

TIVVY TALK

The business newsletter of Tiverton



Welcome to the 1st edition of a quarterly newsletter aimed at businesses in Tiverton. The reason behind the newsletter is to ensure businesses of all kinds know what is happening and going on in the town. I know there are things like email, snap chat etc. and these will still be used. The newsletter is additional, as many businesses are either not on email, or they do not read all of them and there are the ones out there who still like to see the printed word.

Firstly let me introduce myself to those I have not met yet (and I do apologise I have not managed to get to you all yet, but there is a lot going on at present).



I have been involved in Town Centre and Market Management for over 20 years and developed them in Hinckley and Bosworth in Leicestershire and Nuneaton and Bedworth in Warwickshire. Since I left Nuneaton and Bedworth at the beginning of 2013 I have acted as a consultant on various issues involving markets and town centres in Kingston upon Thames, Norwich, Romford and Cheltenham and across all the towns of Warwickshire. I came to Tiverton in March 2016 to take over the management of the market and to introduce a strategy and action plan to develop it. I took on the role of Town Centre and Market Manager for Tiverton in September and have been busy preparing a strategy and action plan for the future of both.

I can easily be contacted as I am based at the market and not the council offices, so, happy for anyone to pop in and see me anytime. The telephone numbers and email address are at the end of the newsletter.

Christmas Events

Well I must say the Christmas switch-on was a great day and night and a big thank you to all those who helped make this a memorable night. The carnival parade, lantern procession, groups on the stage and not forgetting that wonderful firework display made for a great family friendly feeling across the town. All I overheard was praise. Most of the small independents stayed open as did the majority of traders on the market. There was one point where I have never seen the market so full, it was a great sight.



On Saturday 3rd December saw the Christmas 'Electric Nights' with food from around the world, a few local drinks and entertainment of a festive nature. It was good to see it back after it was awarded the Devon Life 'Food Event of the Year' award, what a great success for Tiverton against some strong competition.

The annual craft market took place on Sunday 4th again with a full market. There is another on Sunday 18th when again the market is full of stalls.

On Friday 23rd December we have a visit from Santa's reindeer to market. This is between 10am and 12midday as they have to get back to work the following day.

Can I at this point wish all businesses a very happy Christmas and make 2017 a year for going forward to success.

What Next?

I have prepared a town centre and market strategy and action plan with the final touches being put to it at present. This will be presented to the Economic PDG of the council in January and hopefully they will recommend that the council adopt it. It

covers a lot of different strands which have the aim of taking the town forward. This will only be achieved by all businesses working together for the benefit of town which in turn creates business for all. Obviously I am aware of past problems but I will stress a saying I use, that is 'learn from the past, do not live in it'. We must all learn to look to the future.

One of my recommendations is that we set up a proper Town Centre Partnership. This will consist of members of the various stake holders in the town under a properly constituted public/private partnership which can act as a steer for the way we take the town forward. It only need meet quarterly and has a membership of representatives from the various business groups, tourism groups, different sectors of business i.e., retail, property owners and estate agents, developers, banks, voluntary sector and other like stake holders. It will also have membership from the District Council, Town Council and County Council.

I will be going into the details in an open meeting some time early in the New Year. The idea does have support from several groups in the town.

This partnership will enable all to know what is happening, who is doing what and be a consultative body for future developments, changes etc.

General

If you are interested or want to know more about things or you have ideas then please do not hesitate in contacting me. We must have a 'can do' attitude and take the town forward so it returns to being a vibrant successful place to carry on business. It will not be easy but it can be done.

We have some great businesses in the town so let's get involved for everyone's benefit.

I will also be encouraging businesses to take up the 'shop front' improvement scheme, so again, do not hesitate in contacting me if you want to know more. It all helps to make a better town and encourage people to visit us.

In the New Year the Library is running 2 business courses for small businesses. These are free to library members and if you are interested then contact the library (01884244644 or email tiverton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk).

Must mention painting at beginning is one by Jo Mortimer, a local great artist.

May I, finally, again wish you all a successful and enjoyable Christmas and into 2017 with a positive attitude towards making the town a place 'to do business'. Let's have a 'can do' attitude.

Alan Ottey Town Centre and Market Manager

aottey@middevon.gov.uk 01884 243351/07815 791191

