



Run by local business for local business.



Activities Summary November 2021

In an unprecedented period of lockdowns and restrictions brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic the challenges we all now face as a result of the ongoing uncertainty and reduced incomes are shared by all businesses including the BID. Our board, consisting of local business owners, acted decisively from the onset of the crisis in March 2020. Services and objectives were redefined to address the issues presented and we maintained operations to the best of our abilities.

This short document aims to give a brief overview of our activities, to get more detailed information, please visit www.bluebermondsey.co.uk

Thank you to Blue Bermondsey BID businesses who have supported so many good things in the area, and our many partners and who have helped us.

Jack Shah - Blue Bermondsey chair

Our Activities

Blue Bermondsey BID exists to support and promote our levy paying businesses, attract new businesses and investment, with the long term aim of generating a prosperous local economy alongside actively advocating Blue Bermondsey's individuality and unique character.

We have built strong relationships with private sector business, the local community, public sector and other key stakeholder organisations within Southwark and beyond to help raise the profile and bring investment into the area.

The following pages provide a summary of our key activities during the pandemic period.

Covid 19

From the outset of the pandemic our board held monthly online meetings to address emerging issues to prioritise services, adapt and act decisively to use the BID levy efficiently and effectively.

Essential Business Support

During the first lockdown, we attended weekly meetings as members of the Southwark BID forum with Southwark's local economy team and relevant cabinet members. This allowed us to give direct input into a range of campaigns and to disseminate to our businesses important information and practical support through hard copy, our website, and our well supported social media platforms as well as assisting those businesses that had difficulty obtaining payment of support grants.

Support for the High Street

With additional funding from Nat West skills and opportunities fund, we promptly delivered a bespoke package of support for 25 essential High Street businesses that were permitted to remain open. We successfully launched a free Cargo Bike home delivery service in partnership with Pedivan

Blue Bermondsey Online Business Directory

We created the business directory from scratch, supported by a press and social media campaign to promote the directory and the businesses that were able to keep trading during the lockdown.

This also served to promote the delivery service, highlight the high street and the area as a whole.



During this time of great change to the way we are all living our lives and conducting our businesses, Blue Bermondsey has continued to deliver on our services, projects, and initiatives, to the best of our capabilities. Our profile, partnerships, and proven track record place us in an unrivalled position to represent and advocate for the area and its businesses in a post Covid environment. Crucial to this is the ongoing relationship and support we get from our businesses, and we will depend on your continued assistance and input to help deliver effective local recovery.

Below we spotlight two major initiatives that will provide key building blocks for the future prosperity of the Blue, its businesses and local community.

Made In Bermondsey Regeneration Project

in the Autumn of 2019, a community campaign led by Blue Bermondsey BID secured the £2m capital funding from the Mayor of London's LEAP Good Growth Fund for major regeneration of the area.

After an extensive consultation process, construction works to Market Place began in January 2021 and were completed in July.

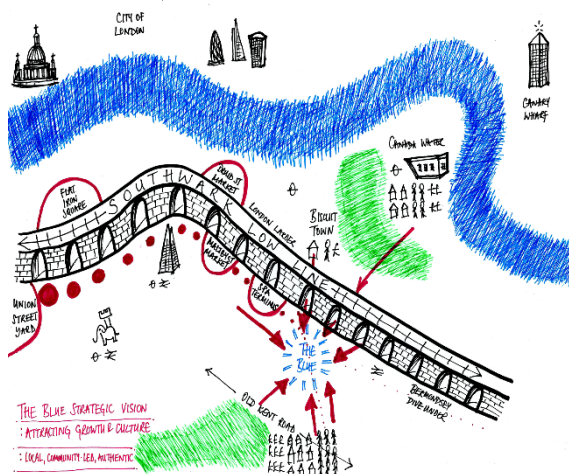
An official opening event was held with the Mayor of Southwark in attendance to cut the ribbon on the new clock tower. Thanks to support of local businesses the Blue now has a captivating central public space that is inviting and good to be in.

www.madeinbermondsey.co.uk



Low Line Partnership

Blue Bermondsey is working in partnership with Better Bankside, Team London Bridge, The Arch Co, Southwark Council and Borough Market in helping to develop a long term vision for the Low Line; a new walking destination for London along the length of the mighty Victorian rail viaducts spanning Bankside, London Bridge and Bermondsey.



It will link our neighbourhood with existing hubs of creativity, entertainment and industry, to bring improved economic prosperity. The partners were awarded £1m in funding from the GLA to deliver several pilot projects such as repurposing underused or empty arches and mapping of key areas along the length of the arches for innovative greening projects.

www.lowline.london

After securing a second term at re-ballot in October 2019, we pledged to focus on four themes in line with priorities identified during consultation with businesses. The onset of the pandemic early in 2020 caused us to adapt rapidly and focus on immediate priorities while delivering on our themes.

Safety & Security

We continued operating the town centre radios and working with the Safer Business Network who have conducted three visits since June 2021 to engage shop owners to seek solutions to local crime issues and encourage more reporting of incidents. This has been supported by community based crime and bicycle marking network events in partnership with our local Police team.

Business Services

We provide many opportunities for businesses to cut operating costs, details are available on our website. In addition, we attend all relevant meetings with the BID partners, the council, developers, key stakeholders, and a host of associated organisations to network, give input and represent Blue Bermondsey businesses. We actively seek and apply for additional funding to support our work.

Area Profile

Now that the Made in Bermondsey regeneration to the marketplace is complete, work will begin in the new year on enhancing connections to the Blue. We are currently working on a long term vision for public realm improvements to the wider BID area, to compliment the Made in Bermondsey project and harmonise with plans for the Low Line. We faithfully champion the Blue Bermondsey, through our highly active social media accounts to raise the profile and bring positive benefits.

Arts & Culture

During the pandemic and lockdown, we were not able to stage events but with the easing of restrictions in July 2021, we staged the opening of the market and in August, joined forces with many community partners to hold a bitesize version of the Bermondsey Carnival. Both events attracted thousands of visitors and helped put a smile back on faces after such a gloomy time.



Budget 2020-21

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
BID LEVY	£104,472.46	BUSINESS SERVICES	£48,376.03
GRANT AWARDS	£32,177.70	SAFETY & SECURITY	£11,000.00
REFUNDS - MISC	£3,243.44	AREA PROFILE	£22,205.56
		ARTS & CULTURE	£10,239.25
		CORE COSTS	£42,227.87
		CONTINGENCY	£20,007.78
TOTALS	£139,893.60		£154,056.49
BID LEVY DUE TO BE COLLECTED			£121,052.63