

Hello Dorking BID Contribution Notice



April 2026 – March 2027



What is Hello Dorking?

This is the name for Dorking’s Business Improvement District (BID) – a partnership of town-centre businesses who fund projects to make Dorking a better place to do business and a better place to visit. The BID runs in fixed terms, with a business plan shaped by consultation and delivery led by the BID team alongside a board of local business directors.

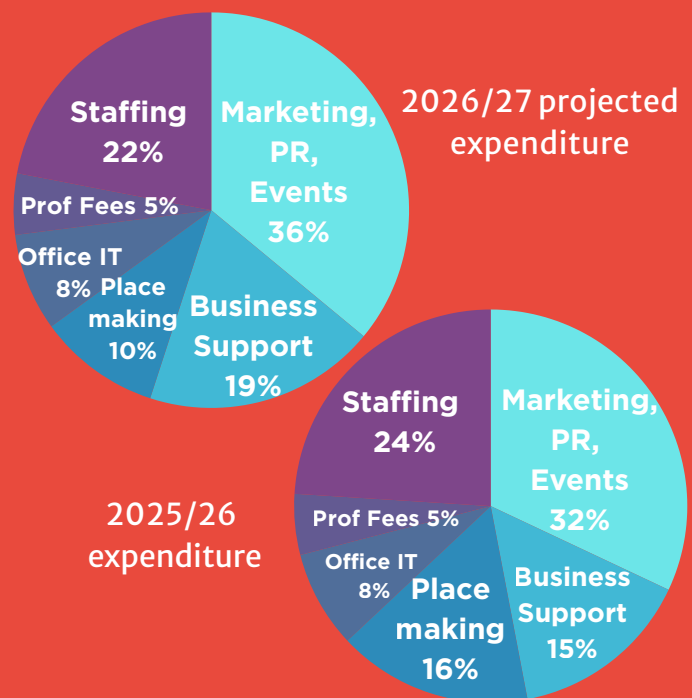
What does the BID deliver?

We focus on practical, visible improvements and activities that help Dorking feel welcoming, vibrant and easy to enjoy for residents, visitors and businesses, including:

- Town promotion & marketing (social media, campaigns, website, what’s on guides)
- Events & footfall drivers (seasonal events, trails, town centre days)
- Public realm & pride in place (planting, signage, improvements)
- Business support & connections (networking, training, signposting, communications)
- Partnership working (council, police, community groups and local organisations)

2026 – 2027 Budget

BID levy funding is used to deliver practical, visible improvements and promotion for Dorking.



Income achieved in 2025/2026 = £247,276 which includes £20,226 received in grants and sponsorship

Income expected 2026/2027 = £224,296
Please see overleaf for details of projects

HOW BID FUNDING WORKED FOR DORKING IN 2025

Hello Dorking delivered a year-round programme of events, campaigns and improvements designed to bring people into the town centre, increase footfall and showcase what makes Dorking special.

EVENTS THAT BRING PEOPLE INTO TOWN

- VE Day & Surrey Day attracted thousands of visitors.
- Christmas Festival created a major festive footfall moment.
- Circus Day brought families into the town centre.
- Five Children's Craft Capers that welcomed hundreds of families.



PROMOTING DORKING YEAR ROUND

- Summer & Christmas What's On Guides distributed across town
- Dedicated Christmas Gift Guide supporting local shopping
- Food & Drink Week celebrating Dorking's hospitality sector
- Wedding Week campaign showcasing Dorking as a wedding destination



MAKING DORKING WELCOMING AND ATTRACTIVE

- 121 hanging baskets, 80 Christmas trees & 30 wreaths.
- Support for Christmas lights and graffiti removal.
- Town-wide public art project with local artists & businesses.



SUPPORTING BUSINESSES AND BUILDING CONNECTIONS

- Three networking events bringing businesses together.
- Community clean-ups during Great Big Green Week & Walking Festival.
- New collaborations and partnerships across the town.

COMING IN 2026

- Dorking's first Festival of Light
- Vintage Day – 9 May
- Get Moving Month & Walking Week
- Food & Drink Week
- Christmas Festival – 29 November

More business support and training with handyman sessions, first aid and mental health first aid training, and the introduction of the DISC crime reporting system.

NATIONAL BID AWARDS 2026 WINNERS

- VE Day – Best Event of the Year
- Walking Festival – Community Project

Find out more at www.hellodorking.com