

May Update from the Dorking BID

Town Safety

The BID is in discussion with Surrey Police for the best approach to town safety, including when and how shops can report crime and methods for protecting themselves. Businesses are encouraged to report all instances of theft and other crime so a picture of the offending occurring within Dorking can be established. PCSO Penny Newman has joined the Hello Dorking WhatsApp group. A plan will be created to detail actions to be taken, as well as training and advice for businesses.

The King's Coronation

There was good support and feedback for the DorKing Coronation celebration. The BID Board express their thanks to everyone involved. There was a wide range of media coverage prior to and during the event with 12 radio interviews, an E-zine that had 4,000 views and 8,000 link clicks and 90,000 link impressions, and a good viewing rate for the window art trail on the Loyal Free app.

Hello Dorking Socials

The social channels for Hello Dorking continue to look healthy, with a range of promotion for business and the local area. A separate LinkedIn approach will also now be implemented.

Christmas Event

Planning for the Christmas event has begun, appropriate dates are being discussed.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The installation of the EV points is on schedule for completion on 13th May. The company is EB charging their app, Zapmap and others will show the charging points locations.

Parking

On street parking enforcement is now controlled by SCC and any queries should be directed to them, although should any issues arise MVDC will assist.

Sale of Meadowbank Stadium

The sale of Meadowbank stadium has been passed forward to work on the deal, it will take at least 6 months before it goes before cabinet for approval. There are conditions to the plans and these have to be met for the deal to progress, including the strongest legal measures to achieve guaranteed future community use and protection of the site from other development.

The Foundry

MVDC representative provided an update and acknowledged this is a situation with difficulties and complications. A stakeholder event was held by MVDC, which was attended by residents, the United Reformed Church, Dorking Museum and The Foundry tenants. There will be a wider public consultation once the plans from the event are refined further, this will include an event in a central Dorking location that can be attended by businesses

and the public. Consultation is now taking place and since October 2022 council officers have been working to assist in resolving the situation for the tenants, including sourcing suitable alternative properties for the current tenants. Reassurances were given that new premises in the regeneration project will be modern facilities for the town and not just additional housing. The BID does not act as an intermediary between the public and the Council and supports an open, transparent consultation process.

Banking Facilities

An assessment of banking facilities has been carried out by Link in Dorking, and due to the presence of Nationwide in the high street, a hub for banking will not be supported at this time. However, the BID Board have requested the Council seek other avenues for providing banking services to both the business and residential community, including an impact assessment. The Board recognise the importance of banking both for the convenience of the community and as an important anchor to prevent the need for residents and visitors to travel to other towns.

Future Dorking Project

The BID is progressing the Future Dorking project plan and is undertaking the steps necessary to prioritise findings, gather relevant stakeholders, and develop an action plan for board consideration.