

BID Board Meeting



Location: Virtual Meeting - Google Meet
Time/Date - 6.30pm, Tuesday 13th April 2021

Attendees: Colin Garnett CG (Manager), Paul Hodgson PHo (Chair), Kay Bower KB, Phil Heath PHe. John Graham JG, Kieron Hart KH, Rowen McClure RM, Jonny Williams JW, Leslie McLeese LM, Sandra Collings SC and Cara Harvey
Keith Johnson BBC – invited guest

1. **Apologies:** Allan Kerr

Introductions: PHo introduced Keith Johnson to the Directors who had recently joined the Board.

2. **Review of minutes from last meeting** - All agreed.

3. **Second Term Ballot (CG)**

CG has been finishing off the proposed business plan. The Directors approved the amendments he had made under the heading of 'Further Consultations'. A discussion followed on reducing the levy fee for non-trading charities, although only 2 have requested this reduction. It was decided to ask these charities to complete an application form for the reduction to be returned to them in the form of a grant. This is in line with the National British BID policy.

CG is to sign off the final copy tomorrow and get it sent out to BID Directors, British BIDS and BBC. He will then produce a summary proposal business plan as a working document to be sent out to businesses prior to the ballot process.

Concerns were discussed about support from BBC in the ballot process due to comments made in a recent council meeting. Keith Johnson said that BBC had agreed that the ballot should go ahead for a second term and the majority of councillors were behind the work carried out by the BID and it was important that they worked with them. PHo suggested that during a second term they could maybe look at liaising and meeting with councillors to discuss how the BID works and how we could work together to improve the town centre. He pointed out that the BID board put a lot of voluntary time and effort in to this and they need the councils support to succeed.

4. **Outstanding BID levy/Operating agreement**

The rates and revenue department have been unable to collect levy fees that haven't been paid due to Covid but some of these are from previous years.

CG, PHo and Keith Johnson are to discuss the operating agreement for a second term and look into the position on the collection of outstanding levies.

5. Events Update

Soapbox (CG) – This is going ahead on 29th August 2021. BAE are processing a sponsorship application for sponsoring the event.

Promotion of the event is underway to get people to enter including advertising on the digital billboard and a big billboard at Barrow Raiders.

CG is in the process of trying to get other sponsors for the event as well as organising the necessary applications to CCC and other arrangements for the day e.g. traffic management, disabled parking/access and toilets.

It was suggested that additional events may be able to be organised around the Soapbox event either on the Saturday or after the event by using the stage.

CG to update posters placed around the town centre.

FOT (PHo) - A meeting was held last week. The event is to go ahead on 17th July 2021. The website has been updated and exhibitors can register on the website. Stagecoach are the principal sponsor in return for advertising on buses and bus stops. The motorbike stunt show will take place in the town square. There will be bus tours on a vintage bus starting at the town centre and taking in Walney and the Dock Museum. Talks are ongoing about a mystery tour bus possibly going to Roa Island with a commentary about the Furness railway line that once took that route. To link in to the 175th anniversary of the Furness line there is a possibility of having a static display of an original steam engine that would have worked on the line, but this depends on cost/sponsorship. Local model railway organisations are interested in having displays. Other ideas suggested were segways, town centre shops having transport related displays and Barrow Park having model boats.

Pride Event (support)- This is to be a virtual event on 15th May (due to some lockdown measures still being in place). CG is working with Barrow Culture to look at ways of promoting Pride. The plan is to have a rainbow walkway in the ginnel beside Forum with quotes, texts and information about the online pride event. They want a local artist to work with local young people on ideas for this. It would stay in place until it rained or was cleared away. A highways closure application has to be submitted. The funding that was given for this event that was cancelled last year will cover the cost.

6. BID Radia Slot/Business Support Update (JW/CH)

Several weekly interviews have taken place with more planned. JW and CH are working together on this.

7. Empty Unit project (RM)

Despite sending 3 e-mails RM has not had any response from Completely Retail and he has been unable to find a contact phone number. CG has had earlier e-mails from the company so he will try replying to one of those.

8. Anti-social behaviour (CG/JG)

CG has attended local hub meetings re combatting anti-social behaviour. A coordinated approach is needed and CG is producing a handout to provide businesses with details of who to contact to report any issues. All reported incidents are being directed through the 101 police e-mail. CG is hoping to map the problem areas that need to be tackled. The second 'restriction phase' would be measures to try and solve any problems e.g. cameras which the police could monitor and speakers around the statue in Dalton Road which could have music playing that would deter some people from loitering there. JW is to get his media student graduate involved with visiting businesses to inform them about the BID and the anti-social behaviour plan.

9. Town Centre Programme Board Update (CG)

CG attended a meeting yesterday. It was originally set up by the LA for the Future High Street Funding but this was an unsuccessful bid. There is a Levelling Up Fund which may be used for a scaled back version of the FHSF plans. More information is required about this. Tourism was discussed and it was agreed that a single tourist brand is needed and the Visit Barrow brand is being worked on.

10. AOB – Nothing was raised.

11. Date for next meeting: Tue 11th May, venue TBC