

# Orpington

Better for Business



**Orpington 1<sup>st</sup> 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 300 businesses, in accordance with the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004.

The BID was 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 properties within the BID boundary.

Income 2016/17		Expenditure 2016/17	
Levy	£151k	Customers	£68k
Promos & Sponsorship	£42k	Look & Feel	£56k
New Homes Bonus	£43k	Access	£39k
Rental Income	£20k	Business	£84k
<b>Full Income</b>	<b>£256k</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£247k</b>

These figures are the estimated spend up to and including March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017. An independent financial review will be available in the annual report.

**The AGM will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017.**

### **Our focus for the year ahead will be:**

- Completing the delivery of the projects set out in the 2013 proposal document and establishing priorities for a second term.
- Expanding our investment programme, attracting new businesses that add value to our current offer and filling vacant premises with quality retailers.
- 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.

# Project Achievements

## First For Business



- Free business support, advice, training and networking.
- Approx. £40,000 cost savings identified for high street businesses through the engagement of Meercat Assoc.
- Collection of robust high street data to aid business development and encourage future investment.
- Annual awards held to celebrate Orpington's business community and promote the town.
- 'Opportunity Orpington' expanded to include town open day.

## First For Customers

- An established events programme created to encourage customers into the town centre.
- 300,000 visits to the Orpington 1<sup>st</sup> website in 2016 - FREE for businesses to use.
- Dedicated Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels with a combined following of over 7,000.
- A quarterly magazine distributed to over 15k households.



## First For Look & Feel



- Continued funding for our dedicated police team.
- Extended programme of Clean Up/Green Up tackling problem areas.
- Finalist in 'Bromley in Bloom' with our summer planting scheme.
- NEW Christmas lights installed across the high street.

## First For Access

- Public realm improvements begun for new town square through a joint bid with LBB.
- Research and review for improved wayfinding.
- Continued funding of public toilet facilities, providing the only public conveniences in the borough.

