

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021



PENGE SE20 BID

A BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT (BID) FOR PENGE

The last year has been unprecedented for businesses, as they face the challenges of the pandemic, lockdown and a variety of tiers.

The government has risen to this and made huge efforts to support businesses, but mixed messaging and ever changing policy have led to much confusion over the help available.

I am very proud of the effort and time, that Zoe, our BID manager has spent helping many of our members to obtain grants that they were unable to access themselves. If you are experiencing problems or require help, please do not hesitate to contact Zoe.

Moving forward, the vaccination programme is gaining pace and, as the year progresses some sense of normality should return.

Penge, with its resilience and sense of community is well placed to prosper and even in lockdown, we have welcomed new businesses to the area, which is a ringing endorsement for SE20 adding to its vibrancy and cultural heritage.

I wish you all health and safety in the year ahead.

Mark Painter
Chair

Whilst the pandemic has meant that so much of what Penge SE20 delivers has been put on hold, particularly in relation to events and attracting people to Penge, we have continued to operate behind the scenes.

We have a negotiated contract in place with First Mile to collect business waste and, as a member of the BID, you are entitled to a roll of bags free.

This may be continued into the next financial year. Please get in touch if you have not yet taken up this offer.

Shop Safe radio is also operational throughout the BID area, again if you are interested in being part of this scheme, please get in touch.

Our Street Ambassadors have been a regular presence in and around the High Street and been our eyes and ears on the ground. Whether your businesses is open or closed they report and check on a variety of issues and have helped to impart information to those businesses that remain open. Jermain has recently joined the team and you will see him out and about.



For both open and closed businesses the BID has been working closely with the London Borough of Bromley and other BID managers in the borough to ensure that businesses are made aware of the grants they are eligible for and answering questions and supporting businesses who have concerns about their applications. This work has continued throughout the year as Central Government announce additional grants depending on tiers and lockdowns. We are now, as a Task Force group, working in partnership to support the Local Economic Growth Strategy that will support businesses in borough and particularly in our case, Penge as lockdown eases.

And finally you may notice some planters appearing along the high street that will allow shoppers to socially distance where the paving is narrow. These replace the red and white plastic cones that have not been well managed, nor help people feel safe in stepping off the pavement.

For all the latest information this is the link you need
https://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200013/business_support_and_advice

Please do get in touch should you have any questions.

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