

Barrow Business Improvement District

Tuesday 9th June 2020

Minutes of online Board of Directors Meeting

Attendees: Paul Hodgson - PH (Chair), Sandra Collings - SC, Allan Kerr - AK, Kieron Hart – KH, Kay Bower - KB, John Graham - JG and Colin Garnett - CG (Manager),

1. Apologies: Stephen Leonard – SL (Business Support), Drew Anderson - DA, Phil Heath – PH, Rowen McClure - RM

2. Review of minutes from last meeting

All agreed that these were correct and could be uploaded to the BID website

3. Finance Report

SL sent board members details of the current finances, no matters arising

4. Town Centre Re-opening

- Good feedback on the free business support packs
40 printed and distributed
Extension packs available to buy from Fingerprints
- Met with Barrow BC to see how best we spend the £59k grant from Government
Messaging important with stickers on pavements and strategic locations
Pressure wash areas of paving will instil confidence in the town being clean
Clean benches, varnish wood and replace bins with promotional board bins with anti-seagull flaps
Window displays to promote social distancing and the heritage of Barrow town centre
Pop-up wind barriers for cafes, bars and restaurants to create outdoor eating and drinking areas
- Met with Debenhams to discuss their re-opening and lend them some pedestrian barriers

5. Business Premises Grants

We had three applications for Business Premises Grants

- Baby Bitz – all agreed
- 66 Crellin Street – all agreed
- Coco Hair & Beauty – all agreed

Action: CG to inform all applicants that they have been successful, request their bank details for payment and inform them of the terms of the grant.

CG asked to investigate how historical Business Grant applicants had fared with their grants. Had they been able to get tradesmen and complete the works in their applications?

6. Events Update

- Soapbox Challenge in the balance and a decision will be made in next week or two. It is looking likely that it will be cancelled due to a ban on social gatherings and the safety of everyone involved.
- Dino Day still going ahead but CG to investigate making the event smaller in August, so less crowds are attracted and rescheduling full Dino Day in 2021.
- Festival of Transport is cancelled for 2020, PH & CG to look at additional interim event in Spring 2021
- CG working with Barrow BC as part of Town Deal bid to bring more events and culture to town

7. Town Centre Funding Applications update

- CG met with Barrow BC representatives and the MP to discuss Barrow BID concerns that the FHSF centres around the town hall and Barrow BC assets
- We have lobbied of the outside market area and Cavendish St bus route to be added to the scheme and prioritised.
- CG working with Barrow BC to investigate if funding available via HAZ for a Christmas event
- PH reported on the Town Deal application and stated that events had now been short-listed

8. BID Ambassador Scheme

Three individuals have been contacted about becoming BID ambassadors. PH and CG to meet in June discuss roles and tasks for the ambassadors.

9. 2020/21 Levy Payments

CG investigated whether we could lower the BID levy for the 2020/21 year with British BIDs. Unfortunately we have to stick to the levy % agreed in the ballot at 2016 unless we decide to go to a re-ballot. A re-ballot is impossible at the current time so the BID levy must stay at the agreed 100% level for the 2020/21 year.

Action: PH to investigate whether we can put back the payment date, to give businesses more time following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Action: CG to produce Associate Member booklet and see if funding can be sourced by corporate businesses outside the BID area.

Action: CG to liaise with Barrow BC rates department and produce an annual leaflet.

10. Visit Barrow update

CG has been working on the Visit Barrow site and has added a coastline section as next year is 'The Year of the Coast' CG continues to work with partners on the direction of tourism for Barrow.

11. Town Centre Projects

We are awaiting Barrow BC to feedback on the Train Station Gateway project and the Pocket Park.

12. AOB

Diversity policy to be added to website

13. Date for next meeting

Tue 14th July, venue TBC