Radio journalism - Week five: Assessed Package (2)

For our final assessed task, my partner and I decided to create a radio news package which focused on the shopping arcades in the city centre, or more specifically, how they have reacted to the pedestrianisation of St Marys Street (which was completed last week).

The package itself has been put together well, and following on from advice picked up last week, we made it longer, sticking to the brief. This was achieved by us collecting more interviews, from a wider range of people related to the story. It’s a little disappointing that we couldn’t get any comment off someone from the council, but we did include a brief statement from them in order to be fair, and give equal weight to the story, with both sides given.

We included a few different interviews in the package, ranging from shop keepers to shoppers, but we made sure not to turn this package into four minutes of vox-pop’s, so instead cut it down, using only the best, which added to the package.

The reporter link follows on nicely from the written presenter link helping the story to flow. We also decided to have our reporter on the scene for the first link, adding actuality to the package – which works well. Despite this, we decide to record the remaining links inside a room (although recording it in a studio would have been better). Following on from this, the pay-off rounded off the package brilliantly, giving a summary of what we have heard, leaving it to the audience to have a little think.

Overall, this module as a whole has not only introduced me to the world of radio journalism, but it has given me a real grasp of what it takes to make a high quality package, fit for air. As the weeks went by, the quality of the packages increased, and this could only be achieved by learning from past experiences and improving as a result.

I learned about a lot during the five weeks, as I have documented in previous blogs. But to hone in on one major aspect I have learned, it is the importance of deadlines – which is present not just with radio, but also with print and TV. In order to meet deadlines a lot of planning has to go in, right from stepping out of the office, through to clicking the submit button. The more thought and effort that goes into creating the package, generally, the better it will be.