

Minutes of OBF meeting held at Orpington Campus 10th July 2013

List of Attendees

Tangent/OBF	Chandra	Sharma	1
The Gift Outlet	Phil	Westley	1
Bromley College	Shaun	Gunning	1
SK Computers	Shamus		1
Lollipop Events	Rachelle	Harte	1
Thomas Dunton Solicitors	Vernon	Hadida	1
Churches Together	Ray	Bell	1
OBF	Frank	Levett	1
News Shopper	K	Healy	2
Cray Festival	Nicky	Barcay	1
Kenton Homes	Sia	Bodbin	1
Police Safer Neighbourhood	Russell	Lamb	1
Tesco	S	Davey	2
Towntalk	Naz	Choudhury	1
Orpington Community	Margot	Rohan	1
Thornburrows	Sue	Andrews	1
Thornburrows	Steve	Roper	1
Bob Books	Bob	Luckhurst	1
A Time 4 Flowers	Sue	Ball	1
Orpington Dental Care	Yvonne	Clark	1
Perrys Accountants	Tom	Kirkham	1
LBB	William	Huntington- Thresher	1
My Loyalty Card	S	Hopkins	1
KC's	G	Hassan	1
D S Moss Jewellers	D	Moss	1
The Bakery	Jackie	Reed	1
The White Hart	Andy		1
TOTAL ATTENDEES			30

Apologies received

Steve Hale Perry's Accountants
Gary Morris Printing.com
Denes Nemostophy Westcombe Park Rugby Club

1. Welcome

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

1. Safer Neighbourhood Report

Sgt Russell Lamb reported that the crimes over the months of May and June have been the lowest for a long time, with only 1 burglary event and 3 anti-social offences. It was explained that the issue with roof jumpers is difficult as the activity is one of private trespass, the police can only request they move on. If they however cause damage or, as has happened, thrown material into the street, then they are criminal offences which the police can take more decisive action on. There has been no reported activity in the last 5 weeks.

The police building is now on the market for sale.

The police are moving to the Cray base and will be implementing a new policing system from the 16th Sept. Whilst the procedure is known it will need working adjustments as it is put into practice.

A question was asked about the Shop Safe radio scheme. Russell advised that it is a very good tool for the retailers to have as it provides a quick and dedicated link to warn other businesses. It is also linked to the Bromley borough CCTV system but to be most effective the police need to be also notified of an event, they can zoom in on the relevant shop front to get a much clearer view of the trouble spot.

Martin Pinnell asked for anyone that wants to get involved in the Shop Safe scheme to contact him and commented that one of the BID benefits could be to fund a better deal or pay for improvements to the system.

2. Orpington 1st Report

Chandra gave an overview of the differences between the OBF and Orpington 1st operations as it was a common question asked.

It was explained that each has different functions and aims, each has different membership groups. The OBF is a forum for the business and associated entities such as religious and community groups to discuss and give voice and representation to bodies such as the Council. The BID however could be viewed as a operational body with a wider geographical reach, able to make decisions and take direct action in certain areas.

Therefore it is highly likely that the OBF will continue as it performs a separate function to the BID.

Encouragements were repeated for all levy payers to become BID members.

Naz presented the vision for the Theme Groups and ran through the focus points each may have.

He gave a live demonstration of the new website and how it will perform a multi-faceted tool for businesses to promote themselves and interact with the local community. Businesses can upload content such as profile information, special offers, competitions and events for free.

There are 5000 current subscribers and a newsletter is emailed to over 4000 every month. Steve of My Loyalty Card was introduced. He outlined the history of the scheme and how it operates.

Every week a business is chosen to be a special feature on the site, it will also be emailed, tweeted and highlighted on the facebook page to all cardholders.

The new card will be issued and will be valid for the lifetime of the BID contract.

Chandra discussed the urgency and importance of maintaining a programme of events, these are vital to keep a focus on the town and attracting footfall.

With the loss of Cheryl Curr as Town Centre Manager we have no-one to cover many of the responsibilities, such as managing the events calendar. A tendering process has begun to find someone suitable to fill that role.

Using POP-UP Britain to source pop-up shops is being looked at as a very attractive option to utilize vacant units, this will help to keep the town looking fresh.

3. Orpington Finest 2013

Every business in the OBF catchment has today been visited and handed at least 25 cards for them to hand to customers for voting. Stock of more cards and low tack window stickers were available and all were encouraged to take as much as they wanted and promote to every customer they meet. A prize of £150 will be won by one voter.

4. Road works

Questions have been asked to the council about the recent problems of road works, Martin Pinnell was able to advise that he knows the question is with the council and a reply should be forthcoming. He was able to inform that the works were vital as problems were being caused for pedestrians crossing the road at the raised areas, the road

colouration was too similar so vehicle drivers could not easily identify the crossing area leading to approaching them too fast. Assurances were given that future events would be held at low traffic times and good notice would be given wherever possible.

5. AOB

The date for the BID AGM was announced as 11th September, the BID board would be elected.

Chandra reminded all that the BID levy bills have now gone out, he emphasized that these are legal commitments so must be paid, so do not ignore. Every bill includes a page of FAQ's and the same is available on the BID website. Any questions were encouraged

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm.