



## Barrow BID AGM

15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

### Attendees

Stephen Leonard

Simon Craig

Kay Bower

Paul Hodgson

Kieron Hart

Phil Heath

Sandra Collings

Sam Hughes

Allan Kerr

John Dixon

Donna Dacre

Amelia Atkins

Mig Carbonnell

John Graham

Simon Crompton

Michael Barry

Colin Garnett – BID Manager

Rebecca Jones – BID Secretary

### Apologies Received

Tim Miller – Groves Vets

Diane Craig – Abbeyfield

M Hudson – Animal Welfare

Simon, BID Chair welcomed everyone and went through apologies received.

Simon went through the notice of AGM and agenda and the minutes from the previous AGM, which are available on the Barrow BID website, were confirmed.

Simon then read the Chairman's report – See Chairman's report.

### **Financial Report**

Stephen then went through his financial report on the annual accounts.

- See Annual Accounts.

Stephen – BID Has 2 years left in current cycle. Budgets in place as to how that funding will be sent.

Stephen then asked if anyone had any questions about the accounts

Question – What benefit did we get from the Soapbox, considering the cost?

Reply – Independent Company assessed that a lot of income was brought into the town that day, especially to the hotel and food industry. More than that it showcased Barrow in a great light, showed our pride and our engineering experience. Helped change perception, over 14,000 people attended and hopefully word will get round and more people will continue to attend the event and then visit again in town. 3-year plan in place for cost to lower and funding to come in, with future plans that it can be a locally run event.

Question – But what did Super Soapbox bring in for £30k. Local scaffolders were used to build the ramp, we paid for hay and for security.

Reply – No Super Soapbox provided the Security, Insurance, logistics, big screens, grand stand etc.

Question – Is it true that Soapbox took a % of the entry fee.

Colin – No

Question – Is there opportunity to make it a longer event.

Reply – That was our aim, we were really surprised at how everyone left as soon as the races ended. We need to find a balance of keeping people in the town and keeping people safe.

Question – Could you not do a break in the day and run the races later, that way people will stay for tea.

Reply – We did take a break at lunchtime to encourage this. But we can look at how we do this, especially as more entries come in. We learnt loads from this year, and any suggestions you have, we greatly welcome.

Question – Is there opportunity for more Street Trade next year?

Reply – We're working with the council to try and agree an area and prices for licenses so we can do this. We want to encourage local traders especially those on the outskirts like the Nines, Odd Frog, Custom House to have something on the day.

Question – Wasted opportunities for locations, Whittaker Street Car park was kept open and not used, but Fell street had a fun fair. Was this looked at?

Reply – This wasn't helped by the Sink Hole, that no one could prepare for.

Question – Fell Street should have been kept open and Whittaker St had more on it as you couldn't get to some of the other locations.

Reply – Yes, with hindsight we agree. At the time we tried to split the Fun Fair across each side of the track and as the Fell St side has more Car Parks and Buccleuch Street side only has Whittaker street, we thought it would work. We can look into this for net year.

Question – Can it be put in the contract with the Fun Fair that they stay open the allotted time.

Reply – Yes, that's a good idea. We are working with Taylor's Fun Fair as they are the local company. They are helping us with Xmas Events and they have given us plans and times. Also got the Police on board to support.

Any other questions? – There were none.

### **Board Elections**

Stephen then went through the members to be re-elected:

Phil Heath – Yes

Sandra Collings – Yes

All board members were re-elected.

Stephen then went through board nominees:

Allan Kerr – Yes

Kay Bower – Yes

Paul Hodgson – Yes

The above were elected onto the board.

Question – Are some of the levy payers going to be included with decisions, as it seems like a closed group. What are the local groups mention in the Chairs Report made up of? Have local businesses been involved? Have there been any open meetings etc to discuss?

Reply – This is something that we are keen on. The smaller working group, started with the Festival of Transport, which is were Paul Hodgson came on board and also the Manager of Thornton's Café.

Question – Were People invited to this?

Reply – No, we put an open message out via Social Media for people to contact us.

We have to try and keep the cost down. We can't put every decision into print. We do newsletters which are hand delivered, Facebook is updated regularly, we use Mail Chimps and we also have the Barrow BID Website which is updated. Open meetings have been held, last one in August and we had a Town Centre Engagement Day in September which was well attended.

Simon Crompton stated that he is receiving none of the above communication. Rebecca asked his preferred method of contact and he replied email.

Action – Rebecca to send a test email to Simon, to ensure that the address is correct.

*Action completed 20:49pm 15/10/2019 and confirmed 20:51pm 15/10/2019.*

Suggestion – App for all businesses to navigate around the Town. I know you've looked at it before, but may be worth the cost, especially when your spending so much on events.

Reply – We looked at the loyalty app like Ulverston has in place and we discussed with some levy payers and it was felt that the town wasn't ready for it yet. Especially when so many of the local businesses don't use social media etc. If every BID Member shared a BID post, we would have over 200 shares.

We're not an events committee, we know money has been spent in this area, but within our planned budget we have planned for continued capital plans like signage, Gateway Project etc. We've just bought new Christmas lights as well.

We're trying to look after retails, Hospitality, Night Life etc, sometimes we do sit and worry about other businesses like Hairdressers etc. We put the offer out for all the levy paying businesses to send through info for their businesses to be advertised, and hardly anyone took us up on the offer.

Question – When BID is engaging, where are tenders seen? So, Businesses can apply for work?

Reply – It depends on the size of the project. For example, for Soapbox it was between Super Soapbox or Red Bull as there are limited companies that provide that offer.

For smaller projects we approach local businesses to come and quote, and we try to share the jobs amongst the local businesses. We want to go local as much as possible, for example the Christmas Lights. 2 x National Companies and 1 local quoted. The local Company got 2 of the jobs and the National Company picked up the other and that was purely down to the lowest price.

John, McDonalds Manager – I will give you my email as we want to be involved in the next clean. We have a team of staff to get involved.

Reply – That's fantastic, thank you.

Question – Does it say anywhere what is planned with costs for events going forward?

Reply – Yes, it's on the website within the Improvement Plan.

Kay, Labour Club – As a new board member, I think that people need to realise how much work is put in from the board members. Soapbox they were there from 8am until the end, emptying bins, moving hay bales etc, Car Show, Paul was there from 5:30am. It's exhausting and hard work, so from me I just want to say thank you.

Reply – The people involved with the board are passionate about the Town. We are not the only Highstreet that is struggling, all other locations are also losing Main stream shops etc. It's having volunteers in place, to help drive and push it forward, then we would struggle more. Need to encourage people to keep using the Town.

Donna, Special Occasions – I think that the Christmas Lights will make a difference. I think the cleans have started to help, and the Business Improvement Grant has made a big difference, just wish others would take advantage of the offer.

Question – Where can I get the policy for tendering?

Reply – We don't have a policy in place, as not something that has to be held. The articles with the BOID rules are available on the website.

**A.O.B**

Simon asked if any other business had been submitted – there was none.

The meeting was then closed.