

Growing for gold – the BID's environmental and horticultural projects were rewarded with first place at the London in Bloom awards.



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



The Orpington Santa Dash returned in 2021 bringing hundreds of Santa and their families to the town centre

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.

2021 was another challenging year but Orpington's business community continued to demonstrate its resilience and agility through the covid-19 pandemic. The BID refocused activity to support town centre businesses through the crisis whilst still delivering customer focused activity to help build back confidence and encourage footfall.



As part of our event programme, we introduced a new literary festival celebrating the written and spoken word with a mixture of online and in-person events

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.

A summary of BID activity 2021/22...



Our High Street Pallet Park created more greening, planting and seating, and provided an additional location for activities - like our caricaturist



Our roaming performers entertained high street diners for our food festival

As the pandemic continued to impact on businesses Orpington 1st worked in partnership with LBB to ensure our businesses had **access to all available grant schemes**, providing advice on eligibility and support with applications.

We made the case for the maximum amount of discretionary funding to be directed to our town centre and secured an **additional £127k** for our levy payers with the **BID Business Booster Grant**.

As part of **Real Estate Live 2021** we hosted a panel of experts to discuss regeneration opportunities and how collaborative working can help shape vibrant town centres for the future.

During Areli's consultation on the town centre regeneration proposals, we ensured that businesses had a **strong voice**, and we continue to represent the collective view through the planning process and potential redevelopment.

We have enabled successful

meanwhile space in vacant premises within the Walnuts whilst encouraging new tenants into high street properties, contributing to Orpington's **higher occupancy rate** than both the national and London average.

Our commitment to the look and feel of the high street with our **summer greening and cleaning** programme resulted in the **gold medal** at the prestigious London in Bloom awards.

Orpington 1st's annual **food festival** promoted our thriving hospitality sector, and alongside the **Orpington Santa Dash** we delivered the town's first **ice rink** offering almost 6,000 places to residents during the important Christmas trading period.

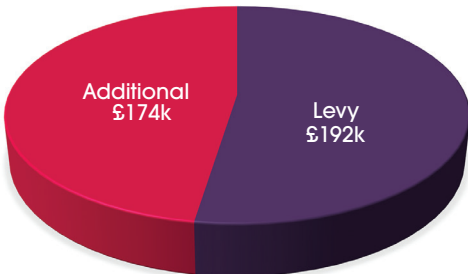


The BID provides a strong voice for business and will continue to work with the council and developers to realise opportunities and mitigate disruption



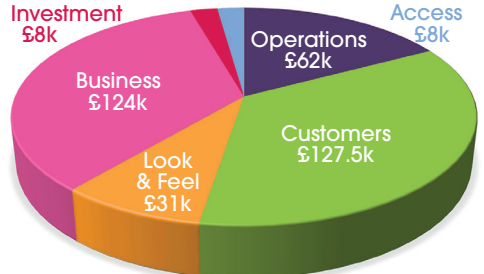
The Orpington Ice Rink welcomed residents to the town throughout December

Income 2021/22



Total £366k

Expenditure 2021/22



Total £360.5k

These figures are the estimated spend up to and including March 31st 2021. An independent financial review will be available in the annual report