

Minutes of OBF meeting held at Orpington Campus 9th January 2013

List of Attendees

Tangent/OBF	Chandra	Sharma	1
The Gift Outlet	Phil	Westley	1
Bromley College	Shaun	Gunning	1
Town Centre Manager	Cheryl	Curr	1
Virotti	Mark	Salter	1
Thomas Dunton	Vernon	Hadida	1
Thomas Dunton	John	Williams	1
OBF	Frank	Levett	1
CWJ	Ben	Madden	1
Barclays Bank	Harvey	Reid	1
Barclays Bank	Jane	Sutherland	1
Police Safer Neighbourhood	P C Annette	Stevens	1
Nat West	M	Reace-Coles	1
Nat West	N	Khan	1
Gesti's	John	Hill	1
Churches Together	Ray	Bell	1
Bromley Councillors	William	Huntingdon-Thresher	1
Walnuts Leisure Centre	Kay	Skeeta	1
Brand Bucket	Donna	Still	1
Lollipop Events	Rachelle	Harte	1
Bob's Books	Bob	Luckhurst	1
The Walnuts Shopping Centre	Martin	Price	1
Perrys	Steve	Hale	1
D.S. Moss Jewellers	Danny	Moss	1
D.S. Moss Jewellers	Lisa	Moss	1
The Bakery	Jackie	Reed	1
Bon Marche	Lorna	Allenson	1
LBB	Cllr	Tunncliffe	1
Tangent	James	Ashley	1
TOTAL ATTENDEES			30

Apologies received

Gary Morris

1. Welcome

Chandra Sharma opened the meeting and conducted introductions.

2. Safer Neighbourhood Report

PC Stevens apologized for PC Gill's absence.

Since the last meeting several incidents were reported including 10 cases of shop-lifting, 1 of criminal damage, 2 Burglaries and 2 Public Disorder offences.

The action point regarding recent incidents of flooding being deliberately started was advised as that a flat above WH Smiths had been broken into causing the problem.

Warning was given about pickpockets operating in the Walnuts.

An arrest has been made following people trying to falsely access accounts directly in the banks.

There was an incident of vehicle crime behind Harvest Moon.

3. Bid Update

Chandra gave a presentation using a live display of the Orpington 1st website.

Advised that the Facebook page and Twitter (@orpington1st) are now also live.

Timescales re-emphasised – Voting begins 24th Jan and closes at 5pm on 21st Feb.
Results announced 22nd Feb.

The importance of voting was stressed and that the BID team have continued to visit as many businesses as possible and will consolidate this by:

1. Sending ballot papers to the registered addresses (for rates) of all businesses.
2. A newsletter (copies available in meeting) has been hand delivered to all businesses.
3. Another newsletter will be hand delivered to all within 2 weeks.

If successful the BID will start operating on the 1st April.

Rachel of Lollipop Events advised that demonstrator projects are being held in the Walnuts to make the public aware. They are trying to get some characters, possibly The

Wombles, to the town to promote the BID, 26th Jan in the old Gamleys unit is the planned date.

The BID shadow committee are only in place until the voting result is approval, then the BID Board will be created.

In response to questions from the floor, Chandra highlighted benefits that having a BID in place could bring, these included examples of where income could be created to recycle back into the BID funds.

News of an Odeon opening was generating a buzz about the BID.

Most negativity stemmed from lack of information and mis-information.

Some proposals about BID actions were:

1. Using the Walnuts balers to the benefit of the BID, there use could be extended to other businesses for reducing costs of waste removal and recycling.
2. Parking Rangers – to present a helpful face to those using the town’s parking, offering help rather than just handing out fines for parking offences. Vernon advised that “Parking Ambassadors” have already been included in existing plans.
3. Why can’t loading bays be opened up for shoppers on Sundays – **Action point for Cllr WHT.**

Chandra asked for businesses to provide logos of their businesses to place on the BID website, if they approve of the BID.

Frank Levett outlined the teams promotion and information activities, trying to ensure all know and asked that the OBF be informed if any know of any not being contacted yet.

5. Town Centre Manager's Report

Cheryl reported that the Managers put on hold until the BID vote had been cast. had nothing of note to report.

New tenants are coming in, much positive interest.

Feedback from a recent new tenant, Cargo, was that they had poor turnover but very good profit, they felt this was a problem of their own as they had not marketed their opening has much as other openings; so no reflections on the Town being a poor trading choice.

The police station is now up for sale.

A new tenant has moved into the old Village hall development.

The Christmas lights will be removed next week.

Martin Price told that work commences on developing the Walnuts on 28th Jan. This includes asbestos removal, work on the Atrium and the old Job Centre site. The works are expected for 40 – 46 weeks but that no new tenants envisaged until Feb/March 2014.

6. Google

Google will hold an event at Orpington Campus on the 7th Feb. This is part of the “Get British Business Online” campaign backed by Jo Johnson MP. Registration details will be sent out.

7. Barclays Presentation

Harvey gave presentation advising of event on 7th Feb, and how they can help businesses. They will send details out.

8. AOB

SLB want to arrange another business advice day as there was zero interest last time.

Chandra asked if any others wanted to speak, Donna Still promoted how she can help local businesses with marketing support and expertise.

Shaun Gunning spoke about the opportunities that the apprenticeship programme can give to every business.

Kay Skeeta echoed this with examples of her first hand experience at Bromley Mytime.

The Meeting concluded at 7.45 and the next meeting was declared for the 13th March.