

# Q2News

## Colliderfest captivates city centre crowds and builds business confidence



Colliderfest attracted huge crowds to the city centre.

Hull city centre's exciting combination of commerce, character and culture is proving to be a winner as businesses reap the benefits of crowds flocking to major events.

Organisers of the Colliderfest spectacular counted around 35,000 people descending on the city centre for a weekend of daytime activities, workshops, events and performances – with more than 25,000 people also enjoying the Colliderfest After Dark programme.

Plans are expected to be announced in the coming weeks for Colliderfest 2026 and more attractions will also be confirmed as the Hull Maritime programme continues to unfold and unleash creative events on the scale of Freedom Festival and the UK City of Culture programme.

Meanwhile in the background HullBID and its partners are working to support new businesses investing in the city centre – notably in the food and beverage sector – and promote the charm and charisma of local independent businesses.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "The nature of the city centre has changed dramatically during the last 10 years and we are starting to reap the rewards of an offer which is more varied than ever.

"The investment in the public realm and in the regeneration of our iconic buildings has created a playground stretching across the city centre and is perfect for the big events which pull in the crowds, with Colliderfest expanding on an array of family attractions from Freedom Festival and Humber Street Sesh to the Tasty and Crafty Markets being introduced this year by HullBID.

"Our policy of supporting local independent businesses ensures they are the backbone of our city centre retail offer, with the freedom to make their own investment decisions and the flexibility to adjust their operating model to seize the opportunities presented by the events.

"In particular we've seen a welcome increase in the number of coffee shops, bars and restaurants opening in the city centre, with the total number of new venues into double figures. We're also delighted to hear of rising confidence in major retail, with St Stephen's 99 per cent let."

Kathryn welcomed the "Independent Hull" initiative launched by Visit Hull to showcase the charm of the local independent businesses by boosting their profile online and offline with eye-catching billboards and bus stop takeovers, media articles and a comprehensive guide on the Visit Hull website.

Local influencers worked to amplify the voices of local business owners with a series of articles that delved into different areas of the city's independent landscape, telling the stories behind the storefronts and shining a light on the people who make Hull's economy thrive.

Kathryn said: "We continue to find ourselves in exceptionally challenging times but we also have plenty of reasons for optimism – and not least the report in the Sunday Times telling the world that 'Hull has entered its glow-up era, while its hipsterish dining scene is thronging with exciting openings'.

"We need to build on that by highlighting the attributes of our city centre as a destination which is about much more than traditional retail. We've still got big brands and they sit alongside the character, quality and customer service which are the hallmarks of our local independent businesses, with the visitor experience enhanced by a compelling culture and heritage offer which is improving all the time."

To find out more about local independent businesses and to join the Independent Hull campaign visit <https://www.visit Hull.org/independent-hull/>

## Do you have a story you'd like to share?

For more information about how to share your news or ideas, email [victoria@hullbid.co.uk](mailto:victoria@hullbid.co.uk) or call on 07739 759783. [www.hullbid.co.uk](http://www.hullbid.co.uk)

# HullBID Introducing

## Legal powerhouse created by merger

A merger of two leading law firms will bring significant investment into the city centre with the transfer of around 50 people into the Old Town.

Wilkin Chapman Rollits, formed by the merger on Tuesday 1 April of Wilkin Chapman LLP and the historic Hull firm Rollits LLP, will number more than 500 people – including 70 partners – and have a combined turnover of £40m.

With locations in Grimsby, Lincoln, Louth, Hull, York and Beverley, it will be the largest law firm operating out of both Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

Chris Drinkall and James Marsden, Joint Heads of the Hull office at Citadel House, High Street, which Rollits has occupied since 2016, said the merged firm will offer greater strength and depth to clients across the commercial and public sectors and



Chris Drinkall and James Marsden outside Citadel House.

private client disciplines regionally and nationally.

Staff and partners from Wilkin Chapman's Beverley office moved into Citadel House as a result of the

merger, but the firm will continue to operate from Beverley to retain its commitment to clients in the region.

Chris said: "Rollits has been based in the Old Town since the firm was founded in 1841 and this move underlines our commitment to the city and its people and our ambition to continue to grow and to improve our services to clients."

James added: "Like Rollits, Wilkin Chapman has a long and proud history, marking its 125th anniversary this year. The merger builds on solid foundations laid by both firms and creates a real powerhouse in our sector."

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "Rollits has been a key player in the city centre for many years and already employed 70 people in the Old Town. The arrival of additional people as part of the merger is a major boost for the city centre and we extend a very warm welcome to them all!"



Emilia Gurnell and Ruby Brennan at Muse.

## Magnificent seven open Muse salon

A flair for creativity and inspiration coupled with a commitment to customer service have been harnessed by the team at a new salon who offer a variety of services under one roof, seven days a week.

Ruby Brennan and Emilia Gurnell were both self-employed and working at other salons in the Hull area when they joined forces to open Muse, the new venture in South Street.

They have added five colleagues who all left roles elsewhere and jumped at the opportunity to rent space in the city centre. Between them, the seven specialise in hairdressing, lashes, brows, nails and aesthetics.

Ruby said: "Sometimes we take Wednesdays off

but if that's when clients want appointments then we work. There's generally someone here from 9am until 7 or 8 pm every day.

"Most of our customers have followed us here, not all of them but that has freed up space for others to come in. It's a busy part of the city centre and close to the interchange so good for public transport."

Emilia has added another strand to the business with tuition services. She trained two colleagues who work on lashes and she also runs beauty classes which people can book online or by calling in.

She said: "I used to have to turn customers away but now we can keep them in the business because we have more people in our team. We are all experienced and we can help each other."

The Muse team are promoting their business and services via Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

## Former Harrods of Hull in demand as a hotel

A former department store once billed as the Harrods of Hull is gearing up for a return of the good times after opening as a hotel.

Carmichaels in George Street closed as a high-end department store in 1991 after 89 years of trading. Current owner Samir Mouneimne bought the building and operated it as a nightclub but then embarked on conversion into a hotel and opened The Carmichael late last year.

The hotel employs about 10 people and offers 47 rooms, most of them doubles and family rooms. It also has a large bar area and function room, with a private car park monitored by CCTV at the rear.

Samir said: "All the rooms are modern but we have also gone for a traditional feel. We have had some very positive reviews and we expect to attract more people as they find out that we are here.

"Hull has a lot of potential for business and leisure visitors. We are the closest hotel to the Maritime Museum and we are in a good location for other attractions. The residential properties in George Street make it a nice, quiet area but there are also some bars and restaurants and we are only a short walk from some of the main drinking and dining venues.

"For now we are concentrating on the hotel side of the business but there is also a bar and function room which we will start promoting soon. We can do weddings and other family occasions as well as business meetings and any other events."

To find out more about The Carmichael Hotel visit <https://carmichaelhotel.co.uk/>



The Carmichael Hotel.



# HullBID Introducing

## Flexibility first at new Pasco's Italian

A new restaurant is making its mark in Hull city centre with menus and offers which are appealing to residents, businesses and visitors.

Pasco's Italian has created about 20 new jobs after opening the latest destination in its local chain of family restaurants at King William House in Market Place.

James Anderson, owner and Managing Director of the business, said the restaurant has brought the same high standards of food, drink and service as its sister establishments in Beverley, Cottingham and Routh, with additional features tailored for the city centre.

Pasco's has about 100 seats and is open seven days a week from 8.30am until 9pm. The menu changes from breakfast to lunch and then dinner



James Anderson with chef Jack Wilkin at Pasco's Italian in Hull.

and includes a wide range of pasta and pizza plus meat, seafood, and vegetarian options and a selection of chef's specials.

A grab and go counter serves people in a hurry, with meal deals based around freshly made focaccia or pasta with a hot or cold drink and a snack.

The restaurant is partnering with entertainment, cultural and tourism destinations to offer discounts for people visiting Hull Minster, The Deep, theatres and cinemas and museums and it has launched its own programme of events including live music on the last Friday of every month, a children's disco on the last Sunday of every month and bottomless brunches with a DJ on Saturday afternoons.

James said: "The grab and go came from listening to businesses about what they want. We also do deliveries and we offer a business credit account. The beauty of being a local business rather than a national chain is that we have more flexibility."

To find out more visit <https://www.pascositalian.co.uk/>

## New venture puts Jo back in the kitchen

The owner of a new café and bakery is back in familiar territory doing the job she loves in a street where she has worked before.

Homemade by Jo puts Jo Thompson back in the heat of the kitchen after a break which saw her playing an important part on the catering side at Hull Royal Infirmary but not playing to her strengths.

She said: "There wasn't a lot of cooking involved. Before I went there I worked in cafes and delis across the Hull area and I wanted to come back to that. I trained as a baker, I love baking and I make everything that we sell here – sweet and savoury."

Initially Jo planned to set up in Hessle but when that site became unavailable and the landlord offered

the former panini café in Story Street she jumped at the chance.

She said: "I used to work at Darcey's, just across the road from here. I remembered this place and it always did well."

Homemade by Jo features paninis on a menu which also includes breakfasts, jacket potatoes, sandwiches and toasties. The stars of the show are the sweet and savoury tray bakes and a selection of pies and quiches running into double figures.

In addition to chairs and tables the café also has a cosy area with armchairs, Décor is a work in progress as Jo builds a collection of maritime images which reflect the maritime links of her late father and other family members.

Homemade by Jo is open from 8am until 2.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am until 2.30pm on Saturdays. To find out more look them up on Facebook.



Jo Thompson and her mum Susan Tointon.

## New Clarence puts people before profits

Hull's first community pub is on course to open later this year after the success of a Crowdfunder campaign which has already brought in nearly £200,000.

The Hull Community Pub Society Limited is now closing in on its target of £250,000 and is also putting plans in place for the facilities and service levels when the New Clarence in Charles Street opens its doors again.

Simon Berry, Chair of the Society, said: "We have heard from some high calibre people who are interested in running the pub and that is really encouraging.

"There is a lot of work to do and the immediate priority is to try and get the rest of the shares sold because that will enable us to put some extras



Simon Berry and Society secretary Catherine Murray at the New Clarence.

in – a lift and some eco-friendly heating to attract a broader customer base and reduce running costs."

The New Clarence closed in 2023. Plans by the owners to convert it for residential use were rejected and it was sold to the Society.

Simon said: "As a community pub it's not about chasing profits – it's about having a safe, vibrant place for people to enjoy.

"It's a city centre attraction in its own right and a great fit with the other pubs in the area. A wide variety of people have bought shares, people who haven't even been to the pub but think it's a great idea."

Individual shares are available for a minimum investment of £100. Businesses in the local area can take a stake for a minimum £1,000 and for those outside the HU postcode area the price is £250.

To find out more visit the Crowdfunder page at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/hull-community-pub/>

## Q2Report

### Survey shows overwhelming support for action to tackle antisocial behaviour



PCSO Paul Chalmers, HullBID Support Officer Raich Orr, PC Nicki Stothard and Hull City Council Antisocial Behaviour Enforcement Officer Shaun Casson.

Safety and security throughout Hull city centre and other areas will be improved and enhanced following a review of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which received overwhelming support from the recent consultation.

New prohibitions have been added to support action being taken to tackle begging, loitering, unauthorised drinking and antisocial behaviour as a result of the PSPO, which took effect at the end of March and replaces a previous order.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said the measures will be welcomed by city centre businesses which are believed to have played a significant part in securing the restrictions.

Kathryn said: "We mounted a campaign to increase awareness of the consultation among our members and make sure they didn't miss an important opportunity to show how these issues are affecting their businesses, their colleagues and their customers.

"The consultation was launched by Hull City Council because they have a sharp focus on protecting the general public, and aligned with our concerns, it is also a high priority for city centre businesses."

Failure to comply with the PSPO can result in the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 or a Magistrates Court fine. Under the terms of the PSPO it is prohibited to:

- Make any verbal, non-verbal or written request for money, donations, or goods so as to cause or likely to cause anti-social behaviour.
- Loiter, sit, or lay on the floor, including doorways or around pay/cash machines in a manner causing or likely to cause anti-social behaviour.

- Consume alcohol in any public place anywhere within the PSPO area or be in possession of any opened vessel containing or purporting to contain alcohol.
- Remain or return to an area within 48 hours after being requested to leave by an authorised officer, due to causing or likely to cause anti-social behaviour within the city centre of the PSPO area.

Of the people who responded to the consultation, 83 per cent of were in favour of prohibiting begging and 88 per cent about loitering. The consultation found that 90 per cent of respondents supported action to stop drinking from an open vessel, and 89 per cent wanted to see measures to combat antisocial behaviour.

Kathryn noted that the consultation generated 847 responses compared to 185 for the previous PCSO three years ago.

She said: "I believe HullBID played a big part in driving and reaching the business community who are regularly affected by antisocial behaviour. The overwhelming response was that people are in favour of the PSPO, with complete support for the four main proposals.

"The key point at the heart of this is that through partnership working with Humberside Police, Hull City Council and support agencies, we were able to put forward a compelling case to demonstrate the PCSO needed to expend its prohibitions to address ASB issues, which stimulated the consultation".

"It is important to demonstrate that any fears people may have about coming into the city centre are being addressed and action is being taken."



# News

## Monocle poised to reveal latest in modern work space

The development of a state-of-the-art, modern business hub supporting hundreds of jobs in the heart of the city centre will reach a milestone this month when owners Allenby Commercial start the big reveal.

The company confirmed that the new sign at the top of Monocle – the former Europa House at the corner of Ferensway and Anlaby Road – is now in place and work is due to start towards the end of April on taking down the scaffolding.

Removal is expected to take about six weeks and will be carried out as the finishing touches are applied to the first phase of the interior, with first floor offices and a ground floor business lounge and coffee house all set to open in June.



Charlie and Georgia Allenby (centre) outside Monocle with representatives of PPH Commercial and CBRE.

Georgia Allenby, Design and Marketing Director at Allenby Commercial, said: "Four of the offices available in the first phase have been pre-let and we are really happy with the calibre of clients who will be moving in.

"They are very modern, forward thinking businesses, they all understand the importance of having a fantastic work space and they will be followed by more new arrivals as we drive significant job creation in the city centre."

PPH Commercial and CBRE in Leeds are joint agents for Monocle, which will offer 60,000 sq ft of space across six floors with the potential to create 700 jobs. Features will include co-working spaces, break-out areas, a gym, meeting rooms and city garden. Monocle will also provide space for the wider business community to present events, workshops, demonstrations and launches of products and services.

Georgia said: "We have researched space in Leeds, Manchester, London and overseas on visits to Barcelona and Stockholm so see what other places are doing and to bring new ideas to our home city. We can't wait to show people the results and welcome them into Monocle."

## Victoria ready to lead HullBID's events package

HullBID has announced an exciting package of events for 2025 and welcomed a new member of the team to lead the programme.

First up on Wednesday 4 June is the return of the Inspiring People dinner, which is in its 10th year and established as a highlight of Humber Business Week. The line-up will be confirmed in the coming weeks and the venue will be the Holiday Inn Hull Marina.

This summer will also see the introduction of a brand new venture to attract people into the city centre – a series of Tasty & Crafty Markets. With three dates planned, the market will bring

together a selection of crafts, produce and street food and see more than 30 stalls descend on Queen Victoria Square and King Edward Street. The team are excited to introduce a new event into the mix.

Dino Day, which has proved a huge hit for families for the last three years with its combination of fun and frights, will return on Friday 8 August with its parade of pre-historic favourites alongside stalls, food and child friendly activities.

City centre businesses will be invited to take part in all the events and Victoria Yates, HullBID's new Events, Marketing and Social Media Manager, said the call is out for sponsors to support the programme and help to increase footfall.

Victoria said: "BID members will be invited to participate in the market and at Dino Day and we hope as many as possible will join in. We also want to hear from organisations interested raising



Victoria Yates.

their profile by taking the opportunity to sponsor the events."

Updates will be posted on the HullBID social media channels and Victoria can be contacted on 01482 611802 or email [victoria@hullbid.co.uk](mailto:victoria@hullbid.co.uk)

## City Centre Tasking Group working for a safer city centre

HullBID has strengthened its partnership with other organisations working to build safety and security in the city centre.

Representatives of the BID joined colleagues from Hull City Council, Humberside Police and British Transport Police at the latest meeting of the City Centre Tasking Group. Other agencies including ReNew and Changing Futures were also present for the session, which took place in the new home of Changing Futures at The Hub.

The City Centre Tasking Group works strategically to pool information and build collaboration to



The City Centre Tasking Group met at Changing Futures.

combat shop theft, rough sleeping, begging, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

HullBID is recognised as a valued and influential member, providing insight and information to inform

proposed actions, whilst also helping with delivery.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "HullBID is constantly striving to ensure Hull is a safe, clean and pleasant environment for all and our presence within the group means we are able to ensure that issues directly affecting BID members are raised, dealt with and wherever possible prioritised.

"The Hub is a fantastic resource which is close to the city centre and specialises in supporting adults with multiple problems such as homelessness, addiction, mental health, domestic abuse and contact with the criminal justice system."

To inform HullBID about issues relevant to the City Centre Tasking Group please contact Operations and Support Officer Raich Orr on 07595 820121 or email [raich@hullbid.co.uk](mailto:raich@hullbid.co.uk)

# News

## Smiles of success as businesses celebrate at HullBID Awards

Businesses from across the city centre celebrated in style as HullBID recognised another year of achievement in the face of adversity and presented its annual awards at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hull.

HullBID executive director Kathryn Shillito announced that more than 420 applications came in from city centre businesses and other organisations from sectors including retail, hospitality, personal services, professional services, leisure, culture, and charities.

Roll of honour: Innovation Award sponsored by Aa Global Language Services. Winner: Hull College AI Academy. Shortlisted: Little Astronauts and Hull Schools Library Services.

The Best Place to Work Award sponsored by St Stephen's. Winner: DoubleTree by Hilton Hull.

Shortlisted: Toytown and Hull Truck Theatre.

Longevity Award sponsored by Allenby Commercial. Winner: F R Scott Limited. Shortlisted: Thieving Harry's and Kingston Theatre Hotel.

Contribution to the Community Award sponsored by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside. Winner: City of Hull Street Angels. Shortlisted: Lush and Good Things Market.

The Best in Food and Drink Award sponsored by Hull Trains. Winner: Thieving Harry's. Shortlisted: Patisserie House and Everything Toastie.

Stylish or Welcoming Premises Award sponsored by Hull City Council. Winner: Nanouk. Shortlisted: Cherry's Bar and Lili + Mila's Empawrium.

Customer Service Excellence Award sponsored by FigFlex. Winner: Reach Recruitment. Shortlisted: Artisan Flowers and DoubleTree by Hilton Hull.

Commitment to Health and Wellbeing Award sponsored by Segal's Jewellers. Winner: CatZero. Shortlisted: Hull Minster Welcome Café and Fit24.



The finalists at the HullBID Awards.

Outstanding Employee or Team Award sponsored by Grosvenor Casino. Winner: Tina Swann, C4DI. Shortlisted: Civic 1 and St Stephen's Security.

Outstanding Contribution Award sponsored by KFM Recruitment. Winner: The Deep. Shortlisted: Ferens Art Gallery and Hull Truck Theatre.

Judges' Special Recognition Award. Winner: Civic 1 and Humberside Police.

## HullBID supporting you with the power of social media

Easily accessible to all, HullBID's social media channels provide members with a resource for information, news and opportunities. Channels managed by HullBID are also there as marketing support to promote your business.

We are in touch with a collective audience of more than 20,000 people in Hull and the local area via our social media channels and that network is available to help city centre businesses.

We regularly share news and information that is of benefit to our members on the dedicated HullBID channels; whether it is announcements of new ventures and events, or vital information from city centre stakeholders which will help businesses, their staff and customers. This



method of communication works alongside the regular email updates we issue to keep members informed and up to date.

All the channels are managed by Victoria Yates, HullBID's new Events, Marketing and Social Media

Manager. Victoria said: "We really want the HullBID Linked In, Instagram and Facebook pages to be a useful and valuable resource for members. Supporting and helping them with relevant and timely information sharing, celebrating and recognising city centre business success and showcasing how HullBID can work with and benefit them. I'd urge members to give us a follow, as it's a quick and easy way to stay abreast of BID news."

Alongside the HullBID pages, Victoria also manages a number of pages dedicated to promoting offers, promotions and events happening in the city centre. She said: "These pages have an engaged following of over 18,000 people in Hull and the surrounding area who are interested in eating out, shopping and events and activities in Hull. I'd love to hear from members who would like to feature on here. The more we can talk about all there is to do and enjoy in Hull city centre the better!"

If you have an offer, promotion or exciting news to share please let Victoria know by sending an email to [Victoria@hullbid.co.uk](mailto:Victoria@hullbid.co.uk)



### Chair's statement Jim Harris, HullBID Chairman

As we come to the end of Q1 trading in the city and the continued spectre of A63 road closures still looms heavily over the business landscape, I need to mention my highlight of 2025 to date – the amazing HullBID Awards!

It was so refreshing to see so many city centre colleagues all dressed up and enjoying a fabulous night, in a superb venue, celebrating the very best of our local businesses!

Even if you weren't lucky enough to win an award we enjoyed a wonderful evening. Well done to Kathryn and the team for putting-on such great event!!!

### Got a question?

For more information about how to share your news or ideas, email [victoria@hullbid.co.uk](mailto:victoria@hullbid.co.uk) or call on 07739 759783

[www.hullbid.co.uk](http://www.hullbid.co.uk)

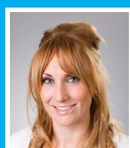
## The HullBID team

To find out about our board directors, visit [www.hullbid.co.uk](http://www.hullbid.co.uk)



Kathryn Shillito  
Executive Director

07595 820122  
[kathryn@hullbid.co.uk](mailto:kathryn@hullbid.co.uk)



Francesca Sharp  
PA/Business Liaison Officer

07719 519314  
[francesca@hullbid.co.uk](mailto:francesca@hullbid.co.uk)



Mark Andrews  
Senior Support Officer

07715 105989  
[mark@hullbid.co.uk](mailto:mark@hullbid.co.uk)



Victoria Yates  
Events, Marketing & Social Media Manager

07739 759783  
[victoria@hullbid.co.uk](mailto:victoria@hullbid.co.uk)



Raich Orr  
Operations & Support Officer

07595 820121  
[raich@hullbid.co.uk](mailto:raich@hullbid.co.uk)



Martin Foster  
Cleaning & Maintenance Operative

07595 820121  
[info@hullbid.co.uk](mailto:info@hullbid.co.uk)