

In June 2022, the BID organised Orpington's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, delivering a 12-hour event which brought together thousands of Orpingtonians in the heart of the town centre to mark the momentous occasion



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 third five-year term in July 2022 following a ballot of all eligible businesses, who voted 87% in favour by number and 89% in favour by rateable Value. The BID's role is to deliver the projects set out in the BID Business Plan

(available online) developed in consultation with levy payers. Projects 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.

Through the Covid-19 pandemic, Orpington's business community demonstrated its resilience and agility. With restrictions lifted, the BID applied a renewed focus on customer facing activity to help build back confidence and encourage footfall, whilst continuing to advocate on behalf of town centre businesses.



Along with Christmas lights over the festive period, Orpington 1st's summer planting programme is part of the BID's drive to improve the Look & Feel of the town centre



Orpington Santa Dash 2022 saw the town painted red by record numbers of all ages and abilities

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.



High street parklets provided additional seating as well as extra greening, creating a more welcoming environment



A royal celebration – Orpington’s marking Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee in Market Square

A summary of BID activity 2022/23...

Throughout 2022/23 the BID continued to **consult** with businesses regarding regeneration of the town centre and helped **connect** those seeking to **invest** in the town with suitable opportunities, supporting appropriate redevelopment.

Looking to the future of business and supporting the next generation of young entrepreneurs, in Spring of 2022 we held the inaugural Orpington **Children’s Business Fair** – the first event of its kind to take place in Greater London.

An enhanced **Orpington 1st website** was developed, including a comprehensive business directory. Over 15k copies of **The Orpington 1st Magazine** were printed and distributed every quarter, promoting the town and its businesses.

In June, Orpington 1st BID organised the town’s **Platinum Jubilee** celebrations and decorated the town red, white, and blue. Complementary flower cubes formed part of a **gold medal**

winning entry in the prestigious Britain in Bloom awards.

The town’s Christmas event **Light Up Orpington** returned in November, bringing thousands of families to a buzzing high street to start the Christmas countdown.

We continued to **lobby** on behalf of businesses and in January 2023 we welcomed an **uplift in the Met Police Orpington Safer Neighbourhood Team**. Ahead of the Spring budget, the BID organised a **roundtable discussion** between **Gareth Bacon MP** and a cross section of local business leaders to discuss challenges and opportunities. **Orpington 1st will continue to ensure that the voice of local business is heard.**

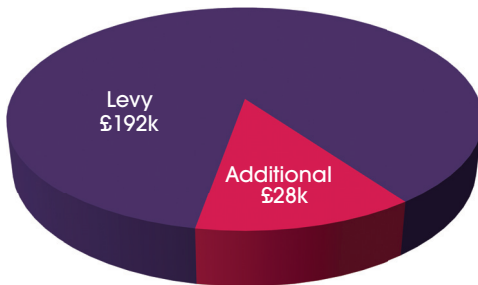


Orpington’s Christmas extravaganza saw the town light up with festive spirit



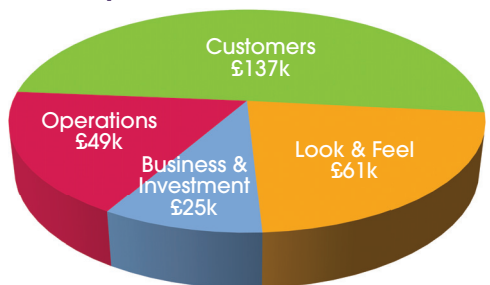
Following persistent lobbying from the BID, the Safer Neighbourhood Team for the Orpington Ward was increased to seven active officers

Income 2022/23



Total £220k

Expenditure 2022/23



Total £272k

These are estimated figures up to and including March 31st 2023. An independent financial review will be available in the annual report.

Orpington 1st Business Improvement District 01689 829 527

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