



AUGUST 2020

YORK BID BULLETIN

After what has been an incredibly challenging few months, we are delighted to see that in York city centre a substantial number of businesses have successfully reopened their doors and activity is returning to the city streets. Life after lockdown still looks different to what we might consider 'normal', however, we are confident that our continued collective efforts will see York succeed in the long term and we will be well placed to take advantage of opportunities that may not have been apparent before COVID.

What has the BID done to support businesses?

Initially we focused on assisting businesses in accessing government funding; updating businesses as the crisis developed and signposting to the latest relevant guidance as it was released. Street Rangers re-focused operations to watch over empty premises and send daily reports to business owners. Furthermore, we helped establish an Economic Recovery group with City of York Council and other business groups, to coordinate a plan for recovery.

Since the lockdown has eased and businesses have been allowed to reopen, we have turned our efforts to more tangible projects, aimed at assisting businesses to get back on their feet.

City Hosts

York City Hosts act as ambassadors and champions for York, to welcome, guide and assist visitors to help them feel safe. The programme recognises that the more people we can provide to offer advice to locals and visitors the stronger and safer our city is going to be. The Hosts are on duty 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm, located in the city's main squares and are easily recognised by their maroon vests.



Pop-Up Outside Seating

The BID has been supporting businesses around the city with creating outside seating, to help counter reduced inside capacity. One such example is College Green near the Minster, with its tipi and picnic benches, offering the public the opportunity to stop and enjoy food and drink from local restaurants, cafes, pubs and bars in the fresh air. This family friendly space is open every day from 11am to 9pm and is attracting great public feedback.

Hand Sanitiser Stations

York BID has installed 17 hand sanitiser units across the city centre for public use. 9 are featured on large 'tower' units positioned in each of the main squares and major thoroughfares. 8 smaller units have also been fixed to lamp posts at the city's main entrance points. The sanitiser units are free to use 24 hours a day and will remain in place for as long as required according to public health advice.



Street Rangers & Rapid Response Cleaning

The Street Rangers continue to be a positive and reassuring force in the city. They patrol the city centre streets 7 days a week and are on call, ready to respond quickly to support businesses that need them. Likewise, our dedicated Rapid Response Cleaning team are operational in the city centre 7 days a week, on call to assist businesses with clearing unwanted and unsightly messes and ensuring that York streets are clean and presentable.

York BID Levy Collection

York BID issued its annual levy bills for the period of 2020-21 during April of this year (as required by legislation). The bills were issued with a 3-month payment holiday (zero remittance until 1st July 2020) out of understanding for the hardship felt by many businesses as a result of the covid-19 outbreak. All of the projects mentioned above have been achieved on a substantially reduced levy income and tight cashflow. As activity returns, we are asking that all levy paying businesses support the BID and pay their levy bills to allow continued essential investments for the city centre and subsequent planning for the future.

The BID is unable to negotiate discounts/reductions regarding the levy. This would be unfair to the many businesses that have already paid and inconsistent with guidance from BID industry bodies such as the BID Foundation and British BIDs. This guidance has also been adopted by the majority of our fellow BIDs across the North of England.

We believe that BID's have a key role to play in not only the recovery of towns and city centres post-lockdown, but also in shaping their futures.

If you have any queries or concerns about the levy, please contact the BID team on **01904 809970** or **info@theyorkbid.com**. An electronic copy of your bill can be provided if needed.

Kind regards,

Andrew Lawson,
Executive Director of York BID