

1. BID Board Meeting



Location: BID Office, Dalton Road
Time/Date – 6.30 pm, Tuesday 8th March 2022

Attendees: Paul Hodgson PH, Sandra Collings SC, Jonny Williams JW, Kay Bower KB, Colin Garnett CG and Jenny Fazackerley JF

1. **Apologies – Rowan McClure, Allan Kerr and Les McLeese.**
2. **Last minutes – all agreed.**
3. **Portland Walk Columns –** the 2 columns at the Dalton Road end of Portland Walk are very rusty. Quotes have been obtained for re-painting. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the work which should be completed by May.
4. **Anti-social behaviour update (CG) –** there is now a police officer based in the town centre. A survey is being carried out to find out what the anti-social problems are that are affecting businesses. The police are working with Barrow BID, CCC, BBC, Dropzone and other local organisations to try to resolve the problems. The first plan is to tackle the problem of youths gathering outside McDonalds between 4.00 and 8.00 pm. The BID are looking in to the cost of installing a wireless speaker system which would play CandoFM throughout the day, but McDonalds would be able to switch the speakers to play classical music etc to deter the youths from congregating. **CG is going to talk to the building owners re- situating speakers and Optech re installation.**
It was suggested that a pilot scheme with portable speakers could be trialled. **CG to look in to this.**
It is planned to have more police visibility in the town centre with more frequent visits and especially on Saturday mornings to try to encourage shoppers back.
Dangerous cycling – no cycling in the pedestrian zone can only be enforced if there is signage to say no cycling and it would only work if there was some form of punishment e.g. fines.
Vehicles in pedestrianised zones – the BID work experience person is conducting traffic surveys to see the extent of the problem.
The problems of begging, drugs/drink, congregating delivery drivers and homelessness are also being addressed.
An anti-social drop in session has had to be postponed, but will be rearranged.
5. **Visit Barrow update CG –** new pages and events have been added. More new partners are getting involved. Bringing leisure to the town centre is the suggested way forward to attract people back in to Barrow town centre and Cumbria Tourism are very on board with this. The new leaflet is finished as well as the postcards for leaving in hotel rooms. There are two new videos on the website.

6. **Town Centre Signage Update** – CG has agreed the proofs and they are ready to go.
7. **Grant Scheme** – following on from the last meeting amendments have been made and CG is working on an application form. The grant scheme was unanimously agreed and it will be launched on Retail Day.
8. **Retail Day** – 1.00 to 4.15 pm on 24th March 2022. In partnership with Cumbria Tourism this will be an event at Forum for businesses and retailers. The event will open with a welcome from the BID and Cumbria Tourism with a presentation on how town centres are changing and the way forward. It will include training courses, the launch of the BID grant scheme, a talk about current covid safety measures and promoting customer services. All the BID Directors present were happy for this to go ahead.
9. **AOB**
 - Simon Fell MP is going to take part in a CandoFM question and answer session. The Directors discussed the possibility of them having a meeting with Simon Fell in the future.
 - CCC are to sponsor Dino Day and FOT.
 - The BID have been asked to sponsor a stage for a Pride event – it was agreed that this could be done through the new grant scheme.
 - Jubilee – waiting to hear about grant application, but a scaled down event maybe held if the application is unsuccessful as other local organisations are assisting with funding.
 - 30th March 2022 – Taster Day at Forum with varied events including alpacas, yoga, leather working and cocktails. The event is being used to ask the public what they think the future role is for the Forum.
10. **Date for next meeting: Tuesday 12th April 2022, 6.30 pm @ BID Office.**