

For release: 4 July 2020

Paul Scully MP, the Under-Secretary for the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Minister for London visits the Clapham Junction Business Improvement District (BID) in Battersea, on the day the hospitality industry, hairdressers and barbers re-open.





The Clapham Junction Business Improvement District (BID) Ltd welcomed the Minister, Paul Scully MP, to The Junction to celebrate the re-opening of restaurants, bars, pubs, cafes, hairdressers and barbers and to talk to businesses to see how they are adapting to a new way of trading on the first Saturday after the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted for these sectors.

The Executive BID Director, Roz Lloyd-Williams and BID Board Director Anthony Ioannou (and owner of Battersea's Abacus Ark Nursery) and the Minister visited businesses on St John's Hill which included The Beehive Pub; new tapas bar TapaJax (which launches today); Italian restaurant Taverna Travestere; hairdressing salon, The Hair Club and The Gent's Barbershop. The Minister talked to businesses about the new risk assessment measures they have introduced and adopted – since their closure on March 23.

“The Clapham Junction Business Improvement District (BID) is delighted to welcome back the Minister to The Junction in Battersea to visit some of our hospitality businesses, hairdresser and barber sectors and to see the risk assessment measures they have implemented. The BID has been working with these businesses to ensure they have instigated the governmental risk assessment measures for their respective sectors, so customers can feel safe in the knowledge that these businesses have followed governmental guidelines when they revisit. The BID has worked with all our businesses across all sectors to ensure they have adhered to the government's 5-step approach which includes a commitment for businesses to make sure there are good cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures in place, 2m physical distancing where possible and confirmation that they have rolled out any other practical measures to manage the risk of virus transmission. Customers can check to see if the ‘Staying COVID-19 Secure in 2020’ notice is displayed.”

The Minister also revisited some of the businesses in Northcote Road - which he met on a recent visit to the road several weeks ago on June 15 (to tie-in with the opening of non-essential retail) - to discuss their activity and trading conditions - namely, children's educational toy store – Chalkboard; the vintage furniture shop – The Cabinet Room and Asquith's Jewellers.

The Junction BID which supports over 420 businesses across Clapham Junction recently launched their film ‘Local – The New Normal’ which urges the local community to shop local and support their small independents – please view on <https://visitclaphamjunction.com/blog> The BID also supports Wandsworth Council's ‘Shop Local Campaign’ which rolled out last month.

The Junction BID's (which includes businesses on St John's Road, Lavender Hill, St John's Hill, Battersea Rise and Northcote Road) main focus is to prioritise key themes (to help drive business and awareness) – namely Marketing and Promotion, Safe & Welcoming and Events and Festivals.

- Ends -

For further information, please contact Roz Lloyd-Williams, The Executive BID Director, The Junction BID. Please visit The Junction website: www.visitclaphamjunction.com

Notes to Editors

The not-for-profit Clapham Junction Business Improvement District (BID) Ltd was formed in late spring last year and is run by a voluntary board of Directors who are responsible for supporting over 420+ businesses across Clapham Junction. It delivers strategies and innovative projects to improve the trading environment for businesses, the shopping experience for residents and visitors, and to drive tourism in the Clapham Junction area. The Board's role focus on prioritising three key themes (namely, Marketing and Promotion, Safe and Welcoming and Events and Festivals), highlighted by BID area businesses, during the extensive consultation prior to the November 2018 Ballot. The BID region covers Clapham Junction Station, St John's Road, Northcote Road, St John's Hill, and parts of Battersea Rise, Falcon Road (as far north as the railway bridge) and Lavender Hill (up to Battersea Arts Centre).

Projects are based on themes outlined in the five-year business plan, with flexibility to respond annually to changing demands.

Background

A Business Improvement District, (BID) is a defined geographical area, where business ratepayers have voted (in a ballot process) to invest collectively in local improvements, in addition to those services already delivered by local statutory bodies.

BIDs grew and flourished in Canada and the USA in the 1970s and were introduced into the UK by the Local Government Act of 2003. The inaugural British BID was created in Kingston in 2005, with others soon following, resulting in over 320 launching across the UK over the last 14 years, with over 50 in London.