

1. Welcome

Chandra Sharma opened the meeting, advising that this was also the AGM. Introductions were conducted.

1.1 AGM

All current posts and their holders were described and nominations for all roles, vacant and currently occupied, were opened for consideration.

One such vacancy has been created by Gary Morris resigning from position as Chair of the Board. Gary has also resigned from his role on the BID team.

It was offered and agreed that this position will be kept vacant until any nominations happen and also as the OBF will be going through a transitional stage while the BID comes to formation.

Frank Levett has agreed to be acting chair.

All motions were carried.

2. BID Update

Chandra gave a presentation on the results of the Orpington 1st BID.

Amongst the figures it was shown that 48% of the BID members voted, this was compared with Streatham's BID where only 34% voted. Of our 48%, 54% voted in favour; Streatham however had 60% of their 34% in favour.

A full breakdown of the figures have been sent to all BID members.

Although the BID has been voted in we now need to undergo a waiting period to allow for any to make a legal challenge. If none are made, or upheld, then the BID will formally go live on the 1st April. A calendar of BID events has been created up to September 1st.

It was explained that the ability of the BID to start making tangible changes will be limited until it has money, none is expected until the first round of levies has been received, approx. mid-May.

However the BID board will be active in preparation, aims established and the full process to negotiate contracts conducted. Patience is asked for.

Much emphasis was placed on asking members to become active in the BID, the board wants to be proactive in getting as many members as possible involved. These can become, for example, sector specific groups forming think-tanks to better advise the BID board. Option forms will be sent to all. The opportunity to also become board members is open to all, 4 minimum are required but there is no maximum number.

The more that become actively involved the better the BID will be.

It was stated that the levy percentage rate cannot be increased, however that percentage is applied on the rateable value, which can rise.

A to-do list is being created in readiness for the 1st April.

This list currently has the items of:

A baseline agreement with Bromley Council.

Deciding on theme working groups.
Setting Key priorities – Public toilets are an urgent matter.
Recruitment of a BID Manager.

Already the College has offered to do the BID's accounts, provide office space and a telephone line.

Chandra asked for any volunteers, any skill sets considered.

The BID board directors present – Sia, Andy, Martin & Chandra talked about their reasons for getting involved and conducted a Q&A session, however no questions came from the floor.

3. Safer Neighbourhood Report

Sgt Lamb gave an update from the police team. The Met police are undergoing massive changes. No blueprint details yet, just some possible scenarios and opinion given. The SN team will cease in its present form but keen to maintain a presence in the town.

PC Stevens relayed the crime stats for the last period, these included 28 shoplifting offences, 2 burglaries, 2 public order offences and 3 fixed penalties notices issued and a bike stolen from outside the leisure centre.

Macdonalds have experienced problems with assaults on staff which have extended to assaults on customers.

A “Lebanese loop” device has been used at cashpoints in the town, this is a method to gain a card and the cardholders PIN number (more information see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanese_loop) . It was stressed for all to be vigilant.

A lady has been selling “lucky” clover then being abusive to those that refuse to buy any, please report her to police if she is seen.

Another female under the influence of drink has been arrested, please report her if she is seen drunk and abusive.

Youths have again been running on roofs and anti-social behavior has occurred in the Walnuts centre. ASBO's are in the process of being issued.

4. Town Loyalty Card

There was little to report apart from Cargo have now joined as a participating business. It is envisaged that the scope of the card will be enhanced with the BID in place.

5. Town Centre Managers report

Cheryl advised that due to changes in funding the role will cease in its current form. No events are being organized due to the this role change and the creation of the BID. Amongst the usual approaches, one has been made to the town centre regarding the creation of a mobile app (lication), what is of interest is that this will include data capture, it is being put forward for further consideration.

Chandra took the opportunity to pay thanks to Cheryl for her dedication and efforts to the OBF, BID and Town.

The Newsshopper was thanked for its support.

Gratitude was given to Gary Morris for his outstanding work as Chair.

The floor then gave thanks for Chandra for his continued contribution to the OBF, BID and other activities that benefit the town.

6. AOB

No other items were raised.

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm.

No date was advised for the next meeting.