

Q1 News

HullBID lobbies to limit roadworks disruption to businesses



Pictured during the Castle Street site visit are (from left) Michael Upshon and Frances Oliver of National Highways, Kathryn Shillito, Emma Hardy MP and Ben Ridgeon of National Highways.

HullBID played a key part in bringing together stakeholders in the Castle Street scheme to ensure a joint approach in minimising the impact of the project and sending out a message that the city centre is very much open for business.

As a result of HullBID's intervention – which included partnering with regional business leaders, Hull City Council and Hull West and Hessle MP Emma Hardy – National Highways agreed to delay road closures which would have meant significant disruption in the run-up to Christmas.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "We completely understood that the road closures were unavoidable but we strongly challenged that they be rescheduled.

"They will now take place over six weekends during January and February and we know from experience how disruptive that will be, but the fall-out from closures in late November would have been catastrophic for city centre businesses at the most important time of the year. We are grateful to our partners in the city for helping to get that message across."

Kathryn raised the issue in a meeting with Emma Hardy, Hull City Council Leader Mike Ross and Chief Executive Matt Jukes, and key figures from the Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce.

Kathryn and Emma also met senior members of the National Highways project team for a close-up view of the construction of a new junction which will connect Castle Street and Ferensway and is a major element of the £355m scheme.

National Highways Project Manager Frances Oliver said: "We do understand the disruption a project of this scale can create, so it's really

important we work closely with our partners and share regular updates.

"We were delighted to highlight the latest progress and discuss how, together, we can support business, make sure the city centre remains as accessible as possible and keep traffic on the move while this work is taking place."

Emma added: "While some disruption is unavoidable, it's important that we work collaboratively to limit this for businesses and residents. I look forward to continuing to work with all partners during the remainder of this project."

Kathryn said: "It was helpful to get out onto site with National Highways to see the work taking place and to hear first-hand about the progress being made. Communication between National Highways, Hull City Council and city centre businesses is one of our key roles and played an important part in agreeing changes to the work schedule in the run-up to Christmas, thereby minimising any disruption.

"In 2024, we will continue to liaise with all parties to share the information which will help our members prepare in advance for any adverse impact and to get the message out that Hull city centre remains very much open for business."

As a result of the postponement of the closures which were planned for November, the closures between the Daltry Street flyover and Roger Millward Way will take place from 8pm Friday until 6am Monday on six weekends starting on Friday January 12 and city businesses are asked to look out for email updates. The project is expected to be completed in 2025.

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Empawrium on the move from market

A woman who was inspired to go into business after getting a dog has now expanded into new premises to stock a wider range of clothing, treats and grooming products for dogs – and cats.

Lisa Hall launched Lili + Mila's Empawrium from home in 2021, took her own stall in Trinity Indoor Market in 2022 and has now moved again into her dream location in Land of Green Ginger.

Lisa said: "The building is in the heart of the Old Town and for me it's iconic. We get a lot of tourists and the Old Town walking tours go right past us. The lovely big window means they can see straight in."

Mila, described as a Jack Russel Chihuahua cross with a touch of Italian greyhound, is now five and has been with Lisa since she was just 10 weeks



Lisa Hall outside Lili + Mila's Empawrium.

old. The future business venture began as a hobby with Lisa making bandanas and bows for Mila and then for friends, who requested them for their dogs and babies.

As demand grew, Lisa looked at the market for other accessories and for food. The new shop, which boasts a traditional sign hand-painted by local artist Sophie Cash, offers harnesses, collars, celebration items including birthday cards and "pawty hats". The shop also offers pet treats from its in-store charcuterie as well as "pup tarts" and "pup cakes" from the Life of Riley "pawtisserie" in Shropshire.

Lisa said: "The business focuses on dogs but we have some items for cats as well. We sell here, online and at outdoor events including markets. Moving here has given us much more space and enabled us to operate as a one-stop shop. We listen to what people tell us and we work hard to meet their needs."



Asi Café in Jameson Street.

Asi Café making most of location

The business behind a Turkish restaurant which is attracting rave reviews has now added a café in the middle of the city centre offering a different style of menu but the same high standards.

Asi Café, which has opened in Jameson Street, is building on the success of Asi Barbecue Restaurant, a family-run business specialising in kebabs and other grills and proving a big hit since it opened more than two years ago in the old Brickmakers pub in Walton Street.

Ali Erdogan, who owns both businesses, opened the restaurant in 2021 and, having previously operated food and beverage businesses in the city centre, saw an

opportunity for expansion at the former Greenwoods menswear shop.

He has a team of five working in the new café in addition to as many as 10 in the restaurant on a match day at the MKM Stadium.

Ali said: "It's something we were thinking about for a long time because it's a great location with some good businesses nearby. We only opened towards the end of November and we were busy in the run-up to Christmas and from the start of 2024."

The café menu is different from the fare in the restaurant but there are some Mediterranean influences on alongside a variety of other cuisines.

Ali said: "We will make more changes as we find out more about what people want. When we started we didn't do breakfasts but a lot of people asked for them so we added them".

Bars lead growth of Freedom Quarter

A series of new bars are bringing a buzz to a street packed with other independent businesses by driving the development of the Hull Freedom Quarter.

Cherry's Bar, which opened in Savile Street in November, came hot on the heels of Unit 49 and they will be followed in the spring by Zinnia. The transformation began with the opening in 2022 of Monroe's and can be traced even further back to when many of the people involved worked together at Savile Row.

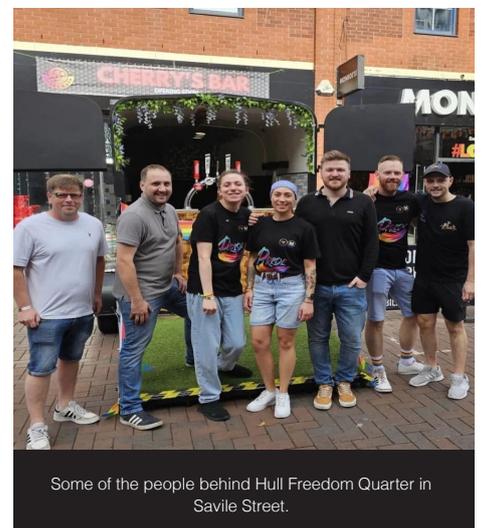
Dan Kelly, Director of Cherry's Bar, said: "We have all set up the bars separately but we are a group of friends who used to work together. The idea now is

to get all these bars up and running and use them to open up the LGBT+ scene in the city centre under the banner of Hull's Freedom Quarter.

"It's a shared space for the whole community and we've been talking about it for a lot of years. We'll be bringing various events to the street and we're already attracting a lot of people from outside the city."

The opening of Monroe's triggered a programme of events including DJs, live acts and quizzes as well as big celebrations around the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, Pride and other special occasions.

Dan said: "People have responded really well. The feedback is great because the LGBT+ community feel comfortable here and it also appeals to straight people of all ages because it's inclusive, they like the atmosphere, and it links the new town with the Old Town."



Some of the people behind Hull Freedom Quarter in Savile Street.

New home is a cut above for tailors

A bespoke tailor which is crafting handmade finery for clients across the country is planning significant expansion after a move to spacious new premises.

Cock of the Walk, which has operated from a smart but small workshop in Grimston Street for the last 10 years, is ready to invest in more training and new products after relocating to 1 Parliament Street.

Gillian Long, who founded the business about 14 years ago, said: "We started looking to relocate two years ago and coming here has helped us become more efficient. We've been able to bring everybody under one roof and that has improved the customer experience because they can see everything being made."

Gillian studied at St Mary's College and then Hull

College before completing a degree in fashion construction at Rochester and developing a network of contacts in London's prestigious Savile Row.

She still visits London for fittings with clients and increasingly they come to Hull – 200 clients from across the country were planning to attend the grand opening of the new premises until a storm disrupted travel plans.

Gillian said: "We outgrew Grimston Street quickly, adding a member of staff for every year we were there. We opened a second site in the Old Town three years ago as a workroom and now we can get everybody back under one roof."

"A lot of people were asking us to move into the surrounding villages but it is really important to have a place in the city centre. Our staff have to be able to travel here from their homes around the city and we encourage clients to make the most of their visits to Hull, go and have something to eat, see the city."



Gillian Long of Cock of the Walk in the new premises at 1 Parliament Street.



Crepes & Bubbles in Whitefriargate.

Crepes & Bubbles is ready to take off

A new business is setting out to transform the city centre food and drink scene by serving the tastes of Taiwan seven days a week.

The team behind Crepes & Bubbles were captivated when they saw packed crowds outside a bubble tea venue in London's Chinatown and they became determined to bring the exotic experience to Hull.

With the help of Levelling Up Funding from Hull City Council they breathed new life into the former Thorntons chocolate shop which, with work progressing at the former Burton building opposite, has formed a welcoming new gateway to Whitefriargate.

The crepes are served as a cone and are designed to hold the fillings which have attracted rave reviews with ingredients including Oreo cookies, cinnamon sugar,

strawberries and bananas. An unusual addition is the eye-catching range of Crepes & Bubbles merchandise, and customers have the choice of using the digital ordering system or paying cash at the counter.

Juan Ogino-Stamford, who owns the business, said the aim is to stand out from the crowd.

He said: "It's unique because we're not offering the same flavours that are already out there. We are putting our own twist on things. Our USP is that these are our own flavours and our complimentary crepes go hand in hand with the bubble tea."

"So far business is going as we expected and we expect it to really fly when the warmer weather comes. The merchandise is already selling well with t-shirts and keyrings."

"We drew confidence from the other things that are happening down Whitefriargate and we took the view that this building is deserving of investment especially with the support of Levelling Up Funding."

Koffee Lab opens in old Kardomah

A new coffee shop has opened as the latest addition to the regeneration of an office block in Alfred Gelder Street, with the promise of another innovative venture to come.

Koffee Lab is already proving a success with its new look food and drink offer on the ground floor of Humber Lofts. Coming soon is Ko Lab, offering space for co-working and hot desking. Both venues have adopted the K in a nod to Kardomah, which previously occupied the space as a food, drink and arts destination.

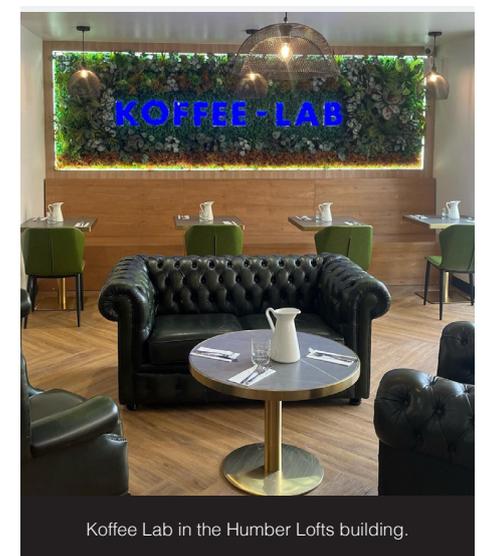
The conversion of Humber Lofts into 20 stylish serviced apartments was completed early in 2022 and last year owners Krish Ventures GBR Limited embarked on plans for the development of the ground floor

with support from a Government Levelling Up Grant, awarded by Hull City Council.

Richard Northey, Regional Operations Manager, said the aim was to create a specialist coffee shop with a difference. Koffee Lab is the only outlet in the area selling products from the West Yorkshire-based roaster Dark Woods, and the food offers a variety of sweet and savoury brunch, sandwiches, toasties, muffins and more.

Richard, who has worked for various well-known hospitality venues in Hull, said: "The food is American diner style with some international dishes as well. While the Humber Lofts project was coming together we looked at options for the huge ground floor, which is too big for just a coffee shop."

Koffee Lab is open from 7am until 5pm six days a week and 9am until 4pm on Sundays. Richard added that the investment is already paying off with the creation of 16 jobs across the business.



Koffee Lab in the Humber Lofts building.

Q1 Report

Businesses urged to have their say in devolution consultation



Hull City Council Leader Mike Ross with the devolution document.

City centre businesses are being urged to play a full part in a devolution consultation which is likely to have far-reaching consequences for their organisations, their workers and their families.

Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council have launched an eight-week consultation on the proposal to create a Hull and East Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA), led by a directly elected mayor.

As part of the process, people living in both local authority areas can now have their say on the proposals – and the same goes for businesses.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "It's not for HullBID to give advice to businesses on the implications around the consultation because that's a matter for the individuals, but we are helping to raise awareness because the consequences of devolution are significant.

"Many businesses operate in both the Hull and East Riding local authority areas and many have customers and staff from both areas. But even if you operate within Hull only, it is still likely that your activities will be affected in some way by the increased collaboration between the two councils. It's important for people to understand what that means, and to raise any questions they may have."

The combined authority would have powers to invest in areas such as transport, skills and housing, as well as an additional £400m of devolved funding over the next 30 years to invest in local priorities.

A combined authority for East Yorkshire does not mean the two councils would merge, but they would collaborate on certain issues that affect everyone in the region. The councils and the delivery of day-to-day responsibilities would remain separate, and local services would not be affected.

Councillor Mike Ross, leader of Hull City Council, said: "This is an exciting milestone in our devolution journey and we urge everyone in the region to get involved and have their say.

"Securing £400 million of game-changing investment will help to transform our region and move forward our city, whilst also giving us more local power to drive that ourselves.

"Both councils are backing these proposals, but we are clear the residents in the area need to support them too. Now is the time for the public to let us know what they think."

Councillor Anne Handley, leader of East Riding of Yorkshire Council, said: "It's really important that people take part in this consultation and have their say.

"This deal gets us out there on the national and international stage but we need you, our residents, to get involved and come on this journey with us so I am asking everyone across the region to take part in this consultation, back the deal, and help shape the future of Hull and East Yorkshire."

From now until February 27, people can read the devolution proposal and give their feedback on each part of the deal at heydevolution.com.

Analysis and consideration of consultation results will take place in March. If it is decided to progress the devolution deal there will be a submission in April to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire councils are scheduled to consider and approve a draft order and if all goes smoothly the Secretary of State will lay the order to Parliament in the autumn, the combined authority will be established in the winter and a mayoral election will take place in May 2025.

Counting down to deadline for HullBID Awards

The deadline is fast approaching for businesses to enter the 2024 HullBID Awards.

Applications must be received by 5pm on Monday January 22, 2024. Entries can be submitted online at <https://hullbidevents.co.uk/bidawards/entry-form/> where you can also find full details of the different categories and how to enter.

Alternatively businesses can scan a hard copy entry and email it to francesca@hullbid.co.uk HullBID member businesses can also have their applications collected by ringing 01482 611800.

All HullBID businesses and organisations can enter any of the 10 different categories free of charge provided they complete a separate form for each entry. The general public are also



Kathryn Shillito with Adam Barnes, Director of Prestige Recruitment.

encouraged to send in nominations for their city centre favourites too. In addition there will be a Judges Special Recognition Award.

All finalists will receive four complimentary tickets to the Grand Awards Ceremony on Friday February 23, where they can enjoy a three course meal with wine. Extra tickets can be purchased at a discounted price of £44 plus VAT each.

Contact francesca@hullbid.co.uk

Prestige Recruitment, which operates in Hull, Leeds, Huddersfield and throughout the UK, is the main partner for the awards – first held 10 years ago – and also sponsors the outstanding contribution category.

Adam Barnes, Director of the company, said as sponsors they are aiming to give something back and help city centre businesses make a confident start to 2024.

He said: “The main reason for sponsoring is to showcase the importance of the Hull city centre business community locally and further afield, highlighting resilience, innovation and adaptability.”

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: “It’s quite something to think about how the awards have progressed since 2014. Things have really taken off since then and we are very grateful to Prestige Recruitment Specialists for supporting us as main sponsors in a milestone year, along with our category sponsors.”

Mural signals start of improvements to interchange

TransPennine Express (TPE) celebrated the 175th anniversary of Hull Paragon Interchange with the completion of a mural by a local artist.

TPE commissioned Hull-based artist, Andy Pea, who, in collaboration with students of Ron Dearing UTC and with ideas from the users of the Interchange and wider public, created a public art piece to serve as a visual chronicle of Hull’s history.

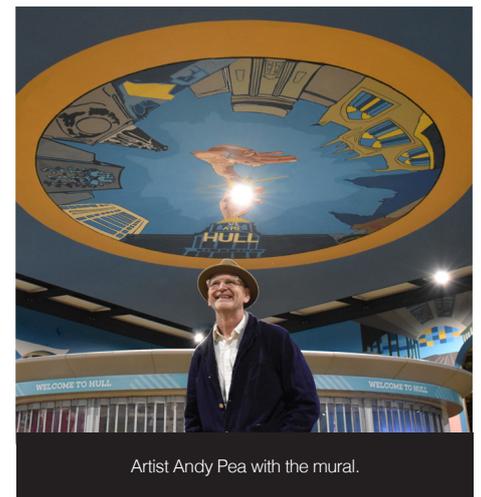
Chris Jackson, Managing Director at TPE, said: “To see the completed mural in the entrance to the station is fantastic, it’s a true masterpiece and we’re extremely proud to be adding to the rich history of Hull Paragon Interchange.

“Our work won’t stop there though as we are continuing to invest in Hull Paragon Station as part of our blueprint to make journeys better. Replacement benches, new trees for the main concourse areas, permanent Christmas tree and lights and a new digital screen for the Safer Hull Paragon Hub are all planned for the station.

“In addition, looking beyond 2024, we will be progressing the installation of a second wide gate to the gateline and implementing toilet refurbishment works.”

Andy, a practising artist for more than 25 years said: “I’m so proud to be a part of these historic celebrations with TPE and I’m delighted to unveil the finished mural to the people of Hull.”

Louise Mendham, Service Delivery Director at Hull Trains, said: “This mural has transformed the entrance of the interchange and perfectly captures the essence and history of Hull. It’s a



Artist Andy Pea with the mural.

real masterpiece and the perfect way to mark an incredible anniversary for the station.”

Partners launch Pubwatch scheme across city centre

HullBID is supporting the Hull City Centre Pubwatch scheme which has been set up with the aim of ensuring a safe and responsible night time economy.

The venture has been launched by the Safer Hull Community Safety Partnership (CSP) thanks to funding from the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC). The scheme is also backed by various departments of Hull City Council (including Civic CCTV and Safer Hull) Humberside Police (licensing, NPT Officers), HullBID and City of Hull Street Angels.

Under the scheme, pubs and bars can voluntarily sign up to work in partnership with local organisations to increase training, information



The launch of the Pubwatch scheme.

sharing and more, with Pubwatch linking into the successful HullBID Radio System and BID itself contributing funds to purchase new handsets.

The PCC has committed to funding various projects to enhance safety in the Night Time Economy.

Pubwatch will promote a responsibly led social drinking environment and evening economy in all licensed premises in the HU1 area – the city centre and Old Town.

Cllr Dave McCobb, whose portfolio includes crime and communities, said: “Making Hull safer is one of our top priorities. That’s why this scheme is great news for everyone who socialises in the city.

“We want all those using our pubs and bars to feel safe and know that should anything happen, support is there.

“We will continue to work with those who own and run our local venues, as well as the Police and the Police & Crime Commissioner, to ensure this scheme can roll out successfully.”

PCC Jonathan Evison said: “It is important that people feel safe to socialise in our area and I am really pleased to be supporting the launch of Pubwatch in the city.”

Feedback fuels ideas for Trinity Festival Rebooted

A free festival which is proving a big crowd-puller for pubs in Hull city centre is heading into its third weekend with demand increasing from venues and performers.

Trinity Festival Rebooted, which is part-funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and is part of the HullBID live events programme, presented more than 100 free gigs in pubs throughout the city centre during two weekends during the autumn.

The action will resume on Saturday January 27 with the HullBID team currently putting the finishing touches to a programme which will feature some new performers and possibly new venues.

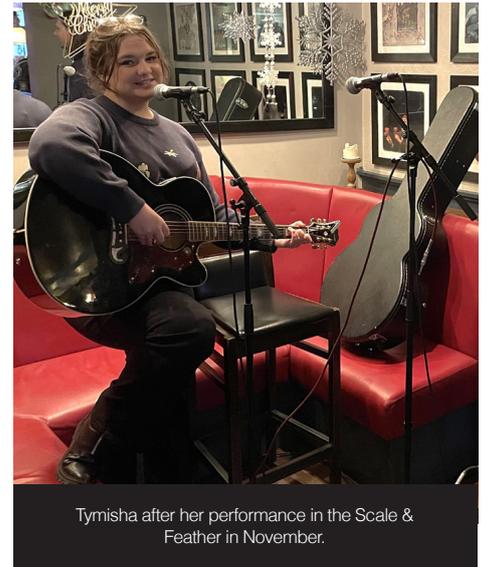
Data from the first two weekends indicated that 63 per cent of visitors to the venues were making a special trip

into the city centre because of the festival. Nearly three quarters of the audiences were from Hull and others travelled from the surrounding towns and villages, with some from North Lincolnshire. More than 80 per cent of the respondents said they will definitely attend the event in January.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "The feedback has been excellent, not just because people have enjoyed it so much but also because we're picking up a lot of exciting new ideas which will help us keep the event fresh.

"All our events are geared up to bring more people into the city centre to boost business for our members, whether that's the pubs and café bars which benefit directly from people spending their money at the gigs, or whether it generates additional trade for food and retail as a result of the increased footfall."

Trinity Festival Rebooted will also take place on Saturday March 30 2024. For the latest details of venues and performers visit <https://www.facebook.com/HullTrinityFestival>



Tymisha after her performance in the Scale & Feather in November.

@TheDock marks tenth anniversary with new building

Ten years of transformational development has culminated in the opening of the final building to complete the £22m @TheDock tech campus in Hull.

Business leaders, politicians and members of the @TheDock tech community came together to celebrate a decade of regeneration at the once-derelict site.

@TheDock has become the focal point and flagship for the city's tech sector, and has been the catalyst for the growth of dozens of digital businesses and creation of hundreds of highly-skilled jobs.

It has also enabled traditional companies to collaborate with innovative digital start-up and scale-up ventures to embrace technology.



Wykeland Group Managing Director Dominic Gibbons (centre) with guests at the celebration.

At the same time, @TheDock has played a major role in the transformation of the Fruit Market into a thriving urban village.

The development has been led by regeneration specialist

Wykeland Group and was kick-started by the opening of the flagship Centre for Digital Innovation (C4DI).

Wykeland Managing Director, Dominic Gibbons, said: "The opening of the final @TheDock building completes a story of sustained investment and development, which has seen a derelict site transformed into a hub of innovation and collaboration.

"We wanted to create a place where tech specialists could come together and spark ideas, to help traditional businesses embrace technological change and drive economic growth.

"This development is the result of so many people, businesses and organisations working collaboratively together to create a thriving tech campus recognised as one of the most successful anywhere in the UK.

"We're incredibly proud to see what @TheDock has become and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the businesses and partners who have been part of this journey."



Chair's statement Jim Harris, HullBID Chairman

Firstly, a positive welcome to 2024 from all at HullBID and following a really encouraging end to 2023 I have a good feeling about our new year! Can I welcome the new businesses to our HullBID family and also highly recommend the HullBID Awards – there is still time to get your entry in. They showcase all that is great about our city centre businesses, and we all do have a fantastic night out! Before I sign-off, just a reassurance to all that we will continue to work closely with all partners involved with the vital, but challenging, work on the A63 upgrades to minimise disruption to city trading.

Got a question?

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The HullBID team

To find out about our board directors, visit www.hullbid.co.uk



Kathryn Shillito
Executive Director

01482 611889
kathryn@hullbid.co.uk



Francesca Sharp
PA/Business Liaison Officer

01482 611850
francesca@hullbid.co.uk



Mark Andrews
Senior Support Officer

07715 105989
mark@hullbid.co.uk



Raich Orr
Business Support Officer

07595 820121
raich@hullbid.co.uk



Martin Foster
Cleaning & Maintenance Operative

01482 611888
info@hullbid.co.uk