

Spring 2016

Dear Skipton BID Levy Payer,

Please find enclosed the invoice for the BID levy for the year April 2016 to March 2017. All payments should be made to Craven District Council who have a statutory duty to collect the levy on our behalf. Payment details are included on the invoice.

The accounts and activities carried out during the 2015/16 12 month period will be reported at the AGM, which will take place at 6.00pm on Tuesday 7th June 2016 in the Rendezvous Hotel on Keighley Road. All levy payers are welcome to attend in order to hear the reports and also to take the opportunity to ask questions regarding our work.

If you are not currently a member of Skipton BID Ltd and would like to join, please contact us for an application form. Membership is **free** and entitles you to vote at the meeting. Members may also apply to become Directors of Skipton BID Ltd and help decide the most effective way to use the levy funds for Skipton businesses.

During 2015/16 we supported many projects and events that the board felt would help to achieve the aims of Skipton BID as set out in our business plan. Our annual report will include a final report on this; in the meantime here is a list of what has been supported to date in the financial year.

- Skipton Town Ambassador
- Skipton Car Show
- Sheep Day
- Skipton Library projects, such as supporting a Childrens Comic Collective
- Skipton in Bloom
- Skipton International Puppet Festival
- Skipton Brass
- Skipton Building Society Camerata
- Skipton Magna Carta
- Skipton Christmas Lights
- Skipton Christmas Markets
- Seasonal Window Painting and Bunting
- Skipton Cycle Races
- Waterways Festival

Most of these events and projects were also part-funded by a number of other bodies. Some of this funding could not have been accessed if the event organisers had not been able to demonstrate local support from Skipton Town Partnership. It is estimated that this external funding amounted to £120,000.

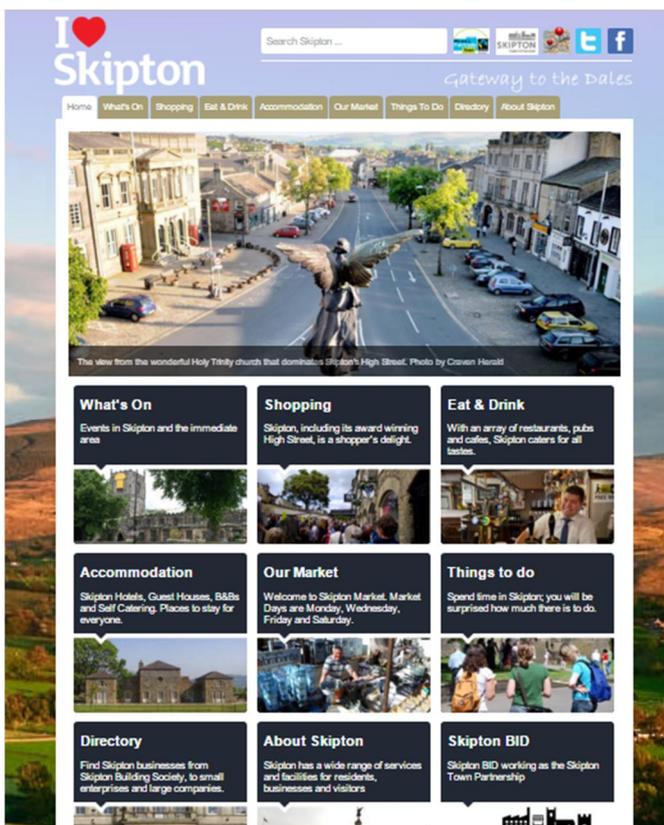
Other Activities

In addition to supporting projects and events like those listed above, we carry out other activities that continue throughout the year:

Skipton Marketing and Social Media

Some of the BID levy funds are used to promote Skipton further afield. We have worked with Welcome to Yorkshire to advertise Skipton in publications that reach a wide audience. Their promotional activity helped us to achieve the Sunday Times Best Places to Live in Britain. We are also improving our use of social media and aiming to help levy payers to promote their businesses. We are checking to see how popular this is. Please contact us if you want to know more. You can find us at twitter.com/skiptonbid and www.facebook.com/skiptonbid

www.welcometoskipton.com



The website, [welcometoskipton.com](http://www.welcometoskipton.com) managed by us for you, aims to promote Skipton BID Levy businesses as well as Skipton. To this end, we will include a **free** listing for all Skipton BID levy payers who would like their businesses and events to be included on the website.

We advertise events organised by levy payers and local charities. These listing are **free** of charge.

We already have many businesses and events on the website, but have plenty of space for more, so if your business or event is not already on the website and you would like it to be included, please get in touch so that we can collect relevant information from you.

We gain a small income from including local businesses that are not levy payers, but whose businesses we feel help to bring visitors into town to make use of levy payers businesses. We also advertise local events organised by non-levy payers where we feel these will bring business to levy payers.

The website is usually high in Google listings when searching for Skipton.

Skipton Business Crime Reduction Partnership

The Skipton Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) has been in operation for over a year. The Partnership is made up of Retailers, Licensees, the Police, Skipton Town Council, Craven District Council and Skipton Town Partnership. We aim to work together for the benefit of businesses in Skipton by discouraging retail crime and anti-social behaviour, helping the Police catch criminals and so making Skipton a better place in which to carry out business activities and a better place for residents and visitors alike.



The key to the success of the scheme is the sharing of information. Members use a private radio network to contact each other to report suspicious activity or actual theft. Skipton police share this radio network, so are able to respond quickly to information shared through the radio network as well as the normal police 101 telephone service. Members also have access to a secure database of information about known offenders. This includes photos of people who have been excluded from licensed premises and shops because of incidents in Skipton.

All member premises display a Skipton BCRP logo so identifying the premises from which the offenders are banned.

In a radio report from a BCRP member store, a member of staff reported that a woman whom they believed had been shoplifting on a previous occasion, was again in the store. The woman had been observed by staff paying for a small amount of goods, but when she was detained outside the store, she was found to have a further £49 worth of meat in her shopping bag for which she had not paid. The woman received a CRD (Community Resolution Disposal), and has since paid for the meat she took, apologised to the store manager, and has been banned from all the member's other stores.

Staff in a member store reported seeing 2 young men acting suspiciously around the perfume counters. After they had left the store, it was discovered that items had been stolen from these counters and on checking the CCTV footage; the 2 men were seen taking the goods. Members of the BCRP radio network kept track of the men as they walked down the High Street and into a shop at the end. Police Officers, using the information shared by the BCRP members, followed the 2 men into the shop and found them with a bag containing the stolen items. On checking their identities, it was found that they were wanted in Keighley for similar offenses.

And it isn't just about catching criminals....

A small child wandered away from his mother on the High Street. BCRP members were alerted via the radios and the "eyes on the street" were able to find him so that he could be restored to his worried mother.

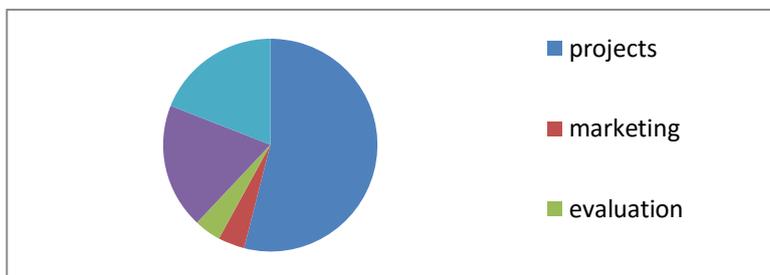
If you would like to find out more about joining the scheme, please get in touch with us. For £16.50 (+VAT) per month you can join the partnership helping to safeguard your business and other Skipton businesses. For this you will receive a radio, access to the secure database of offender details and the opportunity to share information with businesses and the Police.

Future Communication with Levy Payers

To save on costs, we plan to make most of our future communication paperless, apart from sending a paper newsletter once a year with the BID levy bills. Where we can, we will communicate direct to levy payers via email, so if you would like to be included in future mailings, please tell us your email address. However, if you would prefer to receive a paper copy of any mailings, let us know and we will make sure we send you copies by post.

Once the annual report and extract of the accounts is complete, it will be available to download from our website www.skiptonbid.com. If you would like us to send you a paper copy, let us know.

How has the levy been spent?



The total levy collection in 2015/16 was approximately £160,000. This chart shows a breakdown of how it was spent. The ratios may change a little when the end of year accounts are completed. We anticipate a reduction in the wages and office costs in 2016/17 with more being spent on projects and events.

Looking ahead

Following the refurbishment of the offices in the Town Hall, we are now renting space in the building, making it easier for visitors to find us and enabling us to access cost effective services provided by Skipton Town Council. This should lead to a reduction in our wages and office costs in the future. Our new Business Development Manager will be starting work shortly and will be working with the levy payers to make 2016/17 a good year to be trading in Skipton.

We plan to spend the 2016/17 BID levy money on projects and activities that will ensure Skipton continues to develop economically for the benefit of Skipton BID levy payers. An example for the year ahead is our support for the Skipton Cycle Races due to follow a route taking people around town. This year it is expected to be televised. Decisions to support events such as this are always made after discussion at our board meetings with the aim of continuing the improvement of businesses in Skipton. We welcome constructive feedback and innovative ideas for projects that will benefit all levy payers. Please get in touch if there is something you would like to discuss.



Andrew Mear, Chairman, Skipton BID Ltd