

BID Board Meeting



Location: BID Office

Time/Date – 6.00 pm, Tuesday 13th January 2026

Attendees: Paul Hodgson PH, Melanie Corrie MC (Acting Chair), John Edwards JE, Neil Hodgson NH, Jonny Williams JW, Sharon Tate ST, Kay Kane KK, Ashley Holroyd AH and Sarah Roberts SR.

MC welcomed SR to the Board. SR gave the Directors information on her background. She is proxy for Simon and Lisa in representing the Furness Building Society.

Craig from the Holiday Inn is being interviewed as a potential Director on Thursday.

1. **Apologies: Jenny Fazackerley JF and Sandra Collings SC.**
2. **Review of minutes from last meeting** – all agreed.
3. **Christmas Event Reviews/Event Grants** – the Christmas market and stamp trail were both very successful and the stamp trail in particular received positive feedback. The Board agreed to have a similar structure to Christmas 2026 events.

Sisterhood Barrow – have applied for a grant to hold an event in Barrow library. The Board noted that as the event only had limited capacity and is a ticketed event it did not meet the BID's criteria for awarding a grant in terms of a wider benefit to businesses. The Directors agreed that it would not increase footfall in the town centre and consequently voted unanimously to refuse the application.

4. **Festive Lighting Renewal** – Barrow Town Council will be supporting infrastructure renewal this year following the funding being cut in 2025. This means that Abbey Road, Dalkeith Street and Cavendish Street will be able to have lights. Cross street lighting needs replacing in Portland Walk and the Directors agreed that the lights should be changed to single strings between buildings rather than the current zig zag arrangement that means if lights fail 2 strings rather than a long string have to be replaced. Additionally the Directors agreed to look into the possible purchase of an additional large ground structure similar to the reindeer and present, which have both proved very popular. Both of these structures need a bit of repair.
5. **HOB Update/Street Rangers/Recruitment** – Portland Walk has now been power washed and Dalton Road will be next. The BID have purchased a new

trailer and second hand power washer. Empty shops such as the old St. Mary's and Mobile Man shops have had vinyl put on their windows. Litter pick was well attended and was positively received on social media. Recruitment for the Barrow Rising funded roles is underway with 4 advertised jobs. There have been lots of applications and it is hoped to interview and make appointments by the end of the month. Two of the appointments will be for Street Rangers who will be doing the deep cleaning, supporting events, planting/weeding and litter picking. PH suggested that levy businesses could request help from the Street Rangers. The Directors were asked for their suggestions for the Street Ranger roles. JW suggested that they could be asked to help with the fixing of public realm items working alongside volunteers.

6. Third Term Business Plan

- **Charity Benefits (ST)** – ST suggested that the discount levy for charities was not cost effective and as not all charities apply that it should be discontinued. She also suggested that charity grant applications for premises improvements should be linked to turnover. After discussion the Directors were concerned that the same would have to be applied to levy businesses and they agreed that the same benefits should apply to all levy payers, with each application being looked at case by case. It was suggested that new BID staff could help support small charities with completing applications, although help is currently available from the BID team if needed. ST suggested setting up a buddy system between businesses and charities to support each other. It was suggested that the BID should post more about charities on social media and differentiate between trading and non-trading charities as trading charities already get some benefits.
- **Boundary (PH)** – the proposal was to extend the boundary up Abbey Road to loop around the park (the Council are keen to include the park and leisure centre), down Risedale Road and to include the Marina Village in a loop (because of potential future development). The new proposed area would also include B & Q, Sports Direct, University of Cumbria, BAE Sask, Lakeland House and The Range. After further discussion about also including Duke Street it was agreed to not include Duke Street or Risedale Road. It was proposed to take the boundary down Greengate Street to then include the Marina Village loop.
- **Engagement (MC)** – MC had put together a draft survey to send to levy payers prior to the renewal ballot by e-mail/paper copy. It was agreed that businesses should be asked to state their name and sector when returning the survey so that the BID could address any issues raised directly with them. Working their way through the draft the Directors agreed that businesses should be offered multiple choice options for the answers to the questions and asked to rank their responses in order of importance to their

business. In response to what should be Barrow BID's main focus going forward there should be an additional box for businesses to make their own suggestions. Question 5 is to be re-worded to ask 'in our third term how deeply do you see your involvement with the BID?' with the reply options being newsletter only, provide input via surveys/meetings, actively attend and partake at AGM/Quarterly Meetings, stand for election to the Board of Directors and engage with events. There would be a tick box by each item. Question 5 asks 'is Barrow BID responsive to the needs of your business?' with a Yes/No answer. It was agreed to add 'if not, why not?'

Business Drop in Sessions were arranged:

- **Retail and charities on Monday 2nd February 5.00 to 6.00pm with SC, JF and ST, potentially at Jenny's Fabrics shop.**
- **Hospitality on Tuesday 3rd February 5.00 to 6.00pm with KK, AH, JE and Craig at Coffee D'Ash.**
- **Business Services on Thursday 5th February 5.00 to 6.00pm with NH, MC and SR at Corries premises.**

The meetings will be promoted on the next newsletter and the survey will be sent out ASAP.

- **Business Plan (SR)** – SR said that there is a small group working on this and their work will be shared with the other Directors before the next meeting. It was agreed that the plan should highlight that the town centre is in transition and it is important that the BID has a voice in the future of the town's development.

7. **AOB – Barrow Buzz Awards (JW)** – Friday 30th January at the Town Hall. To include a Fawlty Towers dining experience. Voting is going well with about 40 votes in each category and 60/80 in some. Directors may be asked to present prizes on the night. JW is going to make it clear that the BID Directors are excluded from any of the judging process and can therefore be a recipient of an award.

Date for next meeting: Tuesday 17th February 2026, 6.00 pm @ BID Office.