

Orpington 1st Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation owned and led by local employers. It seeks to improve Orpington as an area to work, visit and live.

As a Business Improvement District (BID), Orpington 1st is financed through a mandatory levy paid by approximately 350 businesses in accordance with the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004.

The BID is elected for a five-year term, after which another ballot will be necessary for it to continue. The levy is 1.5% of the rateable value of all the eligible rateable properties in the Orpington 1st BID area.

BID Levy Income 2015/16	£141,000*	Expenditure 2015/16	
Additional Income Secured 2015/16		Customers	£69,500
Events & Promotions	£55,000	Look & Feel	£53,500
High Street Fund	£25,000	Access	£46,000
New Homes Bonus	£40,000	Business	£76,500
LBB Contribution	£12,775	Total	£245,500
Additional Income total	£132,775		
Full Income	£273,775		

These figures are the estimated spend up to and including March 31st 2016. An independent financial review will be available in the annual report. **The AGM will be held at 12:00pm on Monday 9th May 2016.**

* Income after collection charges deducted.

In the year ahead we will focus on...

- Strengthening the brand identity of Orpington town centre as a great place to live, visit and work.
- Developing an events programme that delivers improved footfall into the high street.
- Enhancing our website to provide a digital platform for levy payers to use to improve their business performance.
- Utilising our newly formed partnerships with the FSB, BNI and Bromley College to provide improved and additional business support.
- Providing a voice at local, regional and national level to promote the opportunities of the town centre and its position as the London/Kent Gateway.
- Expanding our investment programme of attracting new businesses that add value to our current offer and fill vacant premises with quality retailers.
- Ensuring that the new public space provides opportunities to connect all businesses and extends beyond the College square.
- Building on the new Pub Watch Scheme to ensure the appropriate management of the emerging night time economy.
- Enhancing our public space with additional environmental improvements and creative projects that benefit businesses.



Project Achievements

First For Business



- Free business support, advice and training.
- New Enterprise Market for start-up businesses.
- Approx. £30,000 cost savings identified for high street businesses through the engagement of Meercat Assoc.
- Annual Business Show established.
- Opening of the Enterprise Hub providing access to low cost office accommodation and training facilities.
- Annual awards held to celebrate Orpington's Finest Businesses and promote the town.
- New BID for Business Breakfast.
- New quarterly forums.
- 'Opportunity Orpington' implemented to encourage inward investment, and support economic development.

First For Customers



- An exciting events programme created to encourage customers into the high street.
- 50% drop in vacant premises.
- Over 22,000 unique visitors per month to our website, FREE for businesses to use.
- Dedicated Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels with a combined following of over 5,000.
- A quarterly magazine distributed to over 13k households.
- Regular talks and presentations to resident and community groups.



First For Look & Feel



- Secured new local Police Team of 6 officers – dedicated to the high street.
- Extended programme of Clean Up/Green Up tackling problem areas.
- Secured additional funding to create a new public town square.
- Runner up in Bromley in Bloom with our summer planting scheme.
- Christmas lights installed across the high street.

First For Access



- Negotiated FREE on street parking in loading bays from 6:30pm.
- Developed Levy payers permit scheme, enabling private vehicles to be used for loading.
- Continued lobbying of LBB to further improve parking and signage.
- Founding member of Bromley Cycle Forum.
- 1 Year's FREE membership of City Car Club for up to 10 members of staff, PLUS £75 driving credit.
- Continued funding of public toilet facilities, providing the only public conveniences in the borough.

