

## **SWBA BID Achievements 2019–2020**

**Accessible and Coordinated:** the BID has been working to represent, advocate and further the interests of the SWBA business community, particularly in relation to transport issues, Council services, accessibility and connectivity:

- SWBA BID is recognised as a formal consultee for local planning, transport and policing matters. We have had discussions with Council officials about a range of issues and are represented on the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Panel, the Sustainable Communities and Transport Partnership Board and on the Mayor of London's Industrial BIDs Group. This has enabled us to lobby on issues of concern to our businesses, notably security, road safety, street cleaning and fly tipping;
- We have held quarterly meetings for our members to provide a forum for discussion and to gather views from businesses;
- Following a survey of parking and traffic flow which was undertaken in 2018/19 we have worked with Merton Council and Transport for London (TfL) on improvements to traffic and parking management and to pedestrian safety. As a result, changes have now been introduced to the parking arrangements on Jubilee Way and a new controlled pedestrian crossing at the junction of Jubilee Way and Morden Road is due to be installed by TfL;
- Work has also begun to develop a wayfinding strategy for the BID area with an initial audit undertaken which identified ideas for improvements, including to estate signage. The aim is to progress this project in Year 4.

**Enhanced Business Environment:** to ensure SWBA's environment is visibly improved, better maintained, cleaner, safer and more attractive.

- We have been working with Merton Council to upgrade our existing CCTV arrangements in order to improve safety within the BID area. In particular, we have acquired six new CCTV cameras at a cost of some £40,000 to replace the existing ones. This project has also entailed the installation of a new superfast broadband link to the Council's CCTV Control Centre for monitoring purposes;
- The street lighting on the public roads on the estate was upgraded in Year 1 and we aim to work to bring the remaining street lighting on private roads up to the required standard in consultation with the relevant landlords during the remainder of the BID term;
- We have developed a very good working relationship with the Council and its contractors which has resulted in a significantly improved standard of street cleaning within the BID area;
- The BID's part-time Estate Ranger has also continued to ensure that the cleanliness of the estate is maintained at a high level, liaising with the Council and the police to address problems with fly tipping, crime and anti-social behaviour;

- We have begun a programme of work to improve the appearance of the BID area, commencing with the clearing of excess vegetation in those areas of Lombard Road and Deer Park Road adjacent to Morden Road and the tramlink. We have also initiated discussions with the Council and specialist tree companies with a view to making further environmental improvements across the BID area, notably the planting of trees. The intention was for this work to begin in the final quarter of Year 3 but the Covid-19 crisis has meant that the project has temporarily been put on hold and will recommence as soon as possible.

**Cost Saving, Combined Purchasing and Business Promotion:** to reduce operating costs, increase trade and increase staff retention through facilitated bulk purchasing, inter-business trading, staff discounts and joint training.

Our achievements over the first 3 years of the BID term are as follows:

- All BID levy paying businesses have received free membership of Merton Chamber of Commerce;
- We extended for a second year the cost-saving procurement scheme for utilities and other services in partnership with Meercat Associates, making this scheme available to all levy payers;
- We continued to offer subsidised cost places to BID levy paying members on first aid and fire warden training courses run by Merton Chamber of Commerce. A new mental health first aid course was due to be added but has been temporarily put on hold due to Covid-19;
- We began planning for the introduction of a new waste and recycling scheme for businesses but this has also been halted temporarily in the light of the Covid restrictions.

### **2019-2020 Expenditure**

As at 30 June 2020, the BID had received £101,936.96 of the anticipated income of £110,000 for the third year of the BID term.

Total expenditure in 2019-2020 was £80,889.23 with the remaining funds available being carried forward to enable the BID to continue to operate in Year 4.

There are a number of major BID projects, including environmental improvements and the development of a new waste and recycling scheme, which were due either to commence or to be completed in the final quarter of Year 3. However, this coincided with the onset of Covid-19 which has meant that work on these has of necessity been suspended pending the lifting of restrictions.

The BID remains fully committed to ensuring that the levy received will be utilised in line with its stated objectives and that any surplus funds will be apportioned accordingly.

The split of actual expenditure in 2019-2020 was as follows:

Accessible and Coordinated (17.07%)	£13,811.55
Enhanced Business Environment (48.57%)	£39,285.95
Cost Saving, Combined Purchasing and Promotion (24.98%)	£20,203.78
Admin and Levy Collection (8.6%)	£6,958.74
Overheads (0.78%)	£629.21
Contingency (0%)	£0.00