

Welcome From The Sidcup BID Chairman

It is with very mixed feelings that I write the introduction to what is our third Annual Report.

The year started in the typical way preparing to deliver our business plan. However, as we have heard so many times over the last months the year ended in unprecedented times.

We have all struggled to come to terms with Lockdown, not seeing friends and family but I like to believe every cloud had a silver lining and in some ways Covid-19 has brought the community closer together and we have seen lots of acts of kindness and we have all shown open appreciation for many of our essential service workers on a Thursday evening applauding those in the front line.

One of the important lessons I think we have learned is how important our high streets are.

Many shops and businesses have had to remain closed. However, we don't want this to become the new norm and very much hope the local community will support the high street and continue to shop locally.

You will see throughout this report that the ethos of Sidcup Partners is to do just that.

At every opportunity we endeavour to support our community and to use local suppliers in the knowledge that this helps to sustain a viable local economy.

There is no doubt that some businesses will not survive and vacant units will appear but Sidcup Partners will be looking to fill these creatively and find new uses for them.

I hope you find the report informative and it gives you a flavour of some of the activities we have been involved in.

We look forward to year four.

Stay Safe,


Chairman

This document explains what has been achieved by Sidcup Business Improvement District (BID) trading as Sidcup Partners Limited during 2019/20, the third year of our five-year term, under each objective.

There are three strategic objectives outlined in our BID proposal document:

To ensure Sidcup is attractive, well-presented and looked after.

To ensure Sidcup businesses and attractions and strengths are well known, understood and promoted and that they have a clear voice and key role in the development of the area.

To support Sidcup businesses and attract new workers and businesses to the area.

This document sets out what activities have been taking place under each of these objectives.

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The Sidcup BID Board 2019/20:

Sue Petty
Board Chairman

Dominic Price
Vice Chairman

Andrew Walker
Finance Director

Jess McCarthy
Board Member

Richard Pitt
Director

Mel Kenyon
Director

Lua Jessie Burrows
Director

Jane Sutherland
Director

Jenny Offord
Director

Jennifer Yandle
Director

Steven Sirman
Director

Jason Ingram
Board Member

Cheryl Curr
BID Manager

Martin Pinnell
Advisor

Resigned: Mark Williams and Bill Perera.

New appointments will be made at the AGM.

Sidcup Partners Business Improvement District is working to facilitate collaboration and cooperation opportunities to make Sidcup Better for Business. We want to make sure that every BID levy payer can make the most of the new opportunities available to them.

Marketing, Promoting and Events

Love Sidcup Valentine Event

For St Valentine's Day we decided to run a competition to win meals at some of our favourite local restaurants. We asked the winners to take selfies during their meals so we could post on Instagram and help promote the restaurants. Thanks to Toscana, Moghul and Hello Burger for welcoming the winners.

Hallowe'en

The Hallowe'en Trail was even bigger and better than last year's. Over 200 children joined us. We are delighted to work in partnership with St John's Church and Waitrose to deliver this event. Families met at St John's Church with children in their fancy dress outfits and they all had the opportunity to make paper lanterns lit with glow sticks, to make bracelets, decorate biscuits and have their faces painted before collecting the trail map and a bag to go into the High Street to collect treats kindly donated by Waitrose before returning to the church for a judging of the fancy dress competition.

Armed Forces Day

We celebrated Armed Forces Day on June 29th when the weather was particularly hot. We partnered with the United Services Club one of our members. There was a free outdoor cinema showing Disney Planes and Escape to Victory. We had a selection of stalls and traditional games in Elm Parade as well as a raffle with some fantastic prizes that we had sponsored. We had singers dressed in 1940's costume and a military vehicle on show. It was a great day.



Marketing, Promoting and Events

Poppies

In November we installed poppies on the lamp columns and extended them further along Station Road. For Remembrance Sunday we were delighted that Mat and Ronnie from the Alma Public House did us the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of Sidcup Partners Ltd. We launched a poetry competition asking children to enter within an age-related category their War Poems. We had some wonderful entries into the competition and we have produced a book containing all the entries.



Book Buzz

Sidcup Partners were delighted to sponsor the library for this year's Book Buzz. The Book Buzz Literary Festival was back for its third season. It ran from Saturday 15 February to Saturday 29 February 2020 and included lots of events and activities held in Bexley's libraries and other venues all around the borough. Sidcup Partners were proud to have sponsored this event. One of the highlights was launch day when the fabulous youth and adults choir from the Sidcup Choir School performed for The Worshipful the Mayor of Bexley who was joined by Peter Rabbit, The Gruffalo and Mog.



Marketing, Promoting and Events

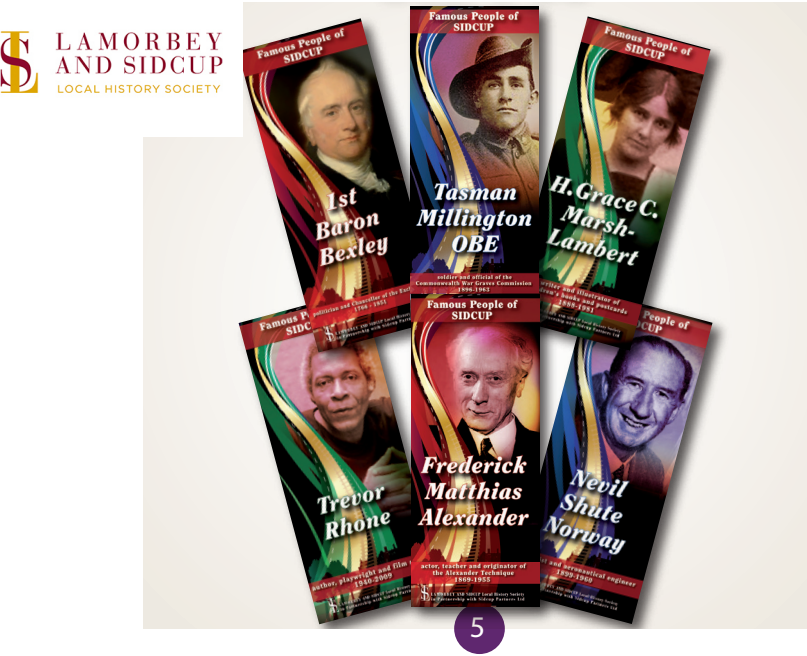
Easter

For our Easter event we held a market, a make a bonnet competition and a trail around the town centre.



Famous People

Famous People banners. We worked with the Lamorbey and Sidcup Local History Society and installed banners on the lamp columns depicting famous individuals from Sidcup this project was complemented by a booklet explaining more about the selected people.



Marketing, Promoting and Events

Christmas

We held the Christmas extravaganza in the New Community Church in Station Road. The location had all the facilities required, heating lighting toilets, a stage with lighting and sound and a kitchen. The event was very well attended. We screened two films had a full schedule of artists on the stage along side a wide range of stalls. We installed a Christmas light scheme in the the High Street and Station Road. Students from Rose Bruford College helped throughout the Christmas event with organisation and stewards dressed as elves.



Sidcup Fringe And September Sounds

Sidcup Fringe 2019 Year three of Sidcup Fringe has proved to be the most successful yet. The open-air cinema and the circus workshops proved very popular. We had some great feedback. 'We had a wonderful day and it was a lovely event "Massive thank you for this weekend we saw so many new people coming together with community spirit."

We ran a fantastic workshop with a company called Bricklive and created a magnificent mosaic. Fire fighters from Sidcup station joined in the weekend giving the opportunity for the community to seek advice and explore a fire appliance. A member for the fire service laid the final brick in the mosaic. The finished work is now on display in Queen Mary's Hospital and featured on the front cover of this annual report.

The Fringe weekend was included in the Council's September Sounds event and several Sidcup restaurants and public houses got involved with live performances at many locations.



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SIDCUP FRINGE FESTIVAL 6-8 SEPTEMBER 2019



Market

We started a trial of a local producers' market on the first Friday of the month trading in Elm Parade from 10am -2pm. local producers sold cards, soaps, candles, local bread, honey, sauces, preserves, rock salts, vegan products, fresh shellfish, fruit and veg, cakes, sweets, beers and lagers, fruit liqueurs and more... We investigated alternative locations in the town centre including road closures to help to facilitate a vibrant regular market and this continues to be our aspiration.



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Attractive, Well Presented and Looked After

Website

Our website and social media presence has continued to grow. We now have over 2500 monthly visits to our website, 1443 Facebook followers and 2276 on twitter.



London In Bloom Winners

Following our very first attempt in 2018 and gaining a Bronze we were awarded a Silver in 2019, a very pleasing outcome.



National BID Awards

We were very proud to have been one of the only three BIDs nationally that were shortlisted in the Place Management Category in The National BID Awards 2019. Sidcup were up against South Bank BID in London with an annual income in 2018/2019 in excess of £500,000 and Sligo BID in Ireland with an income in 2018/2019 of £470,000.



The winner Sligo was announced at the BID conference in Cambridge on Thursday 7th November. Although disappointed to not have won we were pleased that we were good enough to be shortlisted.

Attractive, Well Presented and Looked After

Barclays Big Dig

Before the onset of the corona virus we had begun to plan for the summer floral displays. This year we planned to make Sidcup even greener and plant to encourage pollinating insects. The first phase of these plans was to remove the grassed area in front of Barclays Bank and replant with a low maintenance and attractive Mediterranean style garden.

We had a volunteer day on Saturday 7 March with over 30 people attending removing the grass. We would like to say a special thanks to the parents staff and pupils of West Lodge School along with the GoodGym, Patrick Gray from Bexley Council and Dominic Price from Merton Court School.

Following on from the clearing we had lots of volunteers ready to help with the planting but due to the current corona virus situation we had to go ahead with limited numbers to maintain social distancing. The plants had been ordered and needed to be planted so we had to go ahead. We will be installing an interpretation board so visitors can identify what has been planted in the near future.



Attractive, Well Presented and Looked After

Sidcup Rocks

We now have over 600 members of Sidcup Rocks. The aim is to encourage children to become creative and take exercise. We have provided paint and rocks and encourage rocks to be painted as part of our events. We have had amazing results.



Clean Ups

We have completed several community clean ups.



Outstanding Achievement

We are honoured to be able to announce that Sue Petty the current BID Chairman has been acknowledged by the Council as part of the Civic Recognition of Outstanding Achievement - A certificate signed by the Mayor and an engraved glass prism will be presented at a ceremony later in the year as it was postponed due to Covid-19.



Covid-19 Response

We decided not to furlough staff as we were very conscious that we needed to be on hand to offer help and support to our businesses.

Many businesses contacted us to ask for assistance with the grant application process.

"Many thanks for all the assistance you have given me regarding the application for the Government Grant"
Angela Santos-Sinde - Better Staff Recruitment. Testimonial after grant assistance during covid-19 pandemic.

Fruit and Vegetable Boxes

Sidcup Partners offered support to the local community by offering 75 fruit and vegetable deliveries to those who are elderly or vulnerable or currently in self-isolation. Following the delivery we identified five particularly vulnerable people and continued to visit helping with supplies. Special thanks to Mark at the Hackney Carriage for helping with the deliveries.

In support of our local teachers providing support for key workers we put together packs including hand cream, lip balm and sweets. These items were kindly donated by the following local businesses Beautiful Nails, Your Move Petty Freeman and Aspire Chemist.

Subsequently we delivered thermal mugs to staff at schools so that their coffee could remain hot in light of their reduced breaks.

Stationery was provided including paper, pencils pens, felt tips rubbers and sharpeners. We delivered masks and gloves to care homes within the BID area.

The local school hub for key workers was at Redhill School in Chislehurst it catered for children from Burnt Oak and Chatsworth. We supplied a teddy bears' picnic for the children which they thoroughly enjoyed.

We joined in the national campaign to show appreciation of our NHS and ran a rainbow competition. The entries were voted for on line and were displayed in the window of Resknow.

Prizes were provided by K. Potter, a local butcher who also made a donation to charity and Resknow who sponsored the voucher from The Works.

Business start-up pack
We offered hand sanitisers, masks and gloves as well as the latest information on risk assessments to our businesses.



Charity

Sidcup Partners have supported a range of charitable organisations during the year. The main ones are detailed below. We have donated smaller raffle prizes to a wide range of organisations including at events supporting the Mayor's charity..

Bexley Homeless Shelter.

A group of churches in the London Borough of Bexley come together each winter to provide overnight accommodation, hot meals, help and support.

Started in 2016, Bexley Winter Shelter is a registered charity and operates nightly from seven venues in the Borough which open their doors and provide refreshments and a hot evening meal. Comfortable bedding is provided in a safe, warm and secure environment followed by a cooked breakfast and something for our guests to take with them when they leave for the day.

We donated £1000 to support this worthy cause.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We participated in the annual fund-raising event for Macmillan donating cakes and coffee.

For Jimmy

Sidcup Partners were delighted to support the For-Jimmy rugby tournament organised through Sidcup Rugby Club. For Jimmy is all about young people helping to build their communities. Barry and Margaret Mizen, MBE hit national headlines in 2008 when immediately after the murder of their 16-year-old son Jimmy Mizen in London, they spoke of compassion rather than revenge. They promised that day not to be beaten by Jimmy's death, and that something good would come from it. Since then Barry and Margaret have worked tirelessly with young people across the country sharing Jimmy's story in schools, prisons, Youth Offending Institutes and community groups.

Provided T-shirts for the players participating in the tournament.

ALD charity

We have supported ALD LIFE a charity to promote awareness, research and prevention of Adrenoleukodystrophy a rare genetic, terminal brain disorder. This charity was brought to our attention following the diagnosis of the disease of a young local boy.



Charity Continued

Spreading Love Through Comfort

In January 2018 a local family were given the diagnosis that their daughter Olivia, now 3, had a brain tumour. She has received treatment since 2018 and spent last Christmas in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich.

Sidcup Partners chairman Sue Petty was deeply moved by the story of Olivia and set up a donation point at her Estate Agency Your Move Petty Freeman to collect pyjamas. We received over eighty pairs very kindly donated by local residents.

While she was there, she received a brand-new pair of pyjamas from The Children's Hospital Pyjamas charity who give new pyjamas to children spending Christmas in hospital.

Safe Place, Mencap

We worked closely with Bexley Mencap to provide a Safe Places scheme for people with Learning Disabilities. The scheme provides a temporary safe place where individuals with a learning disability can go if they are in danger or are feeling anxious or distressed. All members carry an ID card with their emergency contact details on them. The stores/shops will have a yellow safe places sticker in the window allowing the member to identify where help can be found. Staff will simply phone the member's emergency contact and provide re-assurance until support arrives.

The BID team worked with Mencap visiting premises and signed up to 35 organisations in Sidcup.

The London Fire Brigade

We have worked closely with members of the London Fire Brigade who have attended our events to give advice, bringing with them a fire appliance, always a great attraction for children and adults alike. We donated £500 to the Fire Fighters Charity



Education

Supporting Our Levy Paying Schools

Premier Day Nursery

We partnered with Sidcup Rotary Club and provided them with a defibrillator mounted externally so it is accessible for the whole community.



Burnt Oak Junior School

Burnt Oak Buzz is a children's digital newspaper created by the children of Burnt Oak Lane School in Sidcup. Sidcup Partners are very pleased to say we have supported Burnt Oak Lane School who are members of the BID by providing equipment including laptops and software, stationery and lanyards for the journalist club to help with the production of the publication.

Following an invitation Cheryl Curr the BID manager visited the school for an interview for the publication. In response we invited the journalists along to one of our board meetings. All board members were impressed with the maturity of the students and felt it was a beneficial experience for all involved.

The school needed help with setting up a breakfast club and we provided a colourful range of breakfast club furniture for different aged pupils.

We worked with the school as part of our London In Bloom application and provided seeds and planting material along with equipment for a gardening club.

As part of our plastic free project we provided the school with litter pickers and gloves and they enjoyed participating by picking litter dressed as super heroes.

Birkbeck Primary School

We provided furniture for the School's Breakfast Club, a microwave oven and fridge freezer. We also purchased them a laptop.

Birkbeck School ran a Preparation for Workday and Sidcup Partners attended for the day along with other local businesses including Opass Billings Accountants. We gave out cloth bags, and other small items to pupils visiting the event.

Holy Trinity Lamorbey Church of England Primary School

We were pleased to pay for a training course in preparation for headship for a member of the management team at Holy Trinity.

We provided a range of stationery items and insulated mugs for staff.



Education continued

Merton Court School and West Lodge School

We worked with both Merton Court and Westlodge schools as part of the London In Bloom and greening the high street activity, providing seeds, pots and planting material. We have visited the schools to talk to students and parents.



Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School

We welcomed students from Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School and Hurstmere School on work experience.

Hurstmere School

We supported the school by paying for the Duke of Edinburgh Licence so pupils could again be involved in this very worthwhile activity.

Rose Bruford College and Bird College

We supported a Britain's Got Talent type competition, run by Rose Bruford College students by being involved in the judging on the evening and providing prizes.

We designed, produced and delivered to Bird College and Rose Bruford College a discount voucher booklet specifically for students to encourage visits to the Sidcup Town Centre.



Services to Business

Business Support

We have continued to try to get best value for our businesses by looking at collective purchasing.

“Since the first day that Dave came in to introduce CD Waste in partnership with Sidcup BID the service has been brilliant from the staff in the office all the way through to the guys who do the collections, in actual fact the bin men have been very friendly and professional, one of the many things that was lacking with our previous waste company, we only wish we had known about CD Waste before as we would have taken them on board sooner, would we recommend CD Waste? Absolutely we do, keep up the great work from us all here at The Alma.”

Mat Skipper-Banks - The Alma

Healthy Start

We worked with the Council on the Healthy Start programme and jointly submitted a funding application. This was successful and enabled the council to promote the voucher scheme for food and vitamins engaging with local businesses.

Networking

We held networking events at Finally Framed, The Kitchen Little Florence and the the Hackney Carriage, giving local businesses the opportunity to meet and discuss in an informal environment.

British BID Accreditation

We are delighted to share with you that we have been awarded British BID Accreditation!

Commenting on their recent accreditation, Chief Executive of British BIDs Chris Turner said “Sidcup Partners have adopted some very good policies and procedures often evident in larger BIDs in their second terms. They should be congratulated on their achievements in such a short space of time and their commitment and energy to liaising with levy payers who have the opportunity to play an active part in the BID”.

Cheryl Curr, BID Manager for Sidcup Partners

“We signed up to Accreditation to give businesses confidence that our BID is credible, has clear and robust management processes in place and as a company, we are open and transparent. The process was very rigorous and has made us think very carefully about every aspect of our work. It was really worthwhile and we are delighted to have achieved the award and to be recognised accordingly”.



Financials

SIDCUP PARTNERS LIMITED

Detailed income statement

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020	2020 £
Turnover	187,535
Cost of sales	
Attractive, well-presented & looked after	40,457
Marketing, promoting & events	68,936
Management & admin *	45,373
Service to business	22,801
Total:	177,567
Depreciation	282
Other charges	3,204
	6,484

* This includes Capita collection costs of £18,310

Future Plans

- Work with Businesses to develop their online activity and increase their digital footprint learning lessons from Covid.
- Work closely with developers when work starts on the main sites at former Blockbusters the Co-op and Lamorbey Baths .
- Build on success of the Fringe event, trying to secure a road closure.
- Build on the Sidcup market so it becomes a regular well attended feature.
- Arrange more business networking events so that local business owners in Sidcup have more opportunity to meet with each other.
- Working with council to jointly fund free wi-fi for town centre and use the footfall data when available to inform decision making.
- We would like to improve the walkways both sides of Station Road under the railway bridge.
- Actively apply for external funding through a range of grants so that we can fund for more events within the community as the success from previous events has proven that more are needed in the town.
- Continue to green the high street and join up open spaces.
- Make preparations for a re -ballot as the current BID term draws to a close.



Working Together

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