

Buzz

The Beeston Express

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Beeston Express is independent of any organisation, commercial or political. Our policy is to provide readers with news and information that is fair, accurate and balanced.

We try hard to avoid mistakes, but some may inevitably slip through. If you have any comments to make about the paper, or any complaint, please contact us. We will, as far as possible, try to put things right when the error has been ours.

NEXT ISSUE

Friday, 26 February 2010

Deadline for Adverts
Monday, 22 February

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City Hospital

0115 969 1169

Broxtowe Borough Council

0115 917 7777

Citizens Advice Bureau

0844 499 1193

Beeston Library

0115 925 5168

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08457 48 49 50

Tram moves ahead as Workplace Parking Levy given green signal

DAVID Cameron appears to have had a rethink over Nottingham's controversial Work Place Parking Levy (WPL). Although he launched an early day motion before Christmas opposing it, he has now apparently declared that a future Conservative Government will not block it.

This change of heart should have a huge impact on Beeston.

There is no doubt that developments, such as those planned for Beeston Square, have suffered due to uncertainty over the tram. The last remaining piece of the jigsaw is now in place, however, as the WPL is to provide 15 percent of the tram money. It is now clear that this project will go ahead. Sources say that detailed plans should be expected within the next few months. One key player is reported to have said: "Now it's full steam ahead!"

Apart from the critical part it plays in the tram equation, money from the WPL is ring-

fenced and has to be spent on transport improvements. Nottingham Midland Station is already undergoing a multi-million pound facelift and train services to Beeston will see further improvements.

Cllr Steve Barber has lobbied for a regular bus service from Beeston station to the Square. He said: "Many councillors opposed the WPL on the grounds that it is a tax. My view was that it was inevitable given traffic conditions and I have lobbied for improvements which will help Beeston, such as a better bus service to link Beeston Square to our station, the Rylands and the Boots site."

MP Nick Palmer added: "Levies are never popular but I'm at least glad we have clarity on this. I'm aware that major contributors to Conservative funds who are involved in the bidding had expressed unease over their previously ambiguous position. Letting the WPL go ahead, and

therefore the tram that it will finance, won't be universally welcome. I'm still arguing for exemption for Boots, since it's not in the city centre and, in part, is not in the city at all. However, I do welcome the clarity that whichever government is in power, the project will proceed. At least we know where we are now."

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate Anna Soubry said: "I am not in favour of the WPL and support business in Nottingham in opposing its imposition by the Labour-controlled City Council. A company like Boots would have to pay hundreds of thousands of pounds a year in these difficult financial times for a tram that doesn't even serve their site."

"Conservatives in Broxtowe and nationally do not support this tax on business. Conservatives also believe in local democracy, so it would be wrong for national government to stop the City Council introducing the WPL."

Mapping the way for business improvement

Continued from page 1...

Matt Robinson rounded off the presentations. He said: "The BID proposal will mean a levy of two percent of the businesses rateable value and voluntary donations from stakeholders, but first it has to get a 'yes' vote of more than 50 percent from the businesses involved." Owner of the Guitar Spot on Chilwell Road, Derek Wiggington, was all in favour. He said: "The BID is a good idea. What's two percent on the business rates anyway – it's neither here nor there."

"I would say to those businesses that are against it in principle – those that didn't turn up this evening because they've already decided they're not interested – not to have pre-conceived ideas but to find out more about it. All of the local businesses need to pull together."

June Copley, owner of Scents of Harmony on Chilwell Road, was one of those a little more dubious as to how the BID scheme might help her business – but she had at least come along to hear more.

Voting on the BID proposal is scheduled for June.

See the latest Bid News column on page 11.

Special constables go under cover

A TEAM of 60 Special Constables gave up their weekend to conduct a police operation to reduce crime in South Nottinghamshire, carrying out plain-clothed patrols.

Operation Corkscrew was launched last weekend (February 5-7) to reduce vehicle crime, burglary and anti-social behaviour in the area.

Over the course of the weekend, the Special Constables carried out frequent patrols of areas throughout South Nottinghamshire, the plain-clothed officers challenging more than 30 people about their engaging in anti-social behaviour in the Beeston and Eastwood areas. Cautions were also issued to two Beeston men for possession of cannabis.

The Special Constables are volunteers and give up their spare time to help police their communities. They work part time and have the same policing powers as police officers.

Phil Hallam, Inspector for the Rushcliffe South area, said: "Special Constables from all over South Nottinghamshire joined

together as a team to carry out this operation. It's not often we get the chance to work as a large team, so it was great to thrive off each other's experience."

"The people on the streets we approached were surprised when we identified ourselves as Special Constables, and I think it made them think twice about what they were doing."

"By talking to them and letting them know we are there and watching, this will hopefully deter them from committing crime next time. But if they do, we will be there quickly to arrest them."

The operation was such a success that from now on it will run in South Nottinghamshire every month.

Inspector Hallam said: "We hope that these covert operations will gradually help to reduce crime in the area and will hopefully make (residents) feel safer within their communities."

News in Brief

Heroes' welcome

A DATE has been set for the 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group to exercise their Right of Freedom of Entry to the Borough for the first time.

The regiment will march through Beeston on Saturday, March 20 at 11am. More details will follow when they become known.

Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour that a borough can bestow, although it confers no legal status these days.

Swine flu takes a back seat

THE National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFSS) website and telephone self-care service were stopped on Thursday, February 11. Antiviral collection points (ACPs) will remain open at pharmacies, including the pharmacy at Stapleford Care Centre, Church Street, Stapleford.

The vaccination of children under five, pregnant mothers and priority groups will continue, as this is still the best way of protecting people against the swine flu virus.

People who have flu-like symptoms should now telephone their GP's practice, who will conduct a telephone assessment.

The swine flu information line, 0800 513 513, will continue to operate.

Notts County miss payment deadline

ALISTAIR Bow admitted that he is "extremely disappointed" that Nottingham Rugby have not received the £37,000 payment that was due this week from Notts County.

Yesterday was the deadline for County to adhere to a court ruling that they should pay Nottingham Rugby's legal expenses, dating back to a High Court injunction in July, which cleared the rugby club to continue playing their home matches at Meadow Lane.

The Nottingham Rugby chairman said: "It's a fact that the deadline came and went without us receiving the payment, and it's also fair to say that we are extremely disappointed."

"Beyond that, I would prefer not to comment at this stage."

Your Beeston Express can now be purchased from Sainsbury's on Stoney Street, Beeston