

March Update from Dorking BID

BID Manager Update

The new BID Manager, Kathy Kyle, is now in position and has been meeting with levy payers and stakeholders, reviewing website content, researching the Loyal Free app, Coronation planning and developing and delivering numerous BID strategies.

Shop Safe

The Board are discussing how best to connect shops together to deal with any instances of shoplifting. Options being considered include using walkie talkies, a WhatsApp group and education.

The King's Coronation

Planning for the King's Coronation is under way for a celebration on 8th May to include events such as live music, a town trail map ending with a goodie bag at Waitrose, a market in St Martin's Walk, an open mic and bunting and flags around the town. Linked to this is an art competition to design the Dorking town banners and the Community Spirit Awards. The Community Spirit Awards will be judged by 3 independent judges, Mark Carter, Executive Editor of BBC Radio Surrey, Chris Howard, President of the Surrey Hills Society and Jarmila Yu, Founder of Yunique Marketing Ltd.

Loyal Free

The BID voted unanimously to reintroduce the Loyal Free app with a focus on using it to its full potential with trails and offers.

Artisan Market

The Board also discussed The Artisan Market and ways in which it could diversify to give a unique offering in Surrey, ideas include partnerships with existing organisations offering sustainable products and services, as well as family friendly entertainment including face painting music or poetry.

Finances

The accounts and VAT return have been submitted for December. It is estimated that levy payers from the BIDs previous tenure will receive their refund in the next couple of months.

Mole Valley District Council Update

Businesses are encouraged to look at the Mole Valley for Business website which shows what ways in which support can be offered, this includes a 90 minute session of one to one business advice, a fortnightly newsletter and monthly networking meetings. Visit <https://molevalleyforbusiness.co.uk/> for more information. The Mole Valley Employment Skills Hub in Leatherhead is in it's last year of funding through the DWP and alternative avenues of funding are being explored. Businesses are encouraged to consider the hub should they need any staff.