

Tuesday 24th March 2009

Probation service and city work together in Angel Place clean up in trial BID project

Worcester City's Angel Place has been given a spring makeover, thanks to the West Mercia Probation Service.

The three-week trial initiative was the brainchild of Visit Worcester, CrownGate Shopping Centre and Worcester City Council who worked together to both fund and organise the scheme designed to brighten an often criticised part of the city centre.

The project was devised as a pilot to showcase the kind of practical differences that Worcester's proposed Business Improvement District (BID) – a partnership between local businesses through which they take a hands-on role in regenerating their environment with the aim of boosting trade – could make to the city centre.

Under the scheme, which ran on consecutive Sunday's throughout March, six supervised offenders worked to remove graffiti along Angel Street and Angel Place. They also painted bollards, benches and finger post signs in the vicinity.

Adrian Field, Worcester BID's project manager said, "Though consultation on the BID, businesses have said that Angel Place needs sprucing up and this small pilot scheme is a great way of showing the kinds of projects the BID can deliver in the city centre.

"It will ensure people enjoy working and visiting the city centre thus boosting the trading environment. This is just one of a number of projects that the BID levy could contribute to if the ballot is successful later this year."

Sara Atkins, Worcester 'Community Payback' manager for West Mercia Probation added, "This pilot provided the opportunity for offenders to carry out their sentence right in the heart of the local community.

"The feedback from the public and offenders has been positive and it has been great to be involved in a project which improves the local environment and which in turn could boost the local economy."

For further information relating to the Worcester BID contact Adrian Field, Worcester BID project manager on 01905 722337 or log onto www.worcesterbid.com

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Note to Editors:

Business Improvement District:

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a precisely defined geographical area of a town, city, or commercial district where ratepayers have voted to invest collectively in local improvements in addition to those delivered by local Government, not replace them. Worcester's business community is set to vote on the BID in October 2009. Please contact Adrian Field on 01905 722337 for details of the projects suggested by businesses which have been shortlisted by the BIDs Steering Group and more general information on how the scheme works.

West Mercia Probation Service

Further information can be found at www.westmerciaprobation.org.uk or for further press enquiries please contact Jackie Bell on 01527 748375 or email Jackie.Bell@west-mercia.probation.gsi.gov.uk