

# Welcome

## to Issue 3 of the Peterborough BID newsletter!

We are excited to be involved in the plans for a café culture in Peterborough and to share with you what we've been up to over the past month.

### CAFÉ CULTURE SPRINGING INTO LIFE IN PETERBOROUGH CITY CENTRE?

Peterborough Positive is excited to be involved in the first plans for a café culture in the city centre. Four concept Covid-19-safe pods and outdoor seating areas will be opened in Cathedral Square, St John's Square, Bridge Street and Westgate throughout April and May.

Plans for the European-style café culture approach have been developed over the last year by Peterborough Positive, Peterborough City Council, and a number of the city centre's businesses. Funding was secured through a successful £800,000 grant application to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

With a roadmap for the easing of the Government's lockdown restrictions in place, the pods and seating areas, along with improved lighting will deliver a café culture, offering protection from the elements and an ambient and comfortable area to sit, eat and dine in all weathers - day and night. **As an extra draw, free public access Wifi will be launched across the city centre at the same time**, thanks to CambWifi.



**Jay Wheeler**

Jay Wheeler is our "eyes and ears on the street". Prior to lockdown restrictions, Jay was going out and listening to what businesses had to say about the city. He is still leading on this, although the meetings are now either via Zoom or, if essential, held outside, socially distanced.

“The world has changed in the last year and some of the needs of the city are different, but other things like making the city a safe, welcoming environment that people will want to come to are just as important as ever. It is crucial we have a distinctive and successful business community that can trade again when restrictions are finally lifted.” says Jay.

What is your favourite bit of the city? “Without doubt, the energy of local business owners - my favourite times are (socially distanced) meetings over a coffee with business owners outside in Cathedral Square.”

## FOCUS ON... GARETH NORMAN OWNER OF BEAN AROUND CAFE

Each month we will talk to a local business owner about why they support the Peterborough BID and their hopes for the city's future. Gareth says:

“ The value of the BID for me is that local businesses have the power to influence things that affect them and the city.



One of the biggest benefits of taking up the scheme will be the small wins that can be done quickly. **Long-term, I'd like to focus on future-proofing the city centre.** Key areas to address are lighting, safety and security and organising amazing events that will create an experience in the city centre. ”



Gareth Norman, owner of city centre café Bean Around



The pod taking shape outside Bean Around

## LATEST NEWS

- + We met with Paul Bristow MP for Peterborough to introduce the proposals for the BID scheme and the MP has since sent a letter of support for Peterborough businesses to Chancellor Rishi Sunak.
- + The second edition of our newsletter was distributed across the city centre and sent digitally to our mailing list. To join the mailing list, please send an email request to [contact@peterboroughpositive.co.uk](mailto:contact@peterboroughpositive.co.uk)
- + The Peterborough Positive BID Board met to discuss our business strategy. Once this is finalised, we will be sharing it with all businesses in the city centre.
- + Peterborough Positive, Opportunity Peterborough and the City Council held a Digital City Workshop to identify appropriate and useful digital solutions that would encourage people back to the city centre and improve user experience.

## BENEFITS

## OF A BID



### SIGNPOSTING SUPPORT FOR PETERBOROUGH BUSINESSES DURING COVID-19

One of the key functions of Peterborough Positive is to signpost businesses towards up-to-date advice and support. During a difficult economic situation, we are here to help. Our website is updated regularly with the latest Covid-19 financial support available in Peterborough.

We have also created a WhatsApp group for local businesses which provides a forum for discussion and a platform for members to share really useful advice with each other. If you own a business in Peterborough and would like to be part of the group, please send a message to Jay on 07951 942995.

## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH PETERBOROUGH POSITIVE:



@PboroPositive



[www.linkedin.com/company/peterboroughpositive](http://www.linkedin.com/company/peterboroughpositive)



[contact@peterboroughpositive.co.uk](mailto:contact@peterboroughpositive.co.uk)

Email us to sign up for electronic BID updates or to request to be added to our Peterborough Positive WhatsApp group, where advice and updates are regularly shared amongst local businesses.