

Town Centre Managers report – 8th January 2019

- ❖ Poetry Competition – this was launched in mid-December. 2000 A5 flyers were delivered door-to-door in the roads off Kings Heath High Street to support it. Closing date for entries is 1st February 2019.

20 finalist poems will be selected by our judge and members of the public will be able to vote for their favourite poems either online or in ballot boxes at various cafes in Kings Heath.

- ❖ Authors Book fair –It is proposed that this will place in Kings Heath Baptist Church on a Saturday afternoon in Early March 2019.

There is no other similar Authors Market, except at Literature Festivals. This market would enable Kings Heath BID to start to build contacts within the authors community, plus build an e-mail database of an audience. This could lead towards a 2020 Kings Heath Literature Festival.

- ❖ Kings Heath Businesses Helping the Homeless

The BID team have been working with beggars or rough sleepers in the BID area throughout 2018. We have ensured they are claiming their benefits and directing them to the appropriate agency. As a result, the level of begging on Kings Heath High Street was significantly down compared to December 2017. In December 2017, you were guaranteed to have 4 or 5 beggars in the BID area during the day. In complete contrast, in December 2018, it was either no beggars or one lone one.

Our Street Warden did early morning searches for rough sleepers in the BID area in the week before Christmas. He would come in at 6am and look round the back of buildings, empty car parks or alleyways. The objective of doing this was to ensure that any rough sleepers were aware of support services at All Saints Centre over the Christmas period.

The Street Warden came in five mornings looking for rough sleepers and found none.

❖ Reducing crime

December 2018 was very quiet for crime compared to December 2017. The BID team were successful in catching a shoplifter, who turned out to be wanted for armed robbery for the last 2 years.

❖ Charitable arm of Kings Heath BID

Work is ongoing to investigate the possibilities of a charitable arm to Kings Heath BID. A report is presented in the 'reserved' section of the 8th January 2019 Board meeting

❖ Kings Heath Festival of Light, November 2019

The town centre manager has been scoping out a possible Festival of Light event in November 2019. A report is presented in the 'reserved' section of the 8th January 2019 Board meeting.