

SWBA BID Achievements 2020 – 2021

The fourth year of the BID term has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 situation and the restrictions imposed as a result. This has meant that the BID has been unable to progress a number of major projects which it was intended to take forward over the course of the year although work has continued wherever possible.

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 been in regular discussion with Council officials about a range of issues which has enabled us to lobby on behalf of our businesses, notably on security, road safety, street cleaning and fly tipping;
- We continued to hold quarterly meetings for our members to provide a forum for discussion and to gather views from businesses;
- 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, a new controlled pedestrian crossing was installed at the junction of Jubilee Way and Morden Road in early 2021;
- A wayfinding strategy for the BID area has been progressed further. As part of this work, the proposals were included in an application by Merton Council for potential GLA funding, the outcome of which was unfortunately unsuccessful. However, the intention is to take this project forward in Year 5, although this will be dependent upon sufficient funding being available.

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

- The BID's Estate Ranger has worked throughout the year with Merton Council to ensure that the BID area has been properly maintained and issues of concern to businesses such as fly tipping dealt with as a priority;
- As part of the upgrade of our existing CCTV arrangements six new cameras were installed around the BID area.

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.

- All BID levy paying businesses have continued to receive free membership of Merton Chamber of Commerce. In particular this has enabled them to access a range of advice and support throughout the Covid crisis;

- The cost-saving procurement scheme for utilities and other services which the BID was operating in partnership with Meercat Associates was terminated at the end of its second year in December 2020 on the grounds that the scheme had not delivered sufficient benefits overall to merit its continuation.

2020-2021 Expenditure

In view of the significant impact of the Covid situation on many SWBA businesses, the BID Board of Directors decided that it would not be reasonable to expect businesses to pay the annual BID levy for the year 2020-2021. The levy was therefore waived for this year and the BID continued to operate using its existing reserves.

Total expenditure in 2020-2021 was £34,614.96 with funds unspent being carried forward to enable the BID to continue to operate in Year 5.

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 2020-2021 was as follows:

Accessible and Coordinated (15%)	£5,334.38
Enhanced Business Environment (44%)	£15,115.93
Cost Saving, Combined Purchasing and Promotion (31%)	£10,624.68
Admin and Levy Collection (7%)	£2,514.97
Overheads (3%)	£1,025.00
Contingency (0%)	£0.00