



Ahead of the lifting of restrictions in the summer, we installed the bunting tree at Memorial Roundabout, before flying the Union Flag ahead of Remembrance Day.

Orpington

Better for Business

As a Business Improvement District (BID), Orpington 1st is financed through a mandatory levy, paid by approximately 325 businesses, in accordance with the BID (England) Regulations 2004.

The BID was renewed for a second five-year term in November 2017 following a ballot of all eligible businesses, who voted 83% in favour.

The BID's role is to deliver the projects set out in the BID Business Plan 2018-2023 (available online). These are constantly reviewed and developed on account of the rapidly evolving business environment.

The BID gives levy payers a voice to influence and shape our town's future as it undergoes significant changes.

2020 was a challenging year for everyone and Orpington's business community has demonstrated great resilience and agility in its response to the covid-19 pandemic. The BID adapted by refocusing its activity so as to best support the town centre and its businesses through the crisis.



Orpington 1st BID funded and installed hand sanitiser stations in the town centre to help reduce the spread of coronavirus.



Orpington 1st BID funded and installed planters across the high street to create a pleasant and welcoming environment.

Orpington First Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation owned and led by local businesses. It aims to improve Orpington as an area to work, live and visit.



We installed pavement vinyls to assist with business's queue management.



Supt Andy Brittain, Gareth Bacon MP, and BID Manager Chris Travers. With the support of our MP, the BID negotiated a nominated town centre police presence to build relations with businesses.

A summary of BID activity 2020/21...

As the covid-19 pandemic gathered pace, Orpington 1st acted, providing **clarity and advocacy** in an uncertain and rapidly evolving situation, and redirecting resources from events to the **physical environment and business support**.

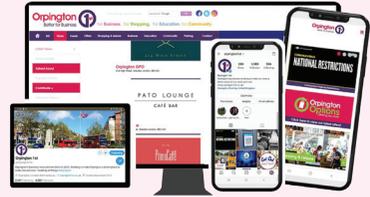
We assisted businesses in becoming **covid secure** and installed hands-free **sanitiser stations** to help reduce the spread of infection. Working with the council, we installed **Safer Space Planters**, replacing the red and white barriers, enabling confident social distancing, and creating a more **welcoming environment**.

In addition to our **summer planting programme**, we installed the borough's first **green screen**, providing an environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing visage to a vacant unit. We funded **fly-tipping removal** and worked with the local authority on **chewing gum removal**.

We continued to promote Orpington and its businesses online and in print, growing **The Orpington 1st Magazine's** readership to over **34,000**, plus digital readers.

We **lobbied, nationally and locally**, on issues like extending the **business rates holiday** and **policing**, and issued **guidance and advice** to businesses, one to one, and through a series of online webinars and regular e-newsletters, helping businesses **access the support available**.

Looking to the future, we have **connected stakeholders**, acting as the voice for business in the imminent **transformation of the town centre**. We've worked with new businesses to **support planning applications** and provided up to date information to prospective tenants to **encourage investment**.

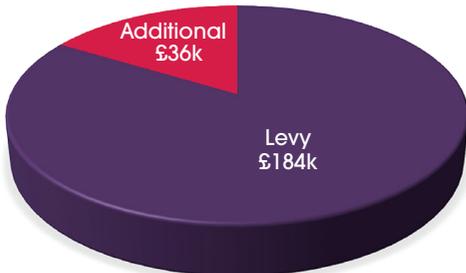


The Orpington 1st website averages 1/4 million hits every year and we have combined social media following of 12,000. Our online directory of Orpington's Eat Out To Help Out eateries alone received over 11,000 views.



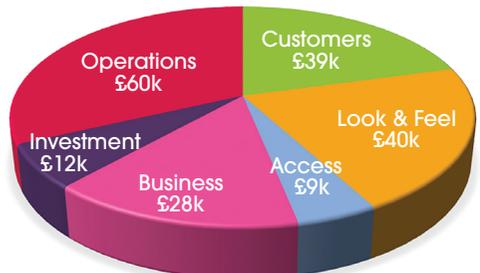
We've worked with Arell, the owners of The Walnuts Shopping Centre, to ensure that the business community's views are represented throughout the redevelopment of the centre.

Income 2020/21



Total £220k

Expenditure 2020/21



Total £188k

These figures are the estimated spend up to and including March 31st 2020. An independent financial review will be available in the annual report