses would want from a business show and how best to showcase Dorking to businesses outside the area.

### **BID Ballot**

A business plan will be written for the ballot and details of what levy payers want will be sought through a survey. To ensure a good response rate Board Directors will assist in contacting levy payers so a true and rounded account of opinion is received.

### **Street Entertainment**

The street entertainment in Dorking begins on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Meeting with Surrey Police**

MVDC met with the Surrey Police Borough Commander who gave information on anti-social behaviour, County lines/drug dealing issues, intelligence work, orders on properties. The Borough Commander said the activities under-taken by police had had an impact on illegal activities in Dorking. The meeting was very positive and establishes a line of communication with the local police.

### **Free Parking Schemes in 2022**

The Board discussed whether the current Free After Three parking scheme was the best way to encourage footfall in Dorking going into 2022. It was suggested that levy payers may prefer for the first hour of parking free, however, the Board considered that this would be cost prohibitive for both the council and the BID. Feedback from some businesses suggested that the current scheme was used by visitors to Dorking and that further promotion from business could increase this further. Other options were discussed, such as increasing the

number of 30-minute bays and further enquiries are being made so all avenues are considered.

### **BID Accounts**

An overview of the BID accounts was given by Bullimores Accountants.

### **Cockerel Roundabout**

The upkeep of the cockerel roundabout is under the management of Surrey County Council, however, there have been concerns over the appearance of the roundabout and whether it is being maintained well enough as an important entrance to the town. It was discussed whether the BID could take responsibility for the maintenance of the roundabout to ensure that it remains a smart focal point. Further enquiries are being made with special consideration for the Marie Curie daffodils planted at the site.