

BID Board Meeting



Location: Barrow BID Pop Up Shop
Time/Date - 6.30pm, Tuesday 12th October 2021

Attendees: Paul Hodgson PH (Chair), Leslie McLeese LM (virtually), Sandra Collings SC, Jonny Williams JW and Allan Kerr AK

1. **Apologies** – Rowan McClure, Kay Bower, Colin Garnett and Cara Harvey.

2. **Minutes of last meeting** – all agreed.

Updates from last meeting:

- Mind and Cumbria Sewing business grant applications are both in progress.
- CG has been working on updating the Visit Barrow website.
- Barrow Music Weekend went well and got good feedback. The four pianos are now located at the indoor market, mall, market ginnel and forum foyer. The pianos will stay in place for Christmas with plans for some Christmas sing-a-longs.
- Barrow BID are organising a film and town centre trail for Halloween. It was decided not to proceed with the plans for a Squid Game Flashmob, but SC will make enquiries about having dance troupes perform in Halloween costumes with the possibility of the BID contributing towards costume costs.
- PH and CG have met with the Soapbox Team and asked for a quote to deliver the whole event. The event is planned for the late May but a clash with Cartmel Race dates may have to be avoided if a funfair is required for the Soapbox event. It was discussed about having a celebrity attending the event and suggestions included having famous driver look-a-likes and celebrities that would appeal to children.

3. **Pop Up Shop Update** – ‘Barrow BID Pop Up Shop’ fascia boards have been ordered.

First business will have a lease for November and December. Other businesses have also shown interest. A short term lease agreement is needed. Items to include - it must state that the £150 per month rent includes electricity subject to excessive usage and that any structural changes must be put back at the end of the lease. Also that the BID fascia sign can't be covered or removed. JW offered 1 month of free CandoFM advertising for each new leaseholder. PH has already sourced desks, conference table and chairs for the BID office. Rymans have provided shop fixtures and filing cabinets on free loan. Duddon Fire have been asked to do a fire inspection.

PH – to look in to insurance and check if leaseholder needs their own insurance. He will also try to obtain other items that the Directors thought necessary – till, office chair for CG, noticeboards, paint, broadband, electrical work, parking bollard, first aid

kit, wet floor sign, certificate of public liability and risk assessments. LM suggested a wireless doorbell for the front door for disabled customers to be able to call for assistance.

CG to sort out business waste contract.

AK to try to source a till counter.

All Directors asked to help clean, tidy and paint the shop on Thursday next week.

4. Christmas Update –

- Christmas Light Switch On - We haven't been approached for anything on this yet.
- Shop Barrow Day – 4th December – request to BBC for cost to allow free parking on the day (except on multi-storey car park) but no response yet. Father Christmas and the Bread and Butter Theatre Company are booked for the afternoon. Ulverston Town Band also booked. Enquiries have been made with Pitch Up Events regarding outdoor Christmas Market. The Directors decided that they would need a breakdown of the costings and at this time there would be no commitment to the Christmas Market being run by Pitch Up. Concerns were raised about everything being situated at the outside market as there should be things happening in other areas of the town centre to attract people elsewhere. Questions were asked as to whether other people could organise the event and should it be put out to tender? It was suggested that CCC Highways be approached to see if some form of scaffolding/cover with lights could be erected over some of Dalton Road.
- Santa Dash – 11th December – planning ongoing.
- Window Competition – still to be sorted.
- Lights for the top of Dalton Road from Harrison Street to Greengate Street have been ordered and the Council are to approach business regarding infrastructure on their premises, i.e. eye bolts
- Rolling Nativity – **SC to look into.**
- Christmas Shopping and Events guide – **CG to produce.**
- Christmas trees to be provided for all levy payers either free or subsidised, subject to cost – **CG to obtain two quotes**

5. Future Business Grant Schemes – A new grant scheme needs to be in place by the end of March at the latest. The Directors put forward their ideas on what they want to achieve from the grant scheme.

Ideas put forward –

- To focus on getting businesses into vacant properties.
- Re-location grants.
- Landlords able to apply for grants if it was to help a business move into their empty property.
- Need for an easy application process but with improved control over the work carried out with the grant money to ensure good value for money and of a good standard of work.

- Set upper limit higher than current level. Applicants could be told that the average grant awarded was about £1000 but grants for higher amounts would be considered and a breakdown of costs would be necessary.
- A check would have to be made on the tenders obtained by the applicant. Possible sealed bids?
- All applications discussed at Board meetings within 2 months of receipt of application. Thorough scrutinising by Directors of applications and the predicted costs.
- One central grant scheme setting out a list of the BID's aims and allowing applications from levy payers who fit into that criteria.
- Possibility of 50% matched funding grants.
- Suppliers to be paid directly by the BID rather than via the applicant.

JW to look into other BID grant schemes.

6. **AOB** – JW suggested having a huge street party in Dalton Road to celebrate the Queen's birthday in June 2022.
7. **Date for next meeting: 6.30 pm, Tuesday 9th November 2021 at Pop-up Shop.**