

Summary of activities in Quarter 3 2012/13

1. Christmas events plans

1.1 Beckenham

Saturday 17 November between 3.00 – 6.00pm

The Town Centre Manager has been working closely with Beckenham Business Association and Copers Cope residents Association, who are extremely proactive regarding the Christmas event.

The majority of the event will be held on Beckenham Green, however some performances will take place throughout the High Street.

The event will include:

- “George to George” – Christmas Parade between 4.30 – 5.00pm. Residents will gather at the George pub and proceed to St George’s Church. Copers Cope Residents Association are leading on the parade with support from TCM. Sufficient Stewards are available (using volunteers from the Scouts and the TA), and Police have been advised. The parade will take place on the pavement, with stewarded road crossings, so no road closures will be necessary.
- 6pm at Beckenham Green switch on with Jamie Foreman (former East Enders star) and Churchill Theatre Panto stars – to be confirmed – will assist with the switch on. Includes light show.
- There will be a visit to the High Street and the Green by Father Christmas and a Pearly King, both of whom will also take part in the parade
- Performances on stage from 3pm including St George’s junior choir, singer Fil Straughan, Kent Academy of Performing Arts, Angie Hoopa Hoopa and Harris Academy Beckenham quartet
- Youth services Mobile Music and Arts bus – offering workshops and demonstrations on DJ/Mixing music etc and bringing a workshop on “Wall Art”
- Beckenham Spa (MyTime) providing face painting and fitness advise and discounts on memberships
- The Library will be open and are going to offer story reading for younger children as part of the event – and a number of catering establishments in the town are expected to stay open later.

Plans are still developing and the TCM hopes to book additional acts for the stage, plus craft stalls, seasonal food stalls (e.g. hot chestnuts) and a small number of traditional children's rides.

1.2 Bromley

Sunday 2nd December 12noon – 5pm Christmas Parade and Santa Dash

The stars from the Peter Pan Pantomime will open the event at 12noon followed by entertainment on stage and in the town centre all day. Most groups that are performing are local groups (performing for free) – which gives them the opportunity to promote themselves and raise awareness of their groups.

At 2pm a Santa dash will take place in the town – a family fun run with members of the public dressed in Santa costumes registration online at www.mytimeleisure.co.uk/santadash.

At 3:30pm local schools will be singing Christmas Carols – this has been organised in partnership with Demelza House. EW Payne Fine Jewellers are also supporting this event by organising for Simon May (who composed the Eastenders theme tune) to go into the schools involved and provide mentoring to them prior to the xmas event. This will be followed by the traditional Christmas parade at 4:30pm with Santa, sleigh, elves and 2 live reindeers.

The Christmas lights switch-on will take place at 5pm with a fantastic fireworks finale (Bon Marche providing venue for fireworks for free). The police cadets have confirmed their attendance to help steward the event. Other local cadet groups have also been invited to help steward – this is a good promotion for the local cadets groups as well as helping to make the event run smoothly.

This event is organised in partnership with Bromley Mytime. TCM expenditure £12k with joint-funding of £5k from Bromley MyTime. The Churchill Theatre contributed £500 to publicity costs and are providing the stars of the panto at the event free of charge. Local businesses (including Glades Shopping Centre, Churchill Theatre and Bowling alley at the Pavilion) will be approached to provide prizes for the santa dash.

In addition to the xmas event TCM are working in partnership with the Theatre to promote the panto with a Pirate Flashmob on Saturday 17th November.

There will be a parade of dancing pirates from the Churchill Theatre to Market Square.

Christmas Market – the weekly market goes everyday from Thursday 13th December to Christmas Eve

1.3 Orpington

Wednesday 21st Nov 4pm –7pm (with fun fair from noon)

Community event, in partnership with Churches Together, Walnuts shopping centre, Orpington College and TCM.

There will be an Italian Market, Father Christmas, Sainsbury food tasting, stage with local schools performing including St Olave's, Blenheim primary and Crofton Juniors.

Also featuring are Christmas craft stalls, Face painting , children's mini fun fair and Fireworks.

Sponsorship from McDonalds, Sainsbury, Cargo, Walnuts Shopping centre, Crofton Residents Association, Knoll Residents and Park Avenue Residents Association. Also in kind contribution from The Rotary, who are providing stewards. Orpington library involved in craft event and baby bounce group singing

1.4 Penge

Thursday 22 November between 3.00 – 6.30pm

TCM working in partnership with Penge Traders to deliver the Christmas event, with input and sponsorship from Penge Partners and Penge Forum. Local businesses (including Designer Drapes and Urban Chain Studios) are also providing sponsorship.

The event will include:

- Switch on at approximately 4pm presided over by “Rough Copy” boy band (X Factor 2011).
- Entertainment on Empire Square including music from “Rough Copy”, “The Rise” and Urban Chain Studios and dancing by “Love 2 Dance” Dance School based in Crystal Palace and Penge. Other performances and entertainers to be confirmed.

- Appearance from Santa Clause and the Town Crier
- Face painting on Arpley Square and in Library
- Stalls – including Bibbys bakery (cakes, crafts, Christmas cakes etc), other stalls to be confirmed

Local businesses will provide presents for Santa's sack and have been approached to remain open and provide discounts and/or some free refreshments for the duration of the event

Safer Neighbourhood police have been asked to have a stall to provide free marking for eg mobile phone and advise on crime prevention and other issues

1.5 Small town centres

Biggin Hill

Saturday 17th Nov 4pm– 6pm

Community event in the forecourt of the New Life Church, organised by Biggin Hill Business Association, TCM in partnership with Waitrose, the New Life Church, Biggin Hill Airport. Local schools performances, mulled wine, mince pies, Father Christmas and snow machine will all feature.

Sponsorship from Residents Association, TN16 Magazine and Biggin Hill Airport.

Chislehurst

Saturday 1st December 3pm – 4pm

In the forecourt of the Queens Head pub (who are providing venue for free) with carol singing, mince pies and mulled wine followed by the Lights switch on featuring a 20ft Christmas tree in the gardens of the Active Age Centre. Event and lights funded by businesses and fundraising events throughout the year.

This event is organised by the Chislehurst Town Centre Management Group and TCM.

Hayes

Saturday 24 November between 4 – 6pm

Hayes Village Association are leading the event with support from the TCM

Event will include:

- Lights switch on ceremony
- A craft fair in the car park of the New Inn
- Music and entertainment from local talented young people

Petts Wood

Saturday 24th Nov between 2pm and 7pm (times to be confirmed)

The Petts Wood Christmas Carnival is an annual event which is organised by the Petts Wood Business Association in conjunction with the TCM, supported by the Petts Wood Residents Association. The event will include:

- Fairground attractions by Botton's Family Funfairs
- Fireworks Display by Wizard Fireworks
- Christmas stalls and entertainment on stage

Local retailer Webster's have provided sponsorship as have residents associations.

St Mary Cray

The Christmas event will be a community event held in the Duke Centre for local children, a mini disco, children's entertainer, stalls and fun rides.

West Wickham

Proposed festive activities include Santa's grotto, mince pies, mulled wine and carol singing

This event will be organised by businesses supported by the TCM.

For more details on all town centre Christmas events please visit www.bromley.gov.uk/christmas.

2. Christmas lights

2.1 Beckenham

Beckenham will be decorated with 40 lit lamp columns and one cross street lit banner – with funding mainly from the Council. The Copers Cope residents Association have agreed to sponsor a Christmas Tree on Beckenham Green. It is unlikely that there will be a Christmas tree for the War Memorial location this year due to lack of sponsors.

2.2 Bromley

Lamp column decorations and cross street features, along with a light curtain on the front of the Churchill Theatre / Central Library building will again feature, all purchased thanks to Outer London Fund Round 1 funding. Costs to install are being covered by earmarked Council funds plus contributions from local businesses.

From 1st December 40ft xmas tree will be positioned in Market Square sponsored by EW Payne Fine Jewellers, along with a static Nativity Scene, traditional carousel and mulled wine hut. EW Payne will also be providing the diamond again for the top of the xmas tree.

2.3 Penge

Lamp column decorations and two cross street banners are being installed – again thanks to Outer London Fund funding, these lights are owned by the Council, so only installation costs are to be covered from earmarked Council funds.

In addition TCM is hoping to arrange for a fully decorated Christmas tree to be installed outside of the Crooked Billett pub (sponsored by a number of the Traders, Penge Forum and Penge Partners).

2.4 Orpington

Lamp column decorations, cross street features will be lit along with the spectacular contemporary Christmas tree on the Memorial Roundabout, all owned by the Council thanks to Outer London Fund funding. Costs of installation are covered by earmarked Council funds, plus contributions from local businesses.

2.5 Small town centres

Chislehurst

Similar configuration to previous years (lights are owned by Chislehurst Town Centre Management Group) plus additional lighting of two natural trees on High

Street. 20ft Christmas tree will also feature. Most costs will be covered by contributions from the traders and residents.

Hayes

Lights on the lamp columns on each side of Station Approach plus a Christmas tree fully decorated with lights. Most costs will be covered by contributions from the traders and residents.

Mottingham

A natural tree will be decorated with lights.

St Mary Cray

Tree lights will be installed on the green.

West Wickham

As the West Wickham High Street is Red Route, TfL require stress testing to be undertaken on all lamp columns required for installation of Christmas lights, plus there will be requirements to pay TfL for electricity used. These requirements have only come to light during the last year and the costs for stress testing the number of lamp columns required will be prohibitive. It is therefore likely that if there is a lights display at all, it will consist only of 2 cross street displays – which are already owned by the West Wickham Traders Association. This is to be confirmed.

Sundridge Park Parade

Thanks to the Local Parades Initiative, Sundridge Park Parade will have Christmas lights installed for the first time – with the display comprising up to 13 lamp column decorations. The lights will be owned by the Council and in future years local businesses and residents will have to raise the funds for installation.

3. Other Town Centre Management highlights

3.1 Preparing for Business Improvement District (BID) campaign for Orpington.

Now that the BID ballot is confirmed for 21 February 2013, officers are assisting the BID Working Group with:

- Preparing and finalising the BID Proposal document (in effect the manifesto of the BID)

- Preparing legal agreement drafts
- Setting up a campaign action plan
- Preparing for a voter registration mailing
- Preparing publicity campaign material including the first of a monthly BID newsletter

The campaign will involve direct contact with all 345 business rates payers, all of whom will be offered one to one meetings to discuss the BID. The aim of the campaign is to have one to one meetings with at least half of the business rates payers to ascertain voting intentions. To assist with the campaign stage external consultants have been engaged to work alongside Officers and the BID Working Group members.

3.2 Environmental issues

Environmental audits have taken place in a number of the towns including Beckenham, Penge, Orpington and St Mary Cray – with issues arising being pursued by the relevant TCMs, mostly involving liaison with colleagues in Environmental Services.

3.3. Vacant units

Agreement has been reached with Foxtons estate agents – leaseholders of the former Zenith Windows unit in Beckenham High Street for improvements to the frontage including installation of bespoke vinyl window decoration (with costs kindly covered by Foxtons).

TCM are engaging landlords for other vacant units across the borough to press for the installation of shop window vinyls.

3.4 Beckenham & West Wickham Working Group

Working on implementation of short term improvements to Beckenham Town Centre following the recommendations agreed by the Beckenham & West Wickham PDS Working Group. The team will also be supporting the meeting of the Working Group focussing on West Wickham.

3.5 Local Parades Initiative

Work has been ongoing to respond to applications from local areas for funding from the Local Parades Initiative (agreed following the Renewal & Recreation PDS meeting in July 2012). At present work is ongoing to implement improvements to Sundridge Park Parade and Keston Village. Proposals are in the draft stage for Anerley Hill, 2 Biggin Hill area parades and St Mary Cray High Street.

3.6 Remembrance poppies

Poppies have been installed in Bromley High Street for the season of Remembrance of as in previous years, with some additional poppy dressing planned for Beckenham and Mottingham.

3.7 Bromley Town Team

The Bromley TCM has been working closely with the Bromley Town Team since its inception in summer 2012. The Government is making the Bromley Town Team an official Town Team Partner and providing it with a package of support from the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) which includes £10,000 worth of funding to help towards putting some of its plans into action.

The Town Team's main aims include:

- Increasing pedestrian and vehicle footfall to the area through working with the council on public realm improvements
- Filling vacant premises by encouraging entrepreneurs into Bromley North Village through offering Business Mentoring
- Improving safety and security of the area through improved natural surveillance from increased footfall to the area, improved street lighting and working closely with the police