

Sidcup Partners - Director's Report

April 2017-March 2018

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

I would also like to thank Sidcup Recreation Club for hosting this evening.

Printed Copies of this report are available tonight and will be online from tomorrow.

We also have financial reports available showing our income and expenditure however our accountants will not have full year end accounts until July, therefore we will hold another meeting in the summer to share these and in future years the AGM will be brought in line with the production of year end accounts so going forward the AGM will always be in July.

Our First Year

The year started with setting up the company, recruiting a BID manager organising insurance, registering with the data commission and purchasing office equipment etc. The current office space has been provided free of charge to Sidcup Partners by Your Move Petty Freeman.

In our business plan we have three main headings and the report will highlight what has been achieved under each heading.

Marketing, Promoting and Events

- We held a Launch event @Sidcup Golf club.
- We tendered for a web site, this is now up and running and continues to be developed.
- Sidcup Fringe Event took place in June in conjunction with the Council, Bird College and Rose Bruford.
- Free Security Bike Marking was made available to Sidcup during two sessions.
- Poppies were installed on the lamp columns.

- Store 21 vinyl was installed to promote events and make the empty Shop units look more presentable.
- Christmas Lights scheme, this was extended to Station Road which required equipment to be put onto the lamp columns.
- Valentines event included using local restaurants to provide lunch and afternoon tea to elderly and vulnerable people, we also had an open top bus and personal shoppers directing the public.
- We worked with the police on a very successful project to deter anti-social behaviour in partnership with McDonalds and the Council.

Attractive, Well Presented and looked After

- Flowers were procured locally, hanging baskets for Main Road, High Street and Station Road in addition we had flower towers and planters.
- Two planned clean ups were organised concentrating on the rear of businesses in Station Road and also in the High Street. In addition, fly tipping has been removed in several locations including behind Cash Convertors and in Rectory Lane.

Services to Businesses

- 25 Radios have been distributed to help security and enable businesses to be in contact with each other without leaving their respective establishment.
- We have held Networking events in partnership with Barclays Bank.
- Sponsorship – The Rotary, Birkbeck school and Evergreen.
- Sponsored the Bexley Business Awards.
- Sponsored 25 Businesses to join the Tysom discount application to encourage promotions via the use of a Mobile phone App.
- Totem digital advertising installed by the Council, we are encouraging Businesses to promote themselves through its use.
- Engaged a company called CD waste to offer competitive waste collection services to businesses where nothing goes to landfill.
- Meercats – engaged consultants to visit Businesses to secure savings on utilities and a range of other operating expenditure.
- Menu of free or heavily subsidised training for all levy payers.

Future plans

- We will continue to support local businesses using their services and products, in our first year we spent approximately 80% of our expenditure locally. We have also appointed a local accountant and use a local Insurance broker.
- Our Business plan will be uploaded online.
- We intend to continue with and develop further the projects started in year 1.
- We will enhance flower displays and have entered 'London in Bloom' which will be judged in July.
- We will exploit social media making better use of twitter, face book and Instagram.
- We want high quality cultural events and will continue to develop 'The Sidcup Fringe'.
- We will also have an event for Halloween and of course Christmas.
- We will be encouraging businesses to support our 'Plastic Free Sidcup' project. This will be launched at the end of April.
- Rock painting is another fun project to encourage art and walking to school as students paint a pebble and hide them on their route to school.
- We are working with the Rotary to provide two defibrillators one for Station Road and one for the High Street.
- We are offering workshops to support school's deliver the Curriculum along with training courses specifically centred on schools.
- We will be working closely with the council who have two major projects planned; the former Blockbuster store and the Manor House.
- We are also keen to work with partners to bring Lamorbey Baths back into a useful and vibrant space.
- We want to find additional finance through crowd funding, grants and promotional space.
- We will approach landlords when shops become empty and will actively approach potential tenants.
- Networking events will continue and will include speakers offering support for specific topics such as the new Data Protection legislation.

- We have several students booked for Work Experience and would like to encourage Businesses to take on apprentices. One of our partners is working closely with Rose Bruford on their new degree 'Stage and Event Management' for students providing paid casual work related to their courses.