

BID Board Meeting



Location: Barrow Labour Club

Time/Date - 6.30pm, Tuesday 21st September 2021

Attendees: Colin Garnett CG (Manager), Paul Hodgson PHo (Chair), Kay Bower KB, Leslie McLeese LM, Sandra Collings SC and Rowan McClure RM

1. Apologies – Allan Kerr and Cara Harvey.

PHo informed the meeting that 2 of the directors have resigned – Phil Heath and John Graham. As JG was the vice chairman PHo asked for volunteers to fill the role. Cara Harvey (CH) had expressed an interest and all those present agreed on her appointment to vice chairperson. Two people have shown an interest in becoming Directors and one has submitted an application form and will be interviewed by PHo and CH.

2. Review of minutes from last meeting – PHo had amended the item about the pop up shop as the lease hasn't yet been acquired. All other items were agreed.

3. Business Premises Grants – CG met with MIND re their 2 applications. He has no issues with the School Street application. He discussed with them about the image of the shop and that the fascia boards need to be completely covered by the new signage. CG recommended agreeing the School Street grant and the shop grant in principal. All agreed. SC brought her application to the meeting and CG is to meet with her to check the application and it was agreed to award the grant if the application conformed.

4. Barrow BID Website – CG has updated the website apart from the directory which everyone agreed should be removed from the website. CG is also working on tidying up the Visit Barrow website. He is planning on trying to promote local hospitality for nights out in Barrow for visitors and contractors working and staying in the town. From January he wants to put postcards in local accommodation with a QR code for people to find out what is available to do of a night time in Barrow. A sign up form will be on the website for businesses to apply. CG is seeking funding from a 3rd party to sponsor a similar postcard for local attractions as Barrow BID cannot fund an attractions scheme due to most attractions being situated outside the BID area.

5. Asset Management – The BID have got the keys to their pop up shop, but they have not got the lease yet. PHo is doing an inventory of BID assets as these will be stored upstairs in the premises. He asked the Directors to let him know any items that they

had in their possession. It was decided to request the Barrow BID weed machine back from Zest. **CG will e-mail them.**

6. Piano Trail – 4 pianos have been picked up and another 1 rejected due to its poor state of repair. These are to be decorated in 4 themes – child’s theme, cockney pub knees up, theatre (for Forum) and bright colours for in The Mall. To be in place for Barrow Music Weekend. The intention is to use the pianos near Christmas to have pianists playing them for sing-a-longs. A 14 piece band will be playing on the Saturday and there will also be buskers.

7. Freshers Fayre – We did not attend

8. Halloween – LM is starting to promote Scarecrow Avenue. SC suggested having street dancing on a Halloween theme, with the possibility of a competition in the future. A window competition was also suggested. **CG, LMc and SC to work on this together.**

9. Soapbox Review/Discussion – The event wasn’t as busy as the last one. This was probably due to the timing of other events and holidays at the August Bank Holiday. Shops that opened had done ok.

Ideas for future events include: -

- To have more fun teams
- Possibly having Furness College build soapbox bases so that businesses only have to decorate them
- Street entertainment to keep interest going between runs
- Things happening in the side streets
- More fun things on the course e.g. splash area, foam.

Overall the feedback was good, but the music event was not well supported. There followed a discussion on holding future soapbox events and it was agreed to try to negotiate a 1 year contract and to hold next year’s event on the Saturday of the late May Bank Holiday as more of the retail businesses will be open on a Saturday.

It was decided that a higher price contract would be preferable where by the Soapbox organisers organise the whole event and the BID would be able to keep all the sponsorship money instead of 50% as per the previous contract. **CG and PHo will organise a meeting with the Soapbox Team.**

10. Christmas 2021 – PHo and CG have held an initial brainstorm and the priority is to get the right atmosphere in the town centre.

- **20/11/21** is the date for the Christmas lights switch on, led by Ultimate Events.
- **04/12/21** is shop Barrow Day which coincides with Small Business Weekend. The BID will pay for free parking that day, but not including the multi-storey car park. There will be street entertainers, buskers and small children rides. The outdoor market will have gazebos for selling Christmas Fayre, including trees, a covered seating area for people to sit and drink, fire pits and patio heaters for warmth and there will be a small stage for music and entertainment throughout the day. In addition there will be reindeers, an inflatable snow globe and a Santa express train ride. It was agreed to purchase extra BID gazebos. It was discussed about having an event company run the event. **CG is to put a brief together to obtain a price.**
- **11/12/21** is the Santa Dash Event. Santa's will be wrapped in LED battery lights and there may be other themed races. Classic buses will be all lit up and doing tours of Barrow. A stage could be set up at the bottom of Dalton Road or on Cavendish Street for a mixture of family entertainment throughout the day. Possibly finishing with a laser light show at 6.00 pm. **CG to make further enquiries.**
- **18/12/21 – 24/12/21** – 6 day winter funfair on town square and buskers in town on the Saturday.

Other Christmas plans are:-

- Window competition
- Advent Calendar scheme
- Lights at the top of Dalton Road from Harrison Street to Greengate Street
- Christmas tree holders for Crellin Street
- Enhancement of the outdoor market area with lights
- Christmas Brochure. **CG to produce.**
- A rolling nativity. **SC to make enquiries.**
- Extra speakers similar to the one in the ginnel for Portland Walk and outside McDonalds
- Roll out pianos to be sited around the town
- Providing all BID levy payers with a Christmas tree at a subsidised cost. **CG to look in to supply and cost.**

CG proposed doing a Dino Day launch, but it was agreed to move this to January.

11. AOB – The BID have now got the keys to their pop up shop although they are waiting for the lease. 2 people have expressed an interest in using the pop up shop and both

parties are going to be contacted to see if they want to share or have sole use. All contracts would be for 2 months with a possibility of extending beyond that time, but as it is going to be run as a pop up shop no one could use it for a long period of time. It was agreed to charge £150 per month to include electricity and broadband. The BID will provide a till and possibly some shop fixtures, if required. The BID will be using the upstairs area as an office to be manned by CG during core hours and as well as an office area for BID Directors to use. Some work is required on the building and interior and the Directors were asked to help with decoration during October.
CG to get quote for repairs and fascia work.

12. Date for next meeting: Tuesday 12th October. 6.30 pm @ Barrow Labour Club or Cumbria Embroidery - TBC