



## BID Board Meeting

Location: Barrow Labour Club

Time/Date - 6.30pm, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**Attendees:** Colin Garnett CG (Manager), Paul Hodgson PHo (Chair), Kay Bower KB, Allan Kerr AK, Jonny Williams JW, Leslie McLeese LM (joined virtually), Sandra Collings SC and Cara Harvey

1. **Apologies** - Rowan McClure and Phil Heath
2. **Review of minutes from last meeting** - All agreed.
3. **Super Soapbox**
  - **Music stage** (JW) – The Derby are sponsoring the stage which will entertain the crowds from about 5.30 to 9.30 pm with 8 artists performing 30 minute sessions. Security and medics are arranged.
  - **Event update** (CG) – CG has sorted traffic management for the day. Everything will be cleaned up by 11.00 pm. The Rotary have still to let CG know if they are helping at the event. Letters have gone out to businesses about the event. Traffic signs are on order from Larkins. CG to request opening of multi-storey car park and Hall Street toilets on the Sunday. Police have confirmed the road closures. Straw bales have been sourced and are being sold off after the event with the money made going to The Well. Eddie The Eagle has confirmed that he is attending and KB volunteered to be his chaperone for the day. The BID have been let down with the supply of portaloos. PHo is trying to obtain some through Lakes Loos. Disabled/VIP viewing point will be at Oldham Street/CGX and there will be a VIP area near The Derby. The Well are racing the Sinkfall cart, the BID cart is being used by Rymans' staff (no involvement by PHo) and CandoFM are racing the Cumbria Sewing cart. There are 21/22 teams entering. Taylors will have funfairs on Hall Street and Fell Street car parks. Zest are booked to do a pre event clean. CG is still awaiting quotes from FCC for providing large bins, emptying bins and cleaning up afterwards. 12 volunteers will be working throughout the day. Elisha and Maggie are to work from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. giving out programmes in the morning and questionnaires in the afternoon. CG has been arranging publicity and promoting the event including using fliers in happy meals, facebook and posters. The Soapbox Team have sorted out generators for the event.

- 4. Festival Of Transport Review** – Overall there was very good feedback. People thought that the bus rides were brilliant and were impressed with seeing parts of Barrow that they did not know about e.g. the Walney coast. The Dock Museum had a very successful day. 90% of the comments on social media were positive. It was estimated that there were 7 to 8000 people in the town centre throughout the day. BBC gave positive feedback. BID to do a consultation with businesses.
- 5. Business Premises Grants** – BID members had already approved applications from Viking Spice and Signal Films by e-mail voting prior to the meeting. The BID Manager's contract for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term was also agreed by e-mail voting. Applications had to be submitted by midnight on 17<sup>th</sup> August and Cumbria Sewing had not yet submitted their application due to waiting for quotes that had just been received. BID members agreed to support the application if it was submitted by midnight. Mind had submitted 2 applications, one for School Street HQ and one for the Dalton Road shop. BID members expressed concern about the look of the signs only partially covering the fascia boards. It was agreed to fund the applications subject to checks that the School Street premises was rated for levy paying and for CG to arrange a meeting at both premises to clarify the work to be done and the specifications required. An application for 50% cost of a new door at 86 Scott Street has been refused as the premises has already had a grant and there has been no change of ownership. In September CG is going to do a review of all the grants paid and check that the work has been carried out. The BID is going to look at the grant scheme in the future, possibly simplifying to 1 grant scheme for everything.
- 6. Special Projects Grant** – Square in the Air project for the top of the multi-storey car park was discussed and was unanimously rejected as it was agreed that providing free food at the event would not encourage people to leave the car park to go in to the town and consequently this would have no economic benefit for the town.
- 7. Christmas** – BAE have asked Barrow Culture, Barrow BID and Forum for some ideas on holding a winter festival 19<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November. It is also hoped to hold a weekend Christmas Market. CG is trying to get Christmas lights in the Crellin Street trees and the top of Dalton Road. It was agreed to leave further Christmas planning until the next meeting.
- 8. Antisocial Behaviour** – A group of youths have been causing havoc after 5.00 p.m. in Dalton Road. Anyone seeing problems is advised to e-mail the police via 101 and copy CG in to the e-mail so that he can follow it up.
- 9. E-mail voting** – AK expressed concern that e-mail voting on grant applications did not allow for proper discussions on any concerns that BID members may have. It was

agreed that the system had slipped in during Covid and e-mail voting should only be used if it was a time critical decision or required confidentiality. Although concerns were raised that meetings were already longer than anticipated and future meeting may be restricted to an 8 pm cut off (1.5 hours).

**10. AOB** – CG would like suggestions by e-mail before the next meeting about what the BID would like to focus on and what they would like him to focus on as BID manager, perhaps doing this 4 months at a time. CG is going to produce a term 1 report of the BID's achievements.

**Operating agreement** – any changes to be submitted to PH by Thursday so that PH and CG can sign it off on their meeting on that day.

**Popup Shop Space** – BID to soon get the keys. The lease will run until the end of the financial year then on a rolling contract. It is intended to use it for BID office space, storage of BID equipment and a pop up shop. An interested party has already shown interest in using the shop.

**BID levy paying** – one of the BID Directors had contacted BBC about paying levy on their premises and they were told that they would have to contact the BID Manager as BBC had no information about levy payers. PHo is to e-mail BBC for clarification.

**11. Date for next meeting: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Barrow Labour Club.**