



Press Information

## **Romford BID Appoints My Local Bobby to Improve Safety in the Town**

Romford Business Improvement District (BID) is pleased to announce that following its successful ballot result in May and in line with their new five-year plan, they have signed a contract with My Local Bobby who will start patrolling the streets of Romford and making it safer for visitors from 1st August 2023. All the wardens, known as Bobbies, will work with the BID and local businesses to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour and shoplifting, and offer help to residents and shoppers.

My Local Bobby will be providing a re-assuring presence throughout Romford with regular patrols and will be pro-active and direct in dealing with issues when they arise. Romford's two main Bobbies will be Chris Levy and Simon Cartman and they will maintain regular contact with BID members to manage and reduce threats, anti-social behaviour and other matters that disrupt business activity.

Collecting information and gathering evidence to provide intelligence to TM Eye, the Police Services and Havering Council will be key and enable persistent offenders to be tackled. The Bobbies will have access to DISC – the crime reduction app that the BID will be rolling out throughout the town later this year. DISC is an online information sharing system which local businesses can use to submit incident reports so this information can be shared with the police and used to identify prolific offenders.

The organisation was co-founded by former Met Police Detective Chief Superintendent David McKelvey in 2016 and operates public realm security services across numerous destinations within London and elsewhere in the UK. All the wardens, known as Bobbies, must be accredited by the Security Industry Authority. This involves being trained by an approved provider before going through a criminal record check and vetting. The Bobbies also undergo additional training in trauma response, duty of care, and how to make citizens arrests and safely use handcuffs.

Romford BID also funds the Street Triage team in Romford town centre. The team, consisting of two first responders and a security officer with a rapid response vehicle, offer support to injured or unwell people on nights out in the town centre. They act as a first response for police, pub staff, restaurant staff and street pastors and work hard to keep the town centre safe during weekends. The Triage team work on a rotation sequence in Romford every Friday and Saturday between the hours of 10.00pm to 4.30am.

Julie Frost, Romford BID Director said, *“We are doing everything we can to make Romford a more attractive and safer destination for visitors. My Local Bobby has an incredible reputation, and I am very excited that we will be working with them, alongside the Street Triage team, from August. I really hope that these partnerships make visitors feel safer - knowing throughout the town there are measures in place to deter anti-social behaviour and prevent crime.”*



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Ahmet Izzet, Operations Director for My Local Bobby said, *“We are very proud to start working with Romford BID. We know the town well and through an effective partnership with the BID, the Police, Havering Council, and the local businesses we can create a safer community for all.”*



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**For more information, please contact Sarah Gregory on 07725 041862**