



WEST BROMWICH
Business Improvement District

WEST BROMWICH BID NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

West Bromwich BID got a

“YES”

vote for another 5 years in
West Bromwich town centre
2020 to 2025



WEST BROMWICH
Business Improvement District

Our Future Our Town

COVID-19 SUPPORT

Business Grants

Nearly 70% of business grant applications in Sandwell now processed – more than 3,000 businesses paid.

Vital grants have now been paid to more than 3,000 Sandwell businesses – worth a total of £34.4 million – to help them during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

This means nearly 70% of grants requested by businesses have now been processed.

A number of small businesses that Sandwell Council identified as being potentially eligible for a grant have either said they don't need to claim or have not yet responded to repeated council attempts to encourage them to apply.

Council Leader Councillor Yvonne Davies said: "We can only help those businesses that reply to us and apply for a grant, so if you think your business qualifies for one and you haven't yet replied to us, please do get in touch as soon as possible.

"We have now processed 68% of requests we have received and I would like to thank our officers for working flat out to check and process thousands of applications to get these vital funds to our businesses."

Any Sandwell businesses that believe they may be eligible for a grant but have not yet filled in the online form with their details should go to the council's support for businesses webpage where they can check the qualifying criteria and complete the form to request a grant.

As of yesterday (Monday) afternoon, the council has paid 3,008 businesses, which breaks down as follows:

The grants paid so far are as follows:

- 2,559 small business grants of £10,000;
- 161 retail hospitality and leisure grants of £10,000
- 288 retail hospitality and leisure grants of £25,000

As the council did not hold bank account details for 96% potentially eligible businesses – because Sandwell has a lot of small businesses that do not pay business rates by direct debit – the authority had to write to thousands of businesses at the start of April asking for key information in order to verify and process claims.

Deputy Council Leader Councillor Wasim Ali, the council's cabinet member for resources and core services, said: "We have put extra resources into telephoning potentially eligible businesses that did not reply to the letter we sent them at the start of April.

"A number of those businesses have said they do not require a grant – but we need to stress that if any businesses have not yet replied, we can't process their grant. They need to apply for us to verify and process a claim.

"Most businesses can expect to receive a payment within two weeks of submitting a claim."



COVID-19 and keeping West Bromwich Town tidy

West Bromwich BID are keeping the town centre litter-free.

Twice a week during COVID-19 the BID litter-picks all of our BID area (minus shopping centres). This is to help keep our town tidy during this stressful time.

The BID will remain litter picking until further notice twice a week. We will then amend this to every evening 6pm onwards 6 days a week to which we have completed for the last 4 and a half years.



CALLING SANDWELL BUSINESSES

Can you help with PPE?

Do you have any spare personal protective equipment (PPE) you are not using?

We're looking for donations of...

- Aprons and paper overalls
- Single use disposable gloves
- Fluid repellent face masks
- Hand sanitiser

HELP

for market traders selling food in coronavirus pandemic

Sandwell Council has confirmed that only market traders selling food will be allowed to trade on council markets at the current time in light of new measures to combat coronavirus.

This is in line with Government policy that all non-essential shops should close with immediate effect.

The council has waived all stall fees so traders selling food can trade free of charge on the council's markets.

Council Leader Councillor Yvonne Davies said: "We are living in unprecedented times and I am very aware of the massive impact that the coronavirus pandemic is having on the residents and businesses in Sandwell.

"The council is working hard to do what we can to help and, although we have been required to close our markets to non-food traders, we are continuing to allow traders selling food to keep serving our communities, for as long as this is deemed safe.

"Our advice is that continuing to provide alternative food outlets in local areas will help alleviate the

pressure on supermarkets and reduce the risk of crowding in these shops. It will also enable people to make shorter journeys to buy essential food items.

"To help those food traders who are able to continue to trade, we have waived all stall fees so that they can trade free of charge on our markets, and we will continue to review this policy on a monthly basis. We will be ensuring that the council staff, market traders and market shoppers will stay as safe as possible and observe social distancing policies.

"I would also urge all market traders to check to see what help they will be eligible for from the package of measures that Government have announced for small businesses including grants, business rates relief and business interruption loans.

"We are helping businesses keep up to date with this information through our Think Sandwell website at www.thinksandwell.com."





Useful Telephone Numbers

New Square Security	0121 647 7045
Queens Square Security	0121 500 2906
Kings Square Security	07881 463 091
Astle Park Security	07391 866 182
Wardens/EPO'S	07787 274 422
Markets Office	0121 553 3074
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
West Midlands Police	101 or www.west-midlands.police.uk to report a crime or 999 if it is an emergency.
West Bromwich Town BID (Monday – Saturday) Kelly Lisa Josh Tony	07719 546 973 07572 121 906 07572 121 628 07471 356 372
Sandwell Council (to report any issues or concerns)	my.sandwell.gov.uk or 0121 569 2200
Discover Sandwell (to advertise any services or information)	www.discoversandwell.co.uk
Midland Metro (Customer Services)	0345 835 8181 www.westmidlandsmetro.com
West Bromwich Bus Station	0121 200 2700 www.nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands
National Rail	0333 311 0039 www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk

STAY CONNECTED



WEST BROMWICH
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West Bromwich BID

www.westbromwichtown.co.uk



@WestBromwichTC



West Bromwich Town Centre



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Queens Square Shopping Centre:

www.queenssquareesc.co.uk

Kings Square Shopping Centre:

www.kings-square.net

New Square Shopping Centre:

www.newsquarewestbromwich.co.uk

Astle Retail Park:

www.astlepark.co.uk