

2025 is marching on, and after a summer full of events and activities across Sidcup it's time for an update in our latest newsletter. Myself and the Sidcup Partners team work all year round to help the area thrive by supporting local businesses, charity work, community initiatives and fantastic inclusive events, and we strive to provide strong links to the Met Police and crime fighting organisations to boost safety and security for us all. Sidcup benefits in so many ways from the work carried out by Sidcup Partners, from street cleaning to floral displays, family trails and festivals. Have a read through the newsletter to find out more about what we've been involved with over the summer and into the autumn...

Sue Petty, Sidcup Partners' Executive Director

FLORAL IMPROVEMENTS



So much hard work has gone into our barrier planters this year, with new planters displaying beautiful flowers in stunning colours, with some representing 12 incredible charities close to our community's heart. It's a project that's brought a wave of emotion and pride to our town centre. Just look at how beautiful these displays were shortly before the judges for London in Bloom came around at the end of June.

We achieved our highest ever award at the London in Bloom ceremony, with not only GOLD but also winning our category outright to boast the best BID floral display in London. Wow! We couldn't be more thrilled.



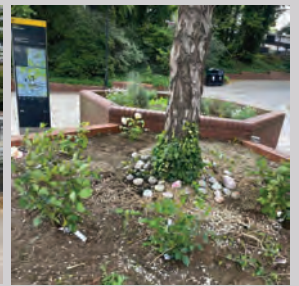


It was therefore deeply saddening recently when one of our barrier planters was stolen from the railings outside Morrisons. This follows previous incidents:

a hanging basket taken from the High Street in June, another from the station in May, and two others vandalised. They're not just decorations, they're a warm welcome to visitors, a source of pride for our businesses, and a gift to the community. On top of that, after hours of work, dedication, and respect, a memorial honouring those who fought for our freedom was vandalised. This was meant to stand as a symbol of gratitude and remembrance, and we cannot comprehend why a small minority would want to behave so destructively.

But! We have pulled together and now we're so happy to see the beautiful barrier displays blooming at Sidcup Station and outside Enroute Café! They look absolutely spectacular, a burst of colour and care that lifts the whole area. A huge thank you to Janet Whithead for the planting, your

time, effort and green-fingered magic are deeply appreciated. You've made a real difference to Sidcup, and we're so grateful.



Don't worry if you've recently spotted the barrier planters being removed from Station Road, they haven't been stolen! They've been whisked away to a secret location for a seasonal refresh.



We're getting ready to welcome beautiful winter colours that will brighten up our town and keep Sidcup looking vibrant through the colder months. A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers who'll be busy replanting them, your hard work keeps Sidcup looking spectacular!

EVENTS

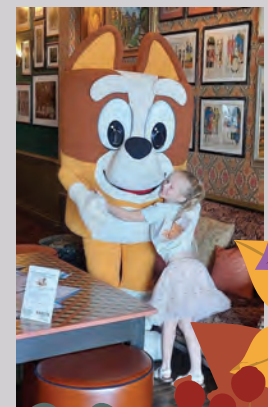
The Summer Dino Trail throughout July and August was another rrrroooooaring success across the town to coincide with the Jurassic Park movie, with so many excited families out and about finding the dinosaur posters displayed in shop windows. Thanks to all who took part, we hope the 12 winners enjoyed their prize!



Sarto Lounge opened its doors in the summer holidays for a fun morning of creativity and crafting, and mascot Bingo made a special appearance too!

Back in June we celebrated Father's Day with a special 'give away', giving out gifts along the High Street, with some great help from pupils of Cleeve Park School. Not just for fun though! The give-away helped to promote Sunday opening times for businesses in Sidcup too.

At the time of going to print we are preparing for our spooktacular Halloween Trails on Station Road and the High Street, scheduled for 31 October. Lots of seasonal fun for kids, with treats, snacks and games along the way. As we write this we're sure it will be frightfully good fun!



Colin regularly continues his tireless work to ensure our public spaces are kept spic and span. The bins on the High Street are clean as a whistle to encourage as much use as possible and prevent littering, and we think our bus stops are the cleanest in London! Colin's work in the community never ends, and he also takes care of the amazing floral planters on the High Street and keeps them looking just glorious.

Thank you, Colin!



We've partnered with Cleeve Park and five local schools on a poster campaign, encouraging the public to report good and bad behaviour through a QR system. Feedback has been very positive so far.

Sue along with Neal from Bexley council visited Christopher Costigan, the new principal of Bird College to welcome him to his new role. We wish him all the best and continue to support the college in the wonderful work they do.



Wow, how proud are we of our friends Mat and Ronnie from The Alma - they've not only gone and won in the London in Bloom awards, but come away with TWO GOLDS! First for Small Business Landscape Garden, and then for Pub Garden for which they were also awarded Category Champion!

Such well-deserved recognition for a team that puts heart, soul, and Sidcup spirit into everything they do.

Sidcup Partners and The Works supported a 'butterfly colouring in competition' fundraiser for Elsie, a young customer, who was suddenly taken very ill on holiday. Funds raised are to help support her family while they focus on Elsie. We wish her well on her road to recovery.

SelectaDNA who provide DNA-marking kids in the ongoing battle to prevent thefts of tools presented Sue with a runner's up award for her hard work volunteering in the community. Sue is involved with many agencies and organisations across the area who look for ways to tackle crime

and antisocial behaviour, and it was a lovely surprise to receive this recognition for her dedication to making Sidcup safer, happier and ever more community spirited. Well done Sue!



Another 12 businesses have benefitted from our ongoing campaign to provide first aid courses to employees.

We supported a networking event at Bliss Bar which was well attended, just prior to their new owners taking over. Look out for future networking events which we publicise across our social media.

The latest Little Recycler's collection took place at the end of September to raise funds for local schools. It's a great way to declutter and transform unwanted clothes, which protects the environment by minimising waste. Please check our website and Facebook page to see when the next collection is happening.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

A fresh initiative for communities across London to share information with the Met Police has been launched recently, and it's really easy to sign up. Visit the website www.metengage.co.uk to have your say on community safety,

local priorities, and how policing can better support Sidcup. Your voice matters - help shape the future of our neighbourhood.

A survey has been underway over the past few weeks help us make Bexley safer for everyone by sharing how safe you feel in your area. We asked what anti-social behaviour and crime concerns you have, and what changes you want to see. We will be going through your responses to see how best to address your top concerns.

Sue met with the new Superintendent of Police and had a very encouraging conversation about ways in which the police can continue their work across the community and address the main concerns in our area.

There have been continued meetings and walkabouts regarding the shoplifting issues our businesses unfortunately experience. We're pleased to say that more reporting is taking place which will hopefully push these crimes further up the agenda.

Self Defence classes for women provided by Conquest Martial Arts have been well received, we will continue to promote the sessions in the future.

Local police officers have been continuing their work in our local schools, forging positive relationships between young people and law enforcement and promoting community cohesion.

**MET
ENGAGE**
Community crime-fighting



Fringe Festival:

What a day! Despite having to overcome a major hiccup in the planning when a significant element of the festival suffered bankruptcy, we pulled off a fantastic Fringe Festival for Sidcup to enjoy. Hundreds of you turned out on the day to hear the music, sample the food, have fun on the stalls and show your support to many of the charities and organisations represented at the festival. We want to say a massive thank you to everyone involved.

On the High Street:

We're thrilled to welcome **Brew House** to Station Road, serving up delicious food, refreshing drinks, and a warm Sidcup welcome. Pop in, say hello, and show your support. It's always a joy to celebrate new businesses in our community. Let's help them feel right at home!

We're pleased to confirm that plans for Sidcup's permanent new **Banking Hub** on the High Street are still moving forward, and the conversion of the old HSBC building should be complete in the new year. Each bank will be represented on-site during the week, offering face-to-face meetings with advisors to support you with everyday banking. In the meantime, the temporary hub is available at St John's Church Hall, so please pop in for any banking assistance you need.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 NatWest	 HSBC	 Santander	 BARCLAYS	 LLOYDS

Chris, Liz and Sue who set up the **Community Larder** together for Sidcup's residents have done an incredible job to make it available every Tuesday 11:30 – 12:30, and Friday 10:00 – 11:00. From a handful of families who originally came for help topping up on food and household essentials, the larder now helps over 100 families in the community. This is a tremendous success and shows how important it is that that Community Larder is supported by our local supermarkets to ensure it stays well stocked for families struggling with the cost of living.

AGM: Sidcup Partners' AGM was held on 16 October which gave a great opportunity to share the wonderful array of projects and initiatives the BID supports. The AGM was very well attended and feedback was overwhelmingly positive which has given us a boost moving forward and into 2026. Thank you to all who came to the meeting, and of course thank you to all the people who work for and alongside Sidcup Partners to keep our town successful and thriving!

UP-COMING EVENTS:

6 December	Christmas Extravaganza
13 December	Santa Dash

Finally, as always, an enormous thank you to all our wonderful community members, business owners, policing teams and charities who work tirelessly to keep Sidcup striving to be a fantastic place to live, work and play.

Thank you!

Get in touch!

We are just an email away
info@sidcuppartners.co.uk
 We want to hear your feedback,
 help you get involved in our events
 and answer your questions about
 Sidcup Partners.



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