



## BID Board Meeting

Location: BID Office  
Time/Date – 6.30 pm, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Attendees: Paul Hodgson PH, Melanie Corrie MC, Neil Hodgson NH, Jenny Fazackerley JF, Kay Kane KK, Sandra Collings SC, Jonny Williams JW and Sharon Tate ST.**

**1. Apologies: Ashley Holroyd AH, Jo Grainger JG, John Edwards JE and Lisa Archer LA/Simon Broadley SB.**

Jo has resigned and JF conveyed the Boards thanks to her for her excellent contribution. Rachel from Carriola Deli has been given a temporary 15 hour contract to work for the BID whilst her premises are repaired after the fire.

**2. Review of minutes from last meeting – the minutes were all agreed.**

**3. Grants Update –** Furness Unity Fest have applied for an events grant. The BID have previously supported this event. The grant was unanimously agreed. Art for All have applied for a grant for a Bazarro event. This was also unanimously agreed (ST abstained from the vote). Pastures New have applied for a business development grant for painting of the exterior of the building. The Board agreed payment of the grant. Westmorland and Furness Council have offered the BID a Grants Fund Top up of £20,000. £15,000 of this grant is earmarked to help the 2 businesses effected by the fire with the remainder to top up the funding for shop front improvements. This was unanimously agreed.

**4. Events Update:**

- **Dave Day Review –** JF said a 'well done' for a phenomenal effort from PH and the BID team. PH reported that running the event had caused a huge impact on resources, but had brought a lot of benefits to the local economy. PH expressed his thanks to JW for doing such a good job with the stage/music, which had relieved him of some of the pressure. The BID are collecting feedback, which has generally been good. The main negative has been the £10 bike registration fee which was outside the BID's control. JW was concerned that if the event is to happen again then the BID needs to look at the cost to themselves and the issue of clearing up afterwards needs to be addressed. The BID were put under increased pressure because of the Council making late decisions.
- **FOT – 19<sup>th</sup> July.** Most things are in place. There are a record number of vehicle entries this year. Optimus Prime is attending and 2 film cars. There will also be a stamp trail. Volunteers are needed for setting up between 8.00 and 10.00 a.m. and for closing down at 4.30 p.m.
- **Soapbox/Brilliant Barrow Weekend –** Everything is going ok. 9 entries so far and teams who entered last year are being contacted for possible entry this year.
- **Summer Pop Up Events –** Pop up film screenings in the town centre and Dock Museum. These are free events which just need a screen and deckchairs.
- **Ice Rink –** PH asked if he should book this for Christmas as there is likely to be room for it with the town centre developments being delayed. The Directors agreed.

- 5. New Comms Proposal** – PH has produced a document on suggested ways of improving communications between Directors and Levy Payers. As the BID is up for re-election next year the Directors need to engage better with businesses. He has highlighted 7 areas where communications could be improved. Firstly, the team could produce a weekly/bi-weekly BID bulletin via e-newsletter to levy payers and subscribers outlining the work carried out behind the scenes and each team member would give a brief summary of their current workload. Events would be highlighted as well as the benefits of Barrow Buzz. The BID could have a job board to help with local recruitment. There would be shout-outs for local businesses. SC suggested that the Directors go out to visit local businesses, especially those who are in the same business sector that each Director represents. Social media could be used to highlight a particular business on a specific day. PH suggested setting up a private Facebook group for local business owners with chats for various groups and Directors linking in to their own sectors. This could be useful for business support. A phone re-direction system would direct calls to the appropriate people, reducing the workload for PH and the team. When survey results are collected the Directors could respond to feedback comments. PH suggested sector specific business breakfasts (or other times of day) in addition to the current general business breakfasts. These could be held in the BID Office with meetings starting with a short update from the Director responsible for that sector. A time could be put aside each month for the office to have drop in sessions. A digital/physical welcome pack to be produced to give to new businesses and for estate agents to give to new business premises. Third party support will be used to set up some of the above. The Board all agreed to implement the above.
- 6. Cornwallis St Development** – the new owner of several of the buildings in Cornwallis St has approached the BID for a letter of support to submit to the Council. The premises are to be used for accommodation upstairs and some commercial use downstairs. The Directors requested more information on who would be the end users and the target audience before any decision could be made.
- 7. AOB** – the boards listing businesses in specific streets e.g. Scott Street are to be updated later in the year and will not list businesses by name due to the frequent changes of businesses.

**Date for next meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 6.00 pm @ BID Office.**