Luton BID – Luton News column November 2022

**New initiative will improve safety on Luton nights out this winter**

Written by Julia Horsman, Luton BID Manager

To help prevent crime and improve safety for residents and businesses this winter we are delighted to announce a new initiative – ‘My Local Bobby’ which is part of our Luton BID Business Plan Objective to work with others to improve the perception of safety and tackle anti-social behaviour in our town centre.

Starting this month, the initiative will include two patrolling security officers on Friday and Saturday nights and businesses will have a direct line via town centre radios to the Bobbies should staff or business owners feel vulnerable or concerned.

Working in partnership with Bedfordshire Police and funded by Luton BID, we believe this initiative will help ensure a safe and pleasant environment for those working or enjoying a night out. We also hope it will provide reassurance to businesses who have expressed concerns over the perception of crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre and the lack of security presence.

The ‘My Local Bobby’ scheme was originally set up in 2007 by Ex Metropolitan Police Detectives and it has been shown to make a significant difference to crime and anti-social behaviour levels in the areas they are based.

As the first town outside of London to embed the scheme, we are hoping these benefits will be mirrored in Luton and enable us to make the town a safer place to live, socialise and work as well as ensuring a brighter future and greater economic investment.

We already have a good working relationship with Bedfordshire Police and Luton Council and are determined as a collective to reduce the fear of crime for the benefit of staff and the public. We will continue to lobby for additional police resourcing. We ultimately want to improve town centre safety and create a safe and secure environment for all.

I’d like to give a special thanks to AW House who are based in the town centre and are kindly supporting the scheme by allowing the officers to use their facilities whilst patrolling the town.

We have been told that the Bobbies are naturally confident and social and will proactively engage with workers, residents, and visitors, so please do say hello if you see them walking around the town centre.

For more information on My Local Bobby visit <https://mylocalbobby.co.uk>