



BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE, STOCKWELL CLOSE, BROMLEY BRI 3UH

TELEPHONE: 020 8464 3333

CONTACT: Jo Partridge  
*Joanne.Partridge@bromley.gov.uk*

DIRECT LINE: 020 8461 7694

FAX: 020 8290 0608

DATE: 6 January 2020

To: Members of the  
**BROMLEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Peter Morgan (Chairman)

London Borough of Bromley

Katy Woolcott (Vice-Chairman)  
Carol Arnfield

London Biggin Hill Airport  
LBB Head of Service for Early Years,  
Schools Standards and Adult Education  
Orpington 1st BID Company  
Beckenham Together & Penge SE20  
Prospects

Sharon Baldwin  
Zoe Brown  
Judith Denyer  
Matthew Eady  
Christopher Evans  
Frances Forrest

Mytime Active  
Community Links Bromley  
Your Bromley BID Company

Dave Freeborn  
Mark Haynes  
Alex Henderson  
Lesley Holland

Proctors  
The Glades  
Henderson Biomedical  
LBB Operations Manager, Bromley  
Education Business Partnership  
Handelsbanken

Michael Humphries  
Mike Lewis  
Helen McIntosh FCIPR

Michael Rogers LLP  
South East London Chamber of  
Commerce

Lorraine McQuillan

LBB Town Centres & BID Development  
Manager

Adesina Okuboyejo

Skills Funding Agency - National  
Apprenticeships Service

Sam Parrett  
Melanie Ross  
Chandra Sharma

London South East Colleges  
Barclays Bank PLC  
Federation of Small Businesses

Lee Thomas  
Liz Waghorn

Fairlight Group  
Jobcentre Plus

A meeting of the Bromley Economic Partnership will be held at London Biggin Hill  
Airport on **TUESDAY 14 JANUARY 2020 AT 4.00 PM** \*

**\*PLEASE NOTE STARTING TIME**

***Copies of the documents referred to below can be obtained from***  
<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/>

## **A G E N D A**

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER 2019 AND MATTERS ARISING (Pages 1 - 14)**
- 3 PRESENTATION BY DAVID WINSTANLEY, LONDON BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT**
- 4 UPDATE ON THE ST MARK'S SQUARE DEVELOPMENT**
- 5 UPDATES ON MAIN PARTNERSHIP THEMES AND OTHER RELEVANT COUNCIL INITIATIVES:**
  - a TOWN CENTRES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**
  - b LOCAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**
  - c BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS AND BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE**
- 6 PARTNER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT WORKING TO INCLUDE:**
  - a COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**
  - b COMMUNITY LINKS BROMLEY**
  - c FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES (FSB)**
  - d SOUTH EAST LONDON BUSINESS NETWORK (SELBN)**
  - e SOUTH EAST LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (SELCC)**
  - f GENERAL NEWS ROUND**
- 7 BROMLEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**
- 8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 9 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

4.00pm, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020
- 10 BUSINESS NETWORKING**

## **BROMLEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

Minutes of the meeting held at 4.00 pm on 15 October 2019

### **Present:**

Councillor Peter Morgan (Chairman)  
Katy Woolcott, London Biggin Hill Airport (Vice-Chairman)  
Sharon Baldwin, Orpington 1st BID Company  
Zoe Brown, Beckenham Together & Penge SE20  
Matthew Eady, Mytime Active  
Christopher Evans, Community Links Bromley  
Frances Forrest, Your Bromley BID Company  
Dave Freeborn, Proctors  
Alex Henderson, Henderson Biomedical  
Lesley Holland, LBB Operations Manager, Bromley Education  
Business Partnership  
Michael Humphries, Handelsbanken  
Lorraine McQuillan, LBB Town Centres & BID Development Manager  
Melanie Ross, Barclays Bank PLC  
Chandra Sharma, Federation of Small Businesses  
Lee Thomas, Fairlight Group

### **Also Present:**

Councillor Vanessa Allen  
Joe Atherton, Your Bromley BID Company  
Russell Clarke, Sundridge Investments Limited  
Michael Foxhall, Barclays Bank PLC  
Councillor Hannah Gray  
Gary Hillman, N. Hillman & Sons  
Councillor Colin Hitchins  
Hannah Jackson, LBB Head of Renewal  
Steve Lipscombe, Ronin Marketing  
Lee Morrison, The Heathers Residential Care Home  
Stephen Oliver, LBB Project Planner  
Reverend Agnita Oyawale, Bromley Town Centre Chaplain  
Robert Sargent, Acorn Group  
Sue Sibeon, Jobcentre Plus  
Gill Slater, LBB Acting Joint Head of Service – Planning, Policy and  
Strategy  
Lawrence Wilson, Business Doctors  
David Winstanley, London Biggin Hill Airport

## **22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Stephen Allison – The Bromley Court Hotel, Carol Arnfield – LBB Head of Service for Early Years, Schools

Standards and Adult Education, John Coupland – South East London Business Network, Mark Haynes – The Glades, Mike Lewis – Michael Rogers LLP, Peter Manlay – Contingent Works, Helen McIntosh – South East London Chamber of Commerce and Sam Parrett – London South East Colleges.

## **23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE 2019 AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were agreed, and signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

## **24 APPRENTICESHIPS PRESENTATION - JOBCENTRE PLUS**

Sue Sibeon, Jobcentre Plus provided a presentation on apprenticeships and the key points for employers.

Apprentices were aged 16 or over, with no upper age limit, and could be new or current employees. They combined working with studying to gain skills and knowledge in a specific job. Employers must pay apprentices at least the minimum wage, and they must work with experienced staff, learn job-specific skills and study during their working week (for example, at a college or a training organisation).

Businesses based in England could get Government funding to cover some of the costs of training and assessing an apprentice. The amount a business could receive depended on whether or not they paid the apprenticeship levy, which was paid by employers with a pay bill over £3m per year.

Employers with wage bills under this amount did not need to pay the levy, and would pay 5% towards the cost of training and assessing their apprentice. A payment schedule would need to be agreed with the training organisation, and they would be paid directly for the training. The Government would pay the remaining 95% directly to the training organisation, up to the funding band maximum. Employers could be eligible for extra funding depending on both their circumstances and those of the apprentice. Employers that paid the levy would receive funds to spend on training and assessing their apprentices, and the Government would add 10%.

Employers were responsible for paying their apprentice's wage and giving them their contract of employment. The current minimum wage rate for an apprentice was £3.90 per hour. This rate applied to apprentices under 19 and those aged 19 or over who were in their first year. Employers must pay at least the minimum wage rate for their employee's age if their apprentice was aged 19 or over and had completed their first year.

Apprentices must work towards an approved apprenticeship standard or framework (recognised qualification), and their training must last at least 12 months. They must be employed in a real job that gave them the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills they needed to pass their assessment.

Employers must pay their apprentice for time spent training or studying for their apprenticeship, whether while at work or at a college or training organisation. Employers must offer apprentices the same conditions as other employees working at similar grades or in similar roles. This included paid holiday, sick pay, any benefits offered such as childcare voucher schemes and any support offered such as coaching or mentoring.

Apprenticeships had equivalent educational levels, which allowed apprentices to gain qualifications such as GCSEs, A levels, Foundation degrees and Bachelor's or Master's degrees as they progressed. Some apprenticeships also provided additional qualifications, such as Diplomas.

Employers were required to sign an apprenticeship agreement with their apprentice. This provided details of what the employer agreed to do for the apprentice, including: how long they would employ them for; training they would be given; working conditions; and qualifications that they were working towards. These could be completed by downloading an apprenticeship agreement template. Employers must also sign a commitment statement with their apprentice and the training organisation. It had to include: the planned content and schedule for training; what was expected and offered by the employer, the training organisation and the apprentice; and how queries or complaints should be resolved.

Further help and information in relation to apprenticeships could be obtained by contacting the National Apprenticeship Service on 0800 015 0600, or filling in the enquiry form on Gov.uk.

A Member asked if there were any plans to increase the current minimum wage rate for apprentices. The LBB Operations Manager – Bromley Education Business Partnership highlighted that this was the minimum that an employer had to pay, however they could pay apprentices more than this, and larger organisations tended to do so.

In response to a question, Ms Sibeon said that if an apprentice was performing to the required standard, the company's normal procedure to deal with this would be followed. Further advice could be provided by the National Apprenticeship Service. A Member noted that an apprentice, like other staff employed, would be subject to a probation period which would allow the employer time to consider if they were suitable for the role.

The Chairman thanked Ms Sibeon for her presentation to the Partnership.

## **25 UPDATE ON THE ST MARK'S SQUARE DEVELOPMENT**

This item was deferred to a later meeting of the Bromley Economic Partnership.

## **26 UPDATES ON MAIN PARTNERSHIP THEMES AND OTHER RELEVANT COUNCIL INITIATIVES:**

Members of the Partnership gave an update around progress across the main themes of the Partnership.

**a TOWN CENTRES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Hannah Jackson, LBB Head of Renewal and Stephen Oliver, LBB Project Planner attended to provide an update on Town Centre Development across the Borough. Progress was continuing across the sites that made up the Bromley Town Centre Area Action Plan.

The Bromley Town Centre High Street Public Realm Improvement works were now mostly complete. Feature lighting on Bromley High Street was currently being installed, with completion expected by the end of October / beginning of November 2019. Once the first stage was complete, a review of the lighting would be undertaken to see if any further uplighters were needed to create more of an impact. Planning permission had been granted for two commercial units near Metro Bank. However, the tenders received back had all been over budget, so there would be a review of what work could be carried out and an update would be provided to the next meeting of the Partnership. Additional public benches had been installed between Bromley South Station and Elmcroft Road, and maintenance work to the Legible London signs was being undertaken with Transport for London (TfL). The signs were in need of updating following recent development of sites in the town centre. Remedial works were continuing on the tiles of the Churchill Theatre, which were due to be completed by spring 2020. Pavement works would then be completed once the scaffolding had been removed.

In Beckenham town centre, the public realm improvement works were mostly complete, with the last planters to be installed in November 2019. Heritage plaques were also due to be installed, the contract for which had now been awarded and the plaques were currently in production. It was hoped they would be installed before the end of the year. The Orpington town centre public realm improvements were complete, with the exception of some snagging works in relation to the fire escape at The Walnuts and the tree pits.

In Penge town centre, the first round of the shopfronts improvement scheme had been completed, and a second round was at the procurement stage. Heritage plaques were in production, and an installation date was to be confirmed. Discussions were taking place with Penge SE20 in relation to the options for alternative way finding, and the installation of new noticeboards and bins in the town centre.

In response to a question, it was agreed that following the meeting, the LBB Head of Renewal and LBB Project Planner would provide further details in relation to signage in Orpington town centre and the cycle path proposed along Kangley Bridge Road.

The Chairman advised Members that Opportunity Site G: West of the High Street was progressing, and the developers would be meeting with the LBB Chief Executive in the next few days. In relation to the Old Town Hall,

developers Castleforge had recently held a public exhibition of the plans at Bromley Central Library. Proposals had included hotel rooms, flats and flexible working space. It was highlighted that this would see the refurbishment of an important building in the Borough.

The LBB Head of Renewal noted that some areas, for which updates had previously been provided to the Partnership, now came under a different department of the Council. A written update of these could be provided to Members following the meeting.

**RESOLVED that the update on the town centres development programme be noted.**

#### **b LOCAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Gill Slater, LBB Acting Joint Head of Service – Planning, Policy and Strategy provided an update on the development of the Local Plan.

The Local Plan had been adopted in January 2019, and further progress was awaited on the London Plan. It was noted that this could change what was carried out on a local level.

In the spring, the London Plan was the subject of Examination in Public. The Panel of Inspectors examining the London Plan had recently provided a report to the Mayor of London containing recommend changes, which the Mayor was required to publish and it was therefore anticipated soon. The Mayor did not have to accept any of these changes, but was required to give reasons for not doing so to the Secretary of State. The GLA had indicated they would publish the Panel Report alongside the intended Plan. The Plan needed to be approved by the assembly and the GLA had advised that they expected a final London Plan to be adopted in February 2020. This could affect the Borough's proposed housing number targets. Until then, work would be undertaken to consider the implications for the Borough should the London Plan be adopted in its current form.

In response to a question, the LBB Acting Joint Head of Service – Planning, Policy and Strategy said that the next time a Local Plan was produced, the process would move with more speed. It was noted that the bulk of the Local Plan was up to date and may not require alteration, however some changes may have to be made in order to conform to the London Plan.

The Chairman reminded the Partnership that the new London Plan proposed a significant increase in the fifteen year target for net housing completions, from the current requirement of 641 homes per annum to 1,424 homes per annum. A Member questioned if the target was just for new builds, or included conversions. The LBB Acting Joint Head of Service – Planning, Policy and Strategy confirmed that conversions could be counted towards the target as they were classed as new units. It was noted that a record was kept of conversions in the Borough.

A Member queried if there could be a declassification of some of the Borough's Green Belt land in order to deliver these housing numbers quicker. The LBB Acting Joint Head of Service – Planning, Policy and Strategy responded that following a 'call for sites', it would be for developers to submit sites. However the National Guidance was clear and whilst sites on Green Belt land could be put forward, it was expected that these would be strongly resisted, but there was a challenge ahead to address the housing targets in the draft London Plan.

In response to a question, the LBB Acting Joint Head of Service – Planning, Policy and Strategy said that the current target of 641 homes per annum was being met comfortably.

**RESOLVED that the update on the Local Plan be noted.**

**c BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS AND BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE**

Ms Sharon Baldwin, Orpington 1<sup>st</sup> BID Company informed Members that vacancy rates in the town centre were low, however they were finding there was a faster churn of tenants. Larger shop units tended to be those that were empty long term, and landlords were splitting the space into smaller units. Footfall in the town centre remained constant, however there had been a slight slip at the beginning of the week. It was noted that a number of office spaces had been turned into residential units, which had resulted in a loss of lunchtime trade. Work was being undertaken with individual businesses to attract people into the town centre during this period.

The third year of the Orpington Food Festival had taken place in September, and had been extremely successful. Events had included 'Foodie Friday', with food trucks and live music, and on Saturday there was a demonstration kitchen which local restaurants used to prepare dishes. The event had ended with a 'Sunday Social' BBQ and music, in collaboration with Churches Together. Work with fourteen local schools had been undertaken on a plastic free initiative, and Orpington 1<sup>st</sup> BID had been awarded Silver Gilt at this year's London in Bloom awards.

A lanyard scheme had been introduced for people with disabilities, and staff across the town centre had been trained in showing more tolerance when dealing with these customers. A project to combat isolation and loneliness had also been taking place in the town centre. Five restaurants had 'Chatty Chairs', which indicated where people were happy to be joined by others to sit and talk. A new loyalty scheme, 'LoLo', to which 22 businesses had already signed up, would be launching in the town centre shortly.

Upcoming events included: a scarecrow trail during half term; the annual poppy installation; a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event for the Alzheimer's Society; the Christmas Lights switch-on taking place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November; and a Santa Dash on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December.



It was noted that The Walnuts Shopping Centre had been sold to Areli Real Estate, who were redeveloping a centre in Maidenhead into a mixed-use scheme.

Ms Frances Forrest, Your Bromley BID Company informed Members that Operation Gemini would take place in the town centre from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October, for which the BID would fund additional police officers at peak periods. The main focus was on preventing shop lifting and cycling in pedestrianised areas of the high street. A new shoplifting initiative was also being piloted, which had resulted in three perpetrators being banned from the town centre. This had worked well for two out of the three, and they were working with the police to take out an injunction against the third.

There had been a number of complaints made in relation to the street population, including begging and street sleeping. A number of joint patrols had taken place with the police, and a steady difference had been seen. The “Loose Change to make Real Change” campaign had recently been relaunched, which encouraged people to donate directly to the Bromley Homeless Shelter and deter them from giving money to street beggars.

Upcoming events in the town centre included a Spooky Monsters Trail, which would have prizes donated by businesses, and the poppy installation. The Christmas Lights switch-on would take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November, with a ‘Jinglebell Jog’ in collaboration with Mytime Active taking place earlier in the day. Your Bromley BID Company was the lead sponsor for the Bromley Business Awards, taking place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Members were encouraged to sign up for their newsletter, which would be published at the end of the month, via the Your Bromley website [www.yourbromley.com](http://www.yourbromley.com).

In response to a question, Ms Forrest said that there was a provisional date of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for the Mayor of London’s ‘Night Czar’, Amy Lamé, to visit the town centre. A surgery was planned for her to meet with businesses that were involved in the town’s night time economy.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Ms Forrest advised the Partnership that pedestrian flow and footfall in the town centre was doing fairly well. It had improved on this time last year, but had not yet returned to the rate of two years ago. A report on the vacancy rates was currently being prepared for the next Advisory Group meeting.

Ms Zoe Brown, Beckenham Together & Penge SE20 informed Members that Beckenham town centre had passed its interim assessment for Purple Flag status, which meant there was another 18 months until the next full assessment. Consideration would be given as to whether this was something that would continue to be paid for and how to best mitigate questions from BID levy payers. Crime statistics in the town centre were up, however this was believed to be due to people being encouraged to report incidents – the percentage increase looked large, but in reality the numbers were only small.

Recent events had included the Souttown Festival, which had been nominated for Best Small Festival at the UK Festival Awards, and Beckenham Business Day which had taken place at the Odeon. Since the last meeting, two 'Clock House Celebrates' events had taken place, and another was planned before Christmas. Upcoming events included a pumpkin trail during half term and the Christmas Lights switch-on taking place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. An ice rink would be installed on Market Green, along with a Christmas market, over the festive period.

In Penge town centre, events that had taken place included 'Pengefest', 'Paws in the Park', and support had been provided to 'Men in Sheds', which was an Age Concern project at risk of having its funding cut. It allowed members to work together on various commissions, work on their own projects or just provide a chance for interaction with other people. Eighteen Shopsafe radios and tourniquet kits had been provided to businesses in the high street, and the BID were looking to fund two additional cameras in the town centre.

Upcoming events included a Halloween trail and the poppy installation. The "Pengemas" Christmas event would take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, and would include a Christmas market, dancing, music and Santa and his elves.

Meerkat Works were continuing to look at cost saving solutions for businesses. Currently, across the two BID areas, for every £1 spent, savings of £3 were being made for the businesses. It was hoped that enough money would be saved to make the BID levy cost neutral across the five year period.

Lorraine McQuillan, LBB Town Centres & BID Development Manager informed Members that work was continuing on the West Wickham BID. The project was currently at the research stage, which involved speaking to businesses and considering what projects could be undertaken. An Open Forum meeting was planned for the following week, with the ballot expected to take place in June 2020.

In terms of business support, a successful #GrowBromley event had taken place with the South East London Business Network (SELBN), which had been attended by around 80 businesses. Upcoming events included a Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) networking lunch and 'Fit for Tender' session, which would include presentations on procurement by the London Borough of Bromley. On the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Business Doctors would also be running a free session on PR and Marketing on a restricted budget.

The Bromley Business Guide was being printed, and would be available for circulation the following month. Members were asked to contact the LBB Town Centres & BID Development Manager if they could suggest any outlets they could be displayed in.

**RESOLVED that the recent work around Business Improvement Districts and Business Support in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019/20 be noted.**

**27 PARTNER UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT WORKING TO INCLUDE:**

Updates are provided in the relevant sub sections.

**a BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT**

Mr David Winstanley, Chief Executive Officer – London Biggin Hill Airport provided an update on developments at London Biggin Hill Airport.

The aviation market was currently flat, however London Biggin Hill Airport was “holding its own”, and currently had a 20% share of the London market. The airport had now shifted from a Managing Director to a Chief Executive Officer led organisation, with the focus to unlock unrealised potential in the Borough. Work was being undertaken with Central Government on the Aviation Strategy 2050 and the London Airspace Modernisation Project.

The Local Authority had granted planning permission for the hangar development at the airport, and a global manufacturer had now chosen Bromley as its central base. Consent from the landlord had also been received for the development of the Aeronautical Engineering College and hotel.

A new Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy would have a main focus on environmental impact, and it was noted that for the long term future of light aviation, there was still a lot of work to do.

**b COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**

Mr Robert Sargent, Acorn Group informed Members that new commercial property that was design-led was quick to let, and landlords delivering flexible space appealed to tenants. There had been a change in the philosophy of funders, having relied on leases of 15 to 20 years. Having an “easy in, easy out” option was an attraction for tenants. Some of the property in Bromley was hard to let as it was considered to be ‘out of date’.

The HG Wells Tower, a 17-storey development, was looking very impressive, and it was noted that the commercial space had been fully let on day one. A proposal for an 11-storey development in front of this would be brought to the Local Authority by January 2020.

**c COMMUNITY LINKS BROMLEY**

Mr Christopher Evans informed Members that he was the new Chief Executive at Community Links Bromley, following the retirement of Colin Maclean. Community Links Bromley was part of Bromley’s Third Sector Enterprise Partnership, and its function was to support the voluntary and community sector and help it to thrive and grow. Events to train the sector

more generally were planned in November and December 2019, with support for their Trustees.

It was noted that the references made earlier in the meeting to the Homelessness Prevention Strategy, Churches Together, Men in Sheds and social isolation and loneliness showed the alignment of businesses and charities.

The Volunteering Strategy that had been devised needed re-visiting. Community Links Bromley would be speaking with the Local Authority about its approach to volunteering and its marketing of it, and with businesses in relation to how they could best work with them to develop their volunteering offer in the Borough. It was noted that the approach needed to be more planned and structured.

#### **d FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES**

Mr Chandra Sharma, attended the meeting representing the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

The FSB were continuing to run their successful networking lunches in Orpington and Bromley, and consideration was being given to holding a further event in Westerham. Work had also been undertaken with LBB officers over the last year on improving the Bromley Business website.

An event had taken place at the Harris Academy Beckenham for 40 students in Year 13 who were undecided about whether they wanted to attend university, or complete an apprenticeship. The event had been very positive, with 35 businesses attending, and it would be repeated at another academy in the near future.

Future FSB events included the 'Fit for Tender' session on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019, which would include a procurement presentation by a Commissioner from the London Borough of Bromley. A 'Meet the Buyer' event would be taking place on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, providing local opportunities to small businesses. Small Business Saturday would be taking place on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – the event would be promoted on the Council's website, and Members were encouraged to get involved in the event. Round table discussions between local businesses and Lord Harris were planned to take place in Orpington on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

#### **e SOUTH EAST LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

No update was provided to the meeting.

**f GENERAL NEWS ROUND**

Reverend Agnita Oyawale, Bromley Town Centre Chaplain advised Members that from January 2020, a team of Chaplains had been commissioned to increase the number to 13.

Mr Matthew Eady, Mytime Active advised that a new Mind and Body Studio had recently opened at The Spa – Beckenham. It had been profiled on the BBC London News, and the feedback had been positive. Mytime Active had been involved with the London Youth Games, which Bromley had won for the fourth year in a row. Nike had recently been named as the new sponsor of the Games, however costs were increasing, and Bromley's team were looking for sponsors for next year's event.

Additional funding had been received to continue the 'Twilight College' in partnership with London South East Colleges. These classes provided additional activities for pupils after school hours. The feedback received had been good, and other colleges were following their lead. An arts project which they ran for children in care had been shortlisted for a community and voluntary sector award, but had narrowly missed out. However the project had been nominated for two further awards, at a national and local level.

Mr Steve Lipscombe, Ronin Marketing reported that following a slack spring, business had picked up over the last two to three months. It was noted that they were working with companies from different sectors, which it was hoped was a sign of good times.

Mr Lawrence Wilson, Business Doctors informed Members that a network event, focused on construction and property firms, would be taking place later that week at the Travelodge, Bromley.

Mr Michael Humphries, Handelsbanken said that business remained busy. They needed to be "looking outside of the box", and had the flexibility to do so. On the commercial side, there were a number of projects underway.

Mr Russell Clarke, Sundridge Investments Limited noted that in relation to town planning, for the second time in two year there had been a judicial review. The appeal inspector had travelled down for the north east, which highlighted the issues of staffing and experience.

Mr Dave Freeborn, Proctors said that he was aware of a number of property developers who did not feel they were supported enough in Bromley. A number of small and medium developers had moved to Croydon, which was a worry and was backed up by the percentage of overturned appeals. The Chairman advised that there had recently been a new Chief Planner in post and there was now a different attitude within the department.

Mr Alex Henderson, Henderson Biomedical said that the company was currently busy. Work had not yet started on the proposed cycle lane on

Kangley Bridge Road. Mr Henderson noted that he felt the extension of the Bakerloo Line to Hayes would be a huge benefit to local businesses.

Ms Lesley Holland, Bromley Education Business Partnership informed Members that they supported young people in to work. Thanks were extended to Mytime Active who had recently taken on two pupils at the risk of exclusion. A schedule of events for 6<sup>th</sup> formers who did not want to go on to Higher Education had been planned at various schools across the Borough – further information and dates could be provided to Members.

Mr Lee Morrison, The Heathers Residential Care Home informed Members that he was looking to get a project off the ground to support care leavers. A 'Bands against Knife Crime' event was proposed, and a high profile band was already on board, however he was looking for somewhere to host it.

Mr Mike Foxhall, Barclays Bank PLC advised Members that opening hours at the Bromley branch were being extended to 7pm on Thursdays, in line with late night shopping.

Mr Robert Sargent, Acorn Group informed the Partnership that as part of their CSR, they had launched the 'ABC BOOK CLUB', which had now become a registered charity. They had worked to support a number of schools across Bromley, and surrounding boroughs, to provide reading materials or a space for reading, and carried out between three and five projects a year. Their local branches accepted donations of unwanted books, which they looked to repurpose. Further information on the scheme could be provided to Members.

Mr Lee Thomas, Fairlight Group said that serviced offices were currently full. There were lots of new enquiries, which were expected to convert once decisions surrounding Brexit were more certain.

Mr Gary Hillman, The Royal Bell and Cray Wanderers FC informed Members that in relation to The Royal Bell, their involvement in Open House London had been a huge success with around 500 people visiting the venue. They had been approached by a major music promoter who was looking for a venue in north Kent to host 250 concerts a year, to crowds of between 400 and 700 people.

The previous weekend, Cray Wanderers FC had played their first game in 46 years at a home ground which they owned. Buses were being provided, which made three stops in the Cray area, to transport their supporters to Bromley FC, with whom they were currently ground sharing. A youth day had been held and attracted a crowd of 634 people, and things were going well on the pitch for the team too.

**RESOLVED that the updates be noted.**

Members of the Partnership considered the forward rolling work programme for the Bromley Economic Partnership for 2019/20.

The Chairman informed Members that London Biggin Hill Airport had very kindly offered to host the next meeting of the Bromley Economic Partnership.

It was noted that an update on the St Mark's Square development would be presented to a future meeting of the Partnership. Members were asked to send any further suggestions for agenda items to the clerk.

## **29 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Zoe Brown informed Members that following the presentation by the London Enterprise Advisor Network (LEAN) East at the previous meeting, she had volunteered to become an Enterprise Advisor. There would be a careers fair for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 taking place at Eden Park High School on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019. Any Members willing to attend the event and share their experiences with the pupils were encouraged to contact the Talent Co-ordinator at the school.

The Chairman informed the Partnership that the London Borough of Bromley had loaned the Bromley Foodbank the former Adventure Kingdom building. However, this building was needed back, and alternative premises of around 5,000 sq. ft. was sought for the Bromley Foodbank for the next couple of years. Members were asked to get in contact if they were aware of any available spaces.

In relation to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the Chairman advised Members that some companies allowed staff to take days for volunteering. If any businesses were considering this, Careplus Bromley were looking for volunteers to undertake things such as shopping, befriending and gardening. Melanie Ross noted that previously, a CSR event had been held annually and suggested that it may be helpful for this to be re-established.

**RESOLVED that the issues raised be noted.**

## **30 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

4.00pm, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
4.00pm, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

The Meeting ended at 5.58 pm

Chairman

This page is left intentionally blank