

## BID Board Meeting



Location: Virtual Meeting - Google Meet  
Time/Date - 6.30pm, Tuesday 11th May 2021

**Attendees:** Colin Garnett CG (Manager), Paul Hodgson PHo (Chair), Kay Bower KB, Phil Heath PHe, Allan Kerr AK, John Graham JG, Kieron Hart KH, Jonny Williams JW, Leslie McLeese LM, Sandra Collings SC and Cara Harvey

1. **Apologies:** None received.
2. **Review of minutes from last meeting** - All agreed.
3. **Finance update** – PHo had sent copies of the finance report produced by SL from Winders to all Directors prior to the meeting and no issues were raised at the meeting. BBC have been asked to chase up unpaid levies that are still outstanding from previous financial years, but due to the covid pandemic many businesses are only just starting to trade again so they will not be pressured to pay at this time.
4. **Ballot**

**Ballot progress** – BBC have given the BID short timescales for providing information for the updated BID levy list in a format that Civica require to send out the ballot papers. PHo and AK have been working very hard on this and have met their deadlines. Civica are not allowed to send out the summary business plan document with ballot papers, so these are to be posted out to levy payers at a later date. British BIDs have advised that it is the responsibility of councils to carry out the ballot process and they should also be paying for the cost of this. The ballot process is running to timetable and as a result of the updating of the levy payers database the BID now have an up to date list of local businesses.

AK is working on the format of the summary business plan which has been sent to all Directors. Everyone generally agreed with the layout and discussions followed about a few images and items that needed to be tweaked. PHo asked that any changes that anyone has to be e-mailed to him by 10.00 am tomorrow. AK will post out the summary business plan on 19<sup>th</sup> May to everyone on the database, so that they will arrive just before the ballot papers arrive on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Communications strategy** – CG & JW are on plan with working on this. CG is doing a lot of face to face communication as well as social media posts and regularly e-mailing businesses. JW is continuing with the Cando campaign with main adverts complimented by blipverts lasting 7 seconds. CG is being interviewed by Radio Cumbria tomorrow and Cando can replay the interview later. JW suggested that

Directors do a talk during the BID slot to talk about their motivation and roles within the BID.

**Directors roles and responsibilities** - PHo asked that all the Directors get involved with talking to businesses about the work of the BID, encouraging them to vote and pointing out what could happen if they don't vote and there is no BID to continue their work in the future. PHo is co-ordinating supplies of the summary business plan for Directors to hand out. It is important that after 28<sup>th</sup> May Directors are asking business owners if they have received their ballot paper and if so, have they voted 'yes'.

**PHo to call a virtual meeting near the end of May for an update.**

#### **5. Government funding update –**

**Welcome Back Fund** – BBC have applied for money to help re-open the high street after covid and they want to work with the BID on this. CG and PHo have offered ideas including branding social distance notices, window vinyls, promoting 'shop local' and cleaning/sprucing up of the town centre. The Garden Project for the lower end of Dalton Road is included in the plan. This would include purchasing planters, trees and shrubs to divide up the area and possible outdoor seating areas/gazebos which could be managed by Barrow BID to let out to local businesses for outdoor eating and drinking. The outdoor market area is also part of the plan. Some funding could be used to support the FOT in the form of covid safety, possibly for the cost of employing marshals.

**Levelling Up Fund** – projects include the indoor market and transport infrastructure – buses by the town hall and possibly using Cavendish Street as a bus route. Also support for future use of land where properties have been demolished.

#### **6. Events Update**

CG has received confirmation today that CCC are to support the FOT and Soapbox events to the sum of £5500.

**FOT** – 30/40 participants so far. BAE are supporting the No.20 train being brought to Barrow for the event. Work is in progress on bus tours.

**Soapbox** – 29<sup>th</sup> August. Over 20 participants which is more than in 2019. CG is working on obtaining bales of hay, toilets etc. CG has e-mailed Eddie The Eagle to see if he is available to attend and what he would charge.

CG is to talk to Taylors Funfairs to enquire about having small rides in the town centre at half term and on 24/25<sup>th</sup> June. Also assorted rides for FOT. CG has asked BBC if Fell Street/Hall Street car parks can be used for fairground rides, Market Street and multi-storey car parks as official car parks and Oldham Street car park for participants to park. CG is also to enquire about having a scary fairground event by

the town hall on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> October followed by a family version on 31<sup>st</sup> October. SC suggested a street dancing event – to be looked in to.

- 7. Cando FM BID slot** – CH informed the Directors that there was a lot more work involved with doing weekly interviews than she initially thought, mainly due to linking in with the Cando system. JW advised that it would be a lot less work for CH if she could go in to the studio as a co-guest now that covid restrictions would allow this. CG suggested that CH, PHo and himself could commit to doing a talk about the BID on a weekly basis each month with other Directors taking part on the vacant weeks. All three offered to do this.

**8. AOB**

**Business Premises Grant** – application received from Smilers Café on Crellin Street for rendering and painting. It was unanimously agreed to approve the application subject to a check that this business had paid their levy fee.

**Electronic Advertising Board** – it was raised that the view is partially obstructed by a tree but it was agreed that the BID could do nothing about this.

**Posters** – CG is obtaining prices for changing posters, phone box vinyls etc. CG is working with BBC on 1 metre strip vinyls to put across the windows of Poundworld and Thorntons.

- 9. Next Meeting: 6.30 pm on 8<sup>th</sup> June at Barrow Labour Club.**