

Meeting of the Orpington Business Forum
Tuesday 9th September 2014

Present:

Benn Madden	Chandra Sharma	Denes Nemestothy
Frank Levett	Jackie Reed	Katie Williams
Marie McVey	Mark Wildi	Martin Pinnell
Naz Choudhury	Nicky Barclay	Rachelle Harte
William Huntington- Thresher	Kim Botting	Phil Westley
Christine Westley	Michelle (FSB)	Ray Bell
Suzanne Sharp	Sharon Baldwin	

Apologies received.

Vernon Hadia

Pauline Tunnicliffe

Danny Stevens

Biggin Hill Airport -The BID Team are forming close allegiance with Biggin Hill team. The next board meeting will be held there. Orpington can see the advantages of progressing this relationship, due to further inward investment. Approval for the hotel development there is imminent.

Saxon Day Centre –Charity _ <http://www.saxondaycentre.org.uk/>

Have recently got a new minibus, and the Bid Team are progressing town are supporting shopping days in Town for the Day Centre visitors

Village Halls – Bid are working on marketing of the Village Halls for events etc.

Photographic Society <http://www.orpingtonphotographicsociety.co.uk>

Again allegiances are being formed. The Bid team are working hard to bring all of the organisations within Orpington in a co-operative working partnership

Broadband Grants Following a trip to City Hall - BID continue to champion £3k grants for high speed broadband for business.

Meerkat – Collective purchasing scheme available to all BID groups , they visit each shop and advise them how to save costs e.g. group rates for purchase of utilities etc

Shop Updates

Mini Mart is closed for refurbishment and will reopen as a gift shop

James Terry has permission for a tanning salon

A new Toy shop will open in the Walnuts

Corals – closed. The taxi firm opposite has applied for permission to take this over.

The first pop up shop in Bromley will open in the Walnuts, former Paper Box site to test trading.

Commercial Property

Templegate House has had change of use to residential flats approved. It's quite easy to get change of use now for an 18 month “window”. Berwick House have also applied.

There is a danger that Orpington will be downgraded as office destination (they have appealed.)

New Enterprise Hub will open at 205 High St opposite Post Office. Mixed creative use. Bid team will based there. Board room and new start ups will be offered space.

Berkeley Homes and Churchill Homes are holding consultations for the new build proposals.

Market Square meeting this week , Berkeley Homes , College, Walnuts , traders to show potential architects plans on how to utilise space , parking etc allied to the cinema developments. See

<http://www.thewalnutsshoppingcentre.com/DevelopmentCam.aspx>

BID now attend the commercial agents property forum to track new businesses coming in to town.

Parking Review – All proposals are now with the council, a meeting date is imminent.

Standards Review due – Bid in place now for 18 months, council review success and forward plan and how council services may change going forward.

Food Economy – Orpington has a great food offer already. Cafes restaurants and bars etc. Work is going on to interact the new college catering apprentices with the town restaurants as well as its new college restaurant **BR6**. The car park of the college will be used for BR6 diners. The cinema complex will bring with it, new national chain restaurants. Opportunities also exist for the Priory Museum, the plans to extend has been quashed so commercial opportunities will now exist for this historic site. The BID team will support this by bringing in Farmer's markets etc. A new legislation for all restaurants comes into force 13th December. You need to say exactly what food contains; Training will be held 29/9 meeting Crofton halls for all restaurants, Orpington Bid want all food outlets to have 5 star status under the new regime.

NUGENT - The Town Team have met with British Land, Nugent about how they can complement each other. British Land own Poundland site in The Walnuts shopping centre, exploring ideas for co-operative projects.

EVENTS – Following success of Priory Live this will run again **15/8/15**. Lead up events at The White Hart - **Priory Live Intro** will select acts for the main stage .Contact is Nick Barclay for the festivals. The Cray Festival (3000 people this year) will move to The Priory Park with a new event – 2 days - rebranded **The BIG O – 4th and 5th July 2015**.

28 Sept 14 **Cycle Mania Fun Day** everything for the Bike enthusiast. High Street closure to traffic to accommodate.

26th Sept – **MacMillan Coffee Morning** Silver Lounge 10-12 . This will incorporate - The Orpington Bake Off

POLICE – The BID have part funded a dedicated police team for the High St. 2 Officers and 4 PCSO's . They will use The Enterprise Hub office as required .Together with the newly formed crime reduction partnership street briefings, a co-ordinated approach to Security and CCTV from; will give positive Visual Policing in the area. A crime summit will take place 27/9, a briefing for businesses from The Anti terror Squad in light of increased threat levels. Police neighbourhood teams continue as usual.

PUBLIC REALM briefing from Cllr Huntington Thresher. The Walnuts Leisure centre may have drastic alterations to get it to face into town. (Application to Mayors fund). Station Car Park work continues additional 142 spaces.

CHRISTMAS PLANNING

Christmas events will be held from Memorial to Knoll Rise, away from the Walnuts due to construction work. Father Christmas and Reindeers, grotto, Lantern parade, full stage line up and the usual fireworks. 20th November – Thursday coincides with late night shopping. Businesses are encouraged to stay open and take advantage of the additional footfall.

AGM 8th October – All welcome www.orpington1st.co.uk