



1 July 2010

## **Rugby Businesses vote YES for continuation of Rugby BID**

Businesses in the town centre voted YES for the continuation of the Rugby BID Company. The announcement of the month long postal ballot was revealed today in the Chamber Room of Rugby Town Hall.

This decision was the result of a four week long postal ballot involving Town Centre businesses where the majority agreed to continue paying the levy, which is in addition to their business rates. The levy funds are ringed fenced solely for maintaining and improving the already successful core services provided by the BID – the 24/7 CCTV, Rugby Rangers, Cleaning and Marketing.

55.4% percent of levy payers voted in the ballot this year compared to 46% in the very first vote back in 2005. In addition, the percentage of the number of businesses saying yes this time has risen from 66% in 2005 to 73%. The BID also needed to secure over 50% of the total rateable value of those who voted. In 2005 this stood at 58.1% this time the percentage was 87%.

After what has been one of the worst recessions for a generation, Chairman of Rugby BID Robin Richter said "This is a great outcome for Rugby. This yes vote is certain to assist in the regeneration of our Town Centre after what has been a pretty torrid couple of years or so. Over the past five years we have made huge improvements to our town, not only improving the look but also improving safety and security and have subsequently made it the Cleaner, Safer and Friendlier place it is today.

"We are delighted with the outcome of this vote, clearly our levy payers are pleased with the quality and standard of the services we provide. And, for those who voted against us, we assure you that we will do our best to address any issues you may have and prove that we are worthy of your support next time."

"Following the successful vote Rugby BID will now merge with Rugby First so that we have one company representing the Town Centre with the statutory bodies. We believe this will strengthen the positive impact we can have".