

Beckenham Matters

News from Beckenham Business Association
with Beckenham Town Centre Manager

Issue 2 November 2015

WELCOME to the second edition of **Beckenham Matters**, published every two months by Beckenham Business Association (BBA) and Beckenham Town Centre Manager.

Winter Wonderland Best Dressed Window Competition



It's time to get festive with your window displays for this year's Winter Wonderland themed Best Dressed Window competition! Businesses in and around the High

Street are being encouraged to create eye-catching festive window scenes for the competition, which runs **from 5 - 20 December**.

Organised by BBA and Copers Cope Area Residents' Association (CCARA), this year's competition launch will coincide with Christmas on the Green, the lights switch-on and candlelit parade on Saturday 5 December, when lots of footfall is expected in the town centre.

The prize includes a case of mixed wine, free promotion at the first BBA event in 2016, as well as a free advert in the CCARA newsletter "Express".

To take part, email chairman@coperscope.org.uk before Tuesday 1 December.

Grant application could save bandstand



The outcome of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant application for the restoration of Beckenham's famous bandstand in Croydon Road Recreation Ground is

expected in December. If successful, the grant application will go to a second stage meaning the bandstand's much needed refurbishment can get underway in summer 2016.

For more information on the restoration project, visit www.becrec.net and to donate to the restoration fund, go to www.bromley.gov.uk/beckenhambandstand.

Beckenham Business Association backs annual Business Awards



Beckenham Business Association was proud to sponsor the Innovation and Growth Award at last month's Bromley Business Awards.

BBA Chair, Jackie Groundsell, presented the trophy to Innovation and Growth category winner Bromley Healthcare at the glittering ceremony on 15 October at The Warren.

The Awards, now in its fifth year, honours local businesses from across the Bromley borough with eight award categories and an overall Bromley Business of the Year Award. This year's

Business of the Year was Magpie Dance.

For more information on all the award winners, visit www.prospectsbusinessawards.co.uk/Awards/Bromley.aspx.

Free Wi-Fi for library users



Beckenham Library users will soon be able to take advantage of free Wi-Fi within the library, as the London Borough of Bromley extends its free Wi-Fi provision to all libraries in the borough.

Beckenham will be joined by West Wickham, Petts Wood and Chislehurst libraries, as well as the four community libraries at Hayes, Burnt Ash, Southborough and Shortlands.

All eight libraries are expected to have free Wi-Fi installed by March 2016.

Currently six libraries in the borough offer free Wi-Fi: Bromley Central, Mottingham, St Paul's Cray, Biggin Hill, Penge and Orpington.

Beckenham alleyways



Butler dSigns has been appointed contractor for the Beckenham alleyways

improvement project. As reported in the last issue, Beckenham has been awarded £20,000 from the Mayor's High Street Fund to improve the 15 alleyways between the War Memorial and Beckenham Junction. Preliminary work will begin with an electrical survey reviewing how best to light the alleyways. Initial designs will also be drawn up, depicting the new alleyway names.

Town centre strives towards night-time excellence award



Last issue we reported that Beckenham is working towards the Purple Flag Award for safe

and thriving evening economies. The next stage in the application process is an overnight assessment, which will take place 12/13 December, from 5.00 pm until 3.00 am.

An itinerary is being planned and the assessors will speak to door staff and management of licensed premises, as well as the local police and transport providers. They will review CCTV coverage and radio responses, as well as judge the condition of the public realm and the general feel of the town centre and what it has to offer evening visitors.

Following the overnight assessment, the awarding panel will deliberate and the results are expected on Monday 11 January 2016.

***The Purple Flag Award recognises good practice and excellence in the management of a town centre at night, highlighting the safety, vibrancy and diversity of an area's evening and night life.**

Loss of office space alarming

The Town Centre Team Beckenham has expressed concerns to the London Borough of Bromley over the alarming loss of large amounts of office space being converted to residential. Collectively, we are pressing our MPs to oppose any re-introduction of the Department for Communities and Local Government proposal consulted on last year to make this Permitted Development Right permanent – currently expiring 30 May 2016.

We urge you to add to the lobby, by emailing your local ward councillor:
michael.tickner@bromley.gov.uk
russell.mellor@bromley.gov.uk
stephen.wells@bromley.gov.uk

Business rate reform

In his recent party conference speech, the Chancellor unexpectedly announced that, by 2020, local authorities will be able to keep the proceeds from business rates raised in their area. On the surface, local councils will appear to have greater control and may even be able to reduce business rates for their local high streets. However, in reality it's more likely to mean a shift of liability, as rate reductions are unlikely to be affordable for most local authorities.

Footloose

Clark's Shoe Shop has moved a few doors down the High Street to the former Alladin's Cave unit at 228. The move means Clark's now offers a larger, smarter store, all on one level.

Resources

Springboard is the leading provider of retail performance insights, analysing customer counting and sales across the entire retail portfolio. **For more information, visit** www.spring-board.info.

'Scoop' doggy dog(s)

Meet Barney and Pip, Beckenham's intrepid newshounds!



Barney (L) joined Pip (R) last month to 'sniff' out the 'meatiest' Beckenham news 'leads'. The hounds will be putting the January newsletter to press next month so if you have anything you would like them to write up in 'ruff', please email it to info@beckenhambusinessassociation.co.uk ASAP! You'd be 'barking' mad not to!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates you won't want to miss!

Tuesday 1 December 6.15-8.30 pm

Beckenham Business Association Christmas party – Grand Cru Co

Saturday 5 December 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Christmas On The Green, Christmas Lights Switch On & Candlelit Procession

Beckenham celebrates the arrival of the festive season with 40 stalls of local produce and crafts, a children's fair and live entertainment, including reindeer and a visit from Santa, the Copers Cope Area Residents' Association Annual Candlelit Procession, Christmas Lights Switch On and a community sing-a-long.

To offer samples or special discounts for the festivities, please contact cheryl.curr@bromley.gov.uk by Tuesday 1 December 2015.

Next issue... January 2016

From the
Beckenham
Matters Team

