



Barrow BID AGM
20TH November 2018

Attendees

Stephen Leonard

Kieron Hart

Nathan Morrow

Phil Heath

Sandra Collings

John Dixon

Dennis Laird

Sam Hughes

Colin Garnett – BID Manager

Rebecca Jones – BID Secretary

Apologies Received

Tim Miller – Groves Vets

Maddi Nicholson – Art Gene

Simon Craig – BID Chair and M&S Rep

Lynn Beach – Rebel Interiors

Stephen introduced the meeting and as 10% of members were present the AGM went ahead.

Stephen went through the notice of AGM and agenda and the minutes from the previous AGM, which are available on the Barrow BID website, were confirmed.

Stephen gave Simon's apologies; he could not attend as he had undergone surgery the day before. Although, he was only notified of the date last Wednesday. As Stephen would be giving the Financial Report in his role as Treasurer, Simon asked him to Chair the meeting.

Stephen then went through the apologies received, and asked if anyone else had any others, which they didn't.

Rebecca then read Simon's Chairman's report on his behalf.

Chairman's Report November 2018

Dear members,

Thank you for taking the time to attend this, our second AGM of the Barrow BID.

I am really sorry that I am unable to attend this important event but this is due to me being admitted to hospital yesterday for an important outstanding knee operation which was made available only last Wednesday.

However, the remainder of the Board is present alongside our Manager – Colin Garnett, Accountant – Stephen Leonard and Secretary – Rebecca Jones who will be taking you through a number of presentations and will be able to answer/address any questions/concerns you may have.

As expected, the BID has moved on greatly in the last twelve months and Colin will explain in a lot more detail, initiatives, events etc. that we have been involved with, had success with and also details of plans for the coming period.

But as a group we are involved in so much more than just the outwardly visible events and sponsorships.

We have built up strong strategic partnerships with many key stakeholders within the borough including Furness Economic Development Forum (FEDF), where I sit on the board, FEDF subgroup – Quality of Life, Chaired by John Woodcock MP, which deals with all types of issues affecting Barrow from social care, housing, crime and the general quality of life of barrovians. We have also maintained our close links with both Barrow Borough and Cumbria County councils and hold joint meetings with these on a regular basis.

These partnerships are hugely important to the success of the BID and allow us to lobby, put pressure on and raise important issues with the people/groups who can tackle some of the bigger issues such as traffic, parking and vacant properties. As you will all be aware these things do not happen quickly but it is vital that we persevere in representing you, our members in improving these areas.

Another long-term plan that we are pleased to be a part of is the Central Barrow Masterplan.

This Masterplan has a scope of fifteen to twenty years before full completion, which is far longer than our current term of three years but is another area that is vital to the future of our town and we are delighted to have been invited to help shape and plan. One stakeholder meeting has taken place so far and our thoughts surrounding traffic movement, car parking, public transport and open spaces within town were well received by the team and we hope to have gained some early traction.

I feel that I must take this opportunity to highlight to members that the health of the High Street in the UK at present is not the best it could be. Numerous retailers have been placed into and are heading into administration due to dwindling sales, increasing costs and a vast change in consumer habits. We are not unique – this is a national issue and almost all the daily newspapers are running “Save Our High Street” campaigns. Rental values are too high, business rates calculations are not fit for purpose and are extremely unfair, local government spending has been cut, etc. etc. What can we do?

Well, we can ensure that we are well represented on the boards and groups that can lobby government and secure additional funding on a scale that will make a difference and we can encourage more of our local population and visitors to use our town centre more by creating interest either by an event or some activities – this I believe we are doing on your behalf and will continue to do so in the next twelve months and beyond.

Thank you.

Financial Report

Stephen then went through his financial report on the annual accounts.

- See Annual Accounts.

Stephen – last year someone asked the question as to why Levy payers didn’t automatically become members. I have looked into this and the answer is that you are not allowed to make someone responsible/liable without their permission as each member is liable for £1 if the company is wound up.

Stephen then asked if anyone had any questions about the accounts – no questions.

Stephen asked if anyone was against the accounts present – Voted unanimously no.

Question – What is a footfall count?

Stephen explained the process behind a footfall count and what information it can provide. Colin explained going forward we’re looking at different ways, which can get more information i.e. Surveys.

Question – What does the articles say about the minimum number of directors?

We are under the 6 stated in our articles, however when checked with the Companies Act, the answer was basically, if they’re the numbers you have, they’re the numbers you have, if no one else is coming forward.

The board would like more people to get involved.

Board Elections

Stephen then went through the members to be re-elected:

Simon Craig – Unanimous yes

Phil Heath – Unanimous yes

Sandra Collings – Unanimous yes

Nathan Morrow – Unanimous yes

Kieron Hart – Unanimous yes

All board members were re-elected.

Stephen then went through board nominees:

Sam Hughes

Sam then introduced himself to the members and gave some information about himself and his reasons for joining the board.

The members were then asked to vote.

Sam Hughes – Unanimous yes

Sam was elected onto the board.

The board now had the required 6 members as stated in the articles.

Question – First saw prospectus for BID I was keen on it, but what is the sustainability, what happens when BID is gone?

Colin – BID is critical, not only for financial help, but also from a lobbying perspective. BID has enabled money to be put into a pot from businesses that are struggling. We need to use this money now to make a difference and then bring more money back in from outside i.e. grants etc. Need to bring a return of money back into the area. If we can grow that, then we can look at increasing the BID area and bring in other businesses, like BAE, which then brings in more funding and maintains what BID started.

Question – Other Bids, how are they working and is the 5 years a set term or did Barrow BID decide that?

Question was answered in parts by Stephen, Phil H, Nathan and Colin.

5 years – mandatory.

Lancaster has been voted in for a second term, but has a larger area and more businesses.

Kendal is undergoing their second term vote.

Ulverston's BID area covers the whole of Ulverston, so they pick up Glaxo's etc., thus get a higher amount of income. Also, have established events like Dickens weekend that they can aid with funding etc., rather than trying to introduce new events.

BID Managers presentation

Feedback received from members is that communication has improved and that things are starting to get done. Some felt that they didn't need to attend the AGM as they were happy with how things were going.

Colin then went through notes

Dennis Laird then had to leave, but said that he was a proud Barrovian and that changing people's mind-sets was key and asked BID to keep up the good work.

Question – First time I've been to the AGM and I represent a charity shop. I agree with everything that you've said. But I think you need to keep your eye on the ball, as when you're busy working on the coalface, some bits can get missed. In our shop, footfall is steady and events don't do much for us. However we have to go out and sweep up the debris from the night before. Lots of rubbish from the takeaways and this can give Barrow a poor impression. We try to play our part, keep our shop front tidy; we try to match our windows with the themes etc. When BID was first launched I was dead against it, however you have to play your part and you can see improvements, so keep doing what you're doing and don't lose focus.

Colin – I currently attend the Night-time Economy meetings, it would be good if we could get a rep from Cavendish Street to attend the meetings and inform them of the day time business frustrations. If a rep isn't available then email Colin and he will attend and represent on their behalf. Colin then mentioned applying for a Business Premises Grant.

Need to look at engaging more with the charities in town, on event days we could establish charity areas, where collections can be held i.e. H.E.F.F. area, B.D.D.A area etc. The board will discuss this at a future meeting.

A.O.B

Stephen then asked for any other business – there was none.

The meeting was then closed.