



## BID Board Meeting

Location: BID Office  
Time/Date – 6 pm, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**Attendees: Paul Hodgson PH, Melanie Corrie MC, Jenny Fazackerley JF, Sandra Collings SC, Jonny Williams JW, Sharon Tate ST and John Edwards JE (joining remotely).**

**1. Apologies: Ashley Holroyd AH, Lisa Archer LA/Simon Broadley SB, Neil Hodgson NH, Kay Kane KK and Garry Date GD.**

Director Applications: Lesley from NW Music Academy. An interview will be arranged.

**2. Review of minutes from last meeting –** The minutes were confirmed.

**3. Grants Update –** application from South Lakes Rock School/ NW Music Academy for Barrow Music Week. A single grant was awarded to BMW. Crafty Hobbies have applied for a small grant to bring their upstairs back in to use. Duke of Edinburgh have applied for a grant towards outside improvements. Both Business Development Grants were confirmed.

**4. Events Update:**

- **Soapbox/BB Weekend Review –** huge success and very good feedback. Attendance was up about 12% on last year. It was very well organised and businesses did well on the day. JF asked for her thanks and congratulations to be passed on to the team. This year had the most soapbox entries and many charities got sponsorship from local businesses which made them quite a bit of money. The Push the Boat out evening event went well, but will probably not be repeated another year. Brilliant Barrow event at the Dock Museum on Sunday was very successful and BAE are keen for it to happen again next year.
- **Pop up events –** film showings in the town centre.
- **Pooch Fest –** 13<sup>th</sup> September.
- **Autumn Fest –** 25<sup>th</sup> October. The Directors agreed that this year the Mayor's Charities should be the beneficiaries from the pumpkin patch.
- **Dates for next year –** it was agreed to keep similar dates next year for Dino Day, FOT and Soapbox.
- PH and team need to take stock of all the BID equipment.
- JF said 'well done' again to everyone involved with the events and 'thanks' to those Directors who had helped.

**5. Premises Expansion/Comic Arts –** the Bed Brigade premises next door are now empty and the BID have been offered the opportunity to expand. The landlord wants to bring the empty premises up to the standard of the current BID premises. Comic Arts are looking for premises and if they shared the space with the BID, the amount that they would pay in rent would cover more than half of the additional rent. The BID would have the same lease agreement as with the current premises, which has a break clause to tie in with the BID's re-election. All the Directors agreed to proceed with this.

**6. Director Attendance/Participation** – MC raised her concern that it is the same Directors who attend nearly every meeting and also help set up and run events. The Directors present asked that the rules on Director attendance are circulated with the minutes. Concern was expressed that some Directors are not showing enough commitment to their role and they need to contribute to the workload. It was agreed to look at the policy on Directors who have a poor attendance record for meetings.

**7. AOB:**

- Jacob has now left his employment at the BID after not passing his probation. Farron (Fazz) is now working for a few hours on a temporary contract.
- MC reported back about the Cornwallis Street development. It is going to be all apartments which will be sold or rented with ground floor commercial use. As it is not clear on the impact this will have, the Directors decided that they did not feel that they could back the development, but would be happy to work with the developers.
- **Barrow Buzz Awards** – (JW) the date has been moved to the end of January to enable use of the Town Hall for hosting the event. JW needs Directors to be included in the selection process, which has to be transparent. He suggested having a team of Directors who could research the businesses nominated by the public, so that the result isn't just decided on the number of votes cast. JF suggested an alternative of a panel of independent people e.g. the mayor and other stakeholders.
- SC asked about the Barrow Buzz usage. PH said that the contract is up for renewal with a fixed price for 3 years. It was agreed that it is a useful tool, but more use needs to be made of it. PH is going to ask the company if, as part of the renewal, they can do some training with local businesses. The company are bringing in new features including e-commerce for businesses (BID can charge commission if they wish) and integration of the live app into a screen. They are also working on website integration to pull in more information from other websites. The Directors agreed to approve the renewal.
- **Bazarrow** - 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**Date for next meeting: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 6 pm @ BID Office.**