

Sidcup Partners Directors Report

April 2018- March 2019

Presented at AGM on Tuesday 9th July

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone this evening for the second Sidcup Partners Ltd AGM.

I would also like to thank the Sidcup United Services Club for hosting this evening and for The Walnuts Café for providing the refreshments.

Copies of this report and the financial reports will be available online.

This report will be presented under the three main themes found in the Business Proposal Document highlighting what has been achieved under each.

Marketing, Promoting and Events.

Visits to our web site and activity on our social media and twitter accounts have continued to grow.

Visits to the web site are up from an average of 400 in June 2018 to a high of 1100 in March 2019

The face book followers have reached 1044 post reaches 12,000 and twitter 2450

We continued to use local suppliers for insurance, accounting and where possible local stall holders for our events and supplies.

We send out regular e newsletters containing updates on BID activity.

We have used vinyl on empty shops to promote events in Station Road and the High Street.

We entered the Great British High Street Awards and got a special mention in the Rising Star Category.

We ran successful events for Valentine's day Easter, The Fringe in June, Halloween and Christmas. For the first time having a cinema at both the Fringe and Christmas event.

We supported Lark in the Park using this very popular and well attended event to promote the Town Centre.

We installed poppies on the lamp columns extending the scheme to Station Road following better availability of the poppies.

We engaged with the Lamorbey and Sidcup History Society and submitted planning applications for banners to be placed on lamp columns. 10 for Station Road and 10 in the High Street

We launched Plastic Free Sidcup and as part of this we were successful in our Bid to the Mayor of London to install a drinking Fountain.

We supported the Bexley Business Awards and saw several Sidcup Businesses achieve Success.

We supported a talent show by Rose Bruford College at the New Community Church in Station Road.

We have supported free Bike Security marking at Marlowe House paying for the kits

Explore Learning in Station Road have participated when we have held events.

We have helped businesses with licences for leaflet distribution for marketing purposes.

Attractive, Well Presented and Looked After

We installed Christmas lights and were able to improve the scheme in Station Road from the previous year following the replacement of the old lamp columns.

We entered the London in Bloom competition and added more floral displays, winning a Bronze Award.

We have completed several community clean ups focusing on alleyways and problem areas businesses have brought to our attention.

We have worked particularly closely with the police and the council's legal department to tackle an ongoing issue of anti-social behaviour that has affected several businesses in the Town this resulted in an injunction being served on an individual and several court appearances.

We meet with the council on a regular basis to discuss environmental issues and cleaning routines in the high street.

We had input into the councils Town Centre Strategy document.

We met with cinema operators interested in the Blockbuster development and had the opportunity to "sell" the town centre to them.

We have used vinyl to disguise untidy vacant units.

Services to Business

We provided free First Aid Training

We offer free website listing on the Directory and can add offers and news items.

We have paid for bespoke training for preparation for senior management role at local BID levy paying school.

We completed market research with two separate surveys one for businesses and for customers which included 100 students.

We held Networking events in partnership with Barclays Bank on various topics including GDPR.

For six months we offered via Meercats consultants' savings on utilities and a range of other operating expenditure.

We continued with the radio scheme and provided additional training for users.

We liaised with the council directly helping several businesses with individual support with planning issues and raising concerns over parking.

Future plans

Continue partnership work with Lamorbey and Sidcup History Society, extend lamp column banners and deliver town signs and help with Echo project.

Work more closely with Colleges to exploit potential of students to town centre

Create discount booklet for new students in September.

Work closely with developer when work starts on site at former Blockbusters.

Have continued meetings scheduled with developers at the co-op and the former Lamorbey baths site.

Work with all parties to secure new site for Post office.

Build on success of Fringe event, trying to secure a road closure. Have booked a Lego event as part of this 6th, 7th 8th September.

Potentially move Christmas event to New community Church nearer town centre and less infrastructure required.

Try to source a regular market.

Arrange more business networking events.

Working with council to jointly fund free wi-fi for town centre.

We are investigating use of the digital Totem display to see if it can generate income for BID

We would like to improve the walkways both sides of Station Road under the railway bridge.

We are actively applying for external funding through a range of grants.