

1. Welcome

Frank Levett opened the meeting, gave apologies and conducted introductions and agreed minutes of previous meeting.

1. Safer Neighbourhood Report

PC Stevens gave an update from the police team.

14 shop-lifting events were reported, mainly from Tesco's, resulting in 13 arrests.

The Butchers suffered a burglary and 2 pick-pockets have been operating in the area.

There were 13 civil recoveries and 20 Stop and searches.

1 youth was arrested for anti-social behavior.

The female harassing public to buy "Lucky Clover" has been stopped.

There has been little roof jumping/free-running activity reported.

2. Orpington 1st Report

Chandra gave update that the shadow board has been active overseeing activity.

This has included:

Recruiting an Executive Director for the BID

Setting budgets for 2013/14 and indicators for the next 5 years

Setting up accounting systems

Preparing the letter to accompany bills going out in June.

Making preparations for the BID AGM on Sept 11th.

Continue to encourage levy payers become members and actively become involved in the BID operations.

A presentation was then conducted on the Theme Groups and the topics each might get involved in. Throughout all it was repeated that the groups needed to have members and looked for volunteers from the floor.

First for Customers:

A new website

New investment in the Loyalty Card

Campaign to attract new business to the area

Programme of promotional events

Booking regular specialist markets

Orpington "Town Makers"

First for Look and Feel:

Measures to tackle vacant units

A shop front improvement scheme
Tackling crime and nuisance behavior – Shop Safe Radio/Town Wardens
Gathering information on new developments
Comprehensive plan for the area

First for Access:

Parking
Public toilets – potential £25k from council to fund
Better signage
Sustainable transport

First for Business:

Collective buying of services – IT equipment, waste management
Business networking opportunities and events
Advocacy schemes
Training for Businesses

The following agreed to become involved in the theme groups:

Katy, Margot, Nick – First for Customers
Marc – First for Business
Tim – First for Business or Customers
Phil – First for Look and Feel
Pat – First for Access

Budgets were discussed, over the next 5 years £209,500 (excluding earnings from activities) should be available to the BID. This includes the council contribution.

This is anticipated to be allocated as follows:

First for Customers = £47.5k
First for Look = £44k
First for Access = £37k
First for Business = £36k
Core Costs = £36k
Contingency = £10k

The College has provided office space for the BID above the Bromley Online Learning Centre in the Walnuts, an A Board has been ordered to promote the BID presence there.

Progress so far is that Agreements have been checked by the council and CWJ. Operating baselines and Market Agreements signed.

Inaugural meetings for the Theme groups (except First for Access) have been held.

Free cardboard recycling has been started.

The new Orpington 1st website is now live.

By June it is hoped that the Exec. Director will be recruited.

The interim board and BID Advisors were shown to the meeting and it was again repeated that more join.

3. Priory Museum Development

Hannah and Elizabeth gave a presentation to inform of a grant application to the lottery fund for £2.3m.

The aim is to restore the Manor and extend museum space. They are going through a consulting process to target groups that will generate a focus for a programme of activities. This is of immediate interest to the OBF/BID as it has the potential to generate footfall for the High Street.

They are researching what facilities might be useful and requested suggestions from the floor and the completion of a questionnaire.

4. Town Talk

Naz Choudury gave a presentation about Towntalk and the new Orpington 1st website. Towntalk has been operating as a social enterprise for 18 years and operating 200 sites across the UK and EU including Westfield Shopping Centre, with traffic of 1.5m per month.

Providing a service through the site as a community notice board it will have a chat forum to allow businesses to interact directly with the local community.

Details of all BID businesses are currently being uploaded but each needs to provide a profile to be included. Any business can upload to own homepage and redirect to their own site if they have one.

Upgrade and sponsorship opportunities are available and 20% of revenue generated is fed back to the BID.

They will be providing training sessions to help all become familiar and confident in using the service to its full potential.

5. AOB

Special thanks was given to Gary Morris for his work over the years to the business community and the creation of the OBF.

No other items were raised.

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm.