

Directors Report

I would like to welcome everyone this evening to the Sidcup Partners Ltd AGM.

I would also like to thank USC for hosting this evening's meeting.

The past year has been another challenging period with the effects of covid still being felt and the high street undergoing change.

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

The full Year-End Report with all the details of our activity and the accounts will be available on the website after the AGM.

Marketing, Promoting and Events

- We have run an extended range of events this year following receiving government grants via Bexley Council plus using some of last year's carryover, these included four Saturdays in December including shop local with £5 vouchers given out to spend locally in participating outlets.
- This year we changed the location of the Fringe Festival to the Glades Lamorbey Park and many of the businesses in Station Road reported increased trade. It was a very well attended event with much positive feedback.
- We Installed an extended Christmas Lights scheme with two large Christmas trees one in Station Road and one on the scaffolding around the new library development.
- We installed Poppies on the lamp columns for Remembrance.
- We ran Valentines, Easter and Halloween events and have worked closely with St Johns church which has provided refreshments and hosted arts and crafts and face painting for the events.
- We launched a new publication Sidcup Spotlight 15K printed 13K delivered through the doors of residents and 3K for the town centre.
- We launched a project called Look for a Book where we hid over 700 books for children to find, to encourage reading and exercise.
- We participated in Fiver fest which was a very successful initiative with many businesses getting involved.

Attractive, Well Presented and Looked After

- We continued to enhance empty Shopfronts with vinyl coverings
- We instigated a Pest control contract to deal with persistent rat problems.
- We held community clean-ups and collection of fly-tipping on private land behind businesses.
- We were successful with a grant application to the lottery for just over 8K for a Garden of Reflection.
- We installed Floral displays including hanging baskets, barrier troughs and planters. We won a Silver Gilt Award at the London in Bloom competition.

Services to Business

- We have continued with the free business entries on the website directory.
- We produced a series of videos to promote businesses.
- We supported local businesses through social media posts.
- We ran First Aid, Food Safety and Hygiene courses and social media training.
- We have worked closely with the police and have launched a mobile application called DISC to help businesses report and share information on crimes affecting their businesses.
- We attend the Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings to put forward the views of businesses.
- We have helped businesses on an individual basis with planning applications and grants.