

Barrow Business Improvement District Minutes of Board of Directors

Tuesday 8th December 2020

Meeting held virtually due to Tier 2 COVID restrictions.

Attendees: Colin Garnett CG (Manager), Paul Hodgson PHo (Chair), Kay Bower KB, and Phil Heath PHe. Rowan McClure RM, John Graham JG and Sandra Collings SC

- 1. Apologies:** Allan Kerr AK
- 2. Review of minutes from previous meetings** – generally agreed.

Actions from last meeting:

- Arrangements made for parking meter covers/signage for the 2 Saturdays of free parking on the multi-storey car park.
- St Mary's Hospice Shop has now been re-billed at lower amount.
- Cumbria Highways are still to agree Scott Street bunting.

3. Project updates

- **Pocket Park** – Barrow Borough Council are waiting for the Future High Street Project before agreeing use of the land.
- **Station Gateway** – CG has submitted plans for the totem pole signs, but Barrow Borough Council can't install them till May or June 2021. Manufacturing price has increased slightly as the project has taken over 12 months from the initial quote.

4. Christmas 2020

- **Shop Barrow Day** – the town was busy and it was noted that customers were taking time to browse, possibly due to not being tied to car parking times.
- **Multi-storey car park** – free parking for next 2 Saturdays to be advertised on social media.
- **Christmas trail** – to take place on 19th December. Businesses are all signed up. 10 elves to be hidden around the town. Snow globe with elves to be placed in the town centre and buskers around the town.
- A request has been made to borrow one of the BID's gazebos. PHo advised that the user must be made aware that they are liable for any damage.

5. New Year, New Home Campaign (Jan) – CG producing a guide to focus on all the businesses that provide goods and services for homes. This will not be produced as a paper guide.

- **Christmas guide** – this was well done by CG. Distribution was good and it could become a regular feature.

CG to have a review meeting about Christmas lights as additional work does not appear to have been done.

6. 2nd Term Vision – 2021-2026 – Better, Brighter & Busier Barrow

Running costs need to be kept down below a third of the available budget and a similar amount allocated to events.

PHo to meet with accountant.

Plans for a town centre BID office would involve having multiple users including possible pop up shops.

BID members expressed their feelings that they would like to do something to improve Hall Street car park, but this has to wait until the pocket park project has been completed.

7. AOB

- SC raised concerns over bird feeding in the town centre.

CG to write to Environmental Health about the problem.

- Holiday guide advert – CG has been informed that Barrow BID are no longer Cumbria Tourism members so the advert cannot be placed. In view of the cost of membership it was decided not to renew the membership.
- BID are sponsoring the Winter Wonderland Quiz with a £20 shop voucher. 5 of the questions relate to Barrow BID work so helping spread information about the BID.
- CG would like to invite some people to the next meeting, including 3 prospective new members. This was agreed.
- Cando FM – contract ends mid-January. All members agreed to renew the contract for a further 6 months with a slight reduction on the monthly advertising costs.

8. Date of next meeting: 12th January 2021. Venue TBC