

February 2013

Orpington 1st Newsletter



Orpington 1st Update

Voting deadline almost up!

The ballot papers are out – get your vote in and let your voice be heard!

After months of consultation and a lot of hard work from the Orpington 1st Working Group, the campaign for an Orpington Business Improvement District (BID) is almost complete.

Businesses have heard from the team and have received their voting packs, with the voting deadline approaching. Ballot papers must be received by Electoral Services at the Civic Centre, by 5pm on 21st February in order to count.

If you have any final questions and would to speak to a member of the team about the BID, email info@orpington1st.co.uk or phone **07904 367776**.

The count of the votes will take place at the Bromley Council buildings on the evening of the 21st February. The official results will be announced on Friday 22nd February.

orpington1st.co.uk



Why I'm supporting the Orpington BID

As the Owner of the Subway restaurant in Orpington town centre I have a very keen interest in ensuring the future of our town centre.

I believe a BID will help raise the profile and perception of the town, tempting a new range of shoppers and visitors into Orpington to experience the diverse range of shops, restaurants and leisure activities available. A BID will ensure that we promote and market Orpington as a destination known for its vibrant restaurant scene and café culture, guaranteeing consumers will want to socialise and spend time here.

I am supporting the BID as I can see the many benefits it could bring and help us, by working together to ensure our town thrives to its full potential. This could include attracting new businesses, improving safety and security, representing the business community and attracting further funding for the town.

I have submitted my 'Yes' vote.
Have you submitted yours?

Bayo Oyelese



Information Day Success

The Orpington 1st information day took place in the town centre at the end of January. Hundreds of shoppers and visitors flocked to the area to get details about the project, see a recycling initiative demonstration and receive plenty of promotional giveaways. More than 100 new customers also signed up to the Orpington loyalty card.

To view images and read more about the day visit:
www.orpington1st.co.uk

Orpington 1st BID Working Group Chairman, Gary Morris said: **“Establishing Orpington as a Business Improvement District means that should an initiative such as recycling waste management be agreed, traders could streamline procurement so that as well as rebates, there could be less of a variety of waste vehicles, leading to less transport disruption and a smaller carbon footprint. That certainly is working together to make a difference!”**



What are the timescales?

February 21st 2013

Ballot closes.

February 22nd 2013

Ballot results announced.

April 1st 2013

If the ballot is successful, Orpington 1st will become a Business Improvement District.

How will the BID operate

If next week's ballot is successful, Orpington 1st will be reconstituted as a new not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. All businesses that are eligible to vote and pay the levy may become members of the company and all eligible businesses will be invited to take up membership.



Any member can put themselves forward for election to the Board at the first Annual General Meeting. It is likely that the Board will employ one or two paid staff to assist with the setting up of the BID projects and programmes and to keep these programmes on course during the term of the BID. The Board will begin setting up the BID projects and programmes, with close monitoring to keep these on course during the term of the BID, regularly reporting to the members.

122 votes have already been cast (which is nearly a **35%** turnout) and early indications are that the result will be close. If you want to see the BID a reality in Orpington, please don't forget to send your **YES** vote in today!

BIDs around the country

“Since I have been in Plymouth I have been impressed with the innovation of the BID in finding new solutions to the issues faced by modern city centres such as vacant shops, where the BID has kept vacancy rates amongst the lowest in the UK”

said Clint Jones, Store Manager, Waterstones Plymouth

“Pound for pound, compared with other operating costs, the services delivered by the BID are excellent value for money”

said Ian Silverberg, Managing Director, Silverberg Opticians. Liverpool City Central BID