

BRIXTON BID

WE'RE TALKING BUSINESS

Brixton BID is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to strengthening Brixton's diverse business culture. We represent over 650 levy-paying businesses in the local area and work to develop new and exciting opportunities for Brixton.

MEETINGS

BUSINESS RATES WORKSHOP

MONDAY 6 MARCH, 2-4pm, Wahaca on Atlantic Road

Brixton BID will be running a session on business rates, explaining how businesses can appeal their rates, apply for transitional relief, and what it means for their businesses financially. The session is the first we will be running over the next month and will be led by a chartered surveyor from Evans Pearson. Refreshments and light snacks will be provided.

NIGHT TIME ECONOMY MEETING

TUESDAY 7 MARCH, 1 - 3pm, Club 414 on Coldharbour Lane.

Amy Lamé, London's Night Czar, will be in attendance. This is a opportunity for businesses to discuss night time economy issues and to raise them with the Night Czar.

Lime – friendly, relaxed and great value

Lime Brixton, perched on the corner of the Coldharbour Lane arcade entrance to

Brixton Village, is a welcoming Caribbean cafe that was opened a year ago by three Brixton locals. It serves quality Marley coffee and a good selection of natural teas. Lime has just introduced a new brunch menu – vegetarian, full English or Caribbean – along with great value jerk chicken wraps or £5 patty meal deals consisting of a choice of 3/4 patties, coleslaw/salad & sweet potato fries – all freshly prepared and served piping hot. There is a great selection of home-made vegan and non-vegan cakes and brownies as well. Noted for its friendly staff and relaxed vibe, Lime is a cosy and affordable stop-off, hiding in plain site.



BUSINESS RATES

We must fight to repeal a process that is neither fair, open, nor fit for business purpose



By Michael Smith, Director, Brixton BID

In addition to calling for inner and outer London thresholds on business rates for small businesses, they also want to see more Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR).

Brixton has seen a significant increase in the value of its “bricks and mortar” since the last valuation in 2010.

Now some small businesses are facing the totally unheard of situation of facing business rates demands sometimes matching and even exceeding the rental values of some properties.

Business rates, although having a severe impact on small businesses, are not a phenomenon affecting only small businesses.

The lack of uniformity in the business rates formula is

also impacting on rates being paid by medium and large businesses.

Some of these businesses are afraid to appeal their evaluation,

fearing that any appeal could adversely impact on their evaluation. Others are spending “lots of money” with organisations appealing the valuations on their behalf.

Whatever is happening, the impact of business rates will close some businesses.

Town centres like Brixton could be devastated. The accumulating impact of business rates on businesses across London, if significant help is not forthcoming, could be even more devastating for London's economy, as well economies across the UK.

We must fight to repeal a process that is neither fair, open nor fit for business purpose.

More information on the work of the Federation of Small Business and advice on Business Rates can be found at www.fsb.org.uk

With both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor now wading into the debate about business rates, town centre economies like Brixton can begin to anticipate some adjustments in the proposals for business rates from April 2017.

Any positive hopes that the interventions from the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer might bring however will be severely curtailed by the nature and structure of the current business rate formula which leads to the subjective valuation of business premises by the VOA.

In Brixton we are seeing the impact of the subjective valuation of premises. Small high street retailers, local pubs and restaurants are facing massive rises simple because they are in the town centre or other locations where rateable values are higher.

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has identified the nationwide revenue to be accrued from business rates in 2017 as £28bn.

Their research also suggests that, without concessions, London businesses would be particularly adversely affected by the pressures of business rates on businesses in the capital and beyond. 74% of businesses responding to their survey suggested business rates would be the single biggest issue affecting their business.

RATES RISE!

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE HIKE NOW.



AFTER AND BEFORE
 – above and below,
 computer generated
 images show the
 completed orchard – left
 and right, the site before
 work began



Brixton gets its own orchard – a cleaner air oasis from spring 2017

The Brixton Business Improvement District is creating the Brixton Orchard, a new community space designed to make use of forgotten land and to provide greening and better quality air on one of the most polluted roads in the capital.

It will be on a green space south of St. Matthew's church on Brixton Hill – the A23 – at the end of Rush Common and directly opposite Lambeth council's "Your New Town Hall" development.

The project is funded by local businesses with match funding coming from the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund.

About 30 trees, producing a wide range of fruit, will be underplanted with bee-friendly flowers. Seating will encourage people to spend time in a beautiful, biodiverse area with cleaner air.

Access to the Brixton Orchard will be via a new gateway allowing easy access across the site.

The BID is delivering the orchard in partnership with Urban Growth Learning Gardens and Open Orchard – Lambeth-based social enterprises that work with a range of communities to improve their outdoor spaces, growing food, learning new skills and improving

their wellbeing through connecting with nature in the city.

Brixton has long had a problem with air pollution on the A23 in particular. The BID is delivering a variety of solutions to tackle this

serious problem affecting residents, shoppers and visitors.

The initiative is part of a wider strategy to promote Brixton as a destination and to raise awareness about sustainability in the city.



The BID has already invested in an audit to identify more opportunities and is working with local stakeholders to keep Brixton vibrant, clean and safe.

Gianluca Rizzo, Brixton BID operations manager, said: "The Brixton Orchard is one of the various initiatives we are implementing to tackle the huge issue that Brixton and the rest of London is facing with air pollution."

"The BID is delivering various solutions including increasing the amount of green infrastructure, running no-idling campaigns, encouraging businesses to jointly procure their goods and services, and influencing the behaviour of local employees to reduce the number of local deliveries to slash traffic and congestion."

Bruno Lacey, Urban Growth London said: "This orchard will be an enduring community resource for future generations to enjoy. The trees here will produce literally tonnes of free fruit, to be enjoyed by thousands of local people."

"It provides an opportunity for people to learn about the natural world on their doorstep, and is an example of how we can design our urban spaces to be more beautiful, biodiverse and sustainable."