

BID Board Meeting



Location: BID Office, Unit 4, The Old Fire Station
Time/Date – 6.00 pm, Tuesday 12th November 2024

Attendees: Paul Hodgson PH, Jenny Fazackerley JF, Kay Kane KK, Jonny Williams JW, Sandra Collings SC, Jo Grainger JG, Neil Hodgson NH, Ashley Holroyd AH, Caleb Staples CS, Jackie Maguire JM, Garry Date GD, Allan Kerr AK and Simon Broadley SB (joined remotely).

1. Apologies: Melanie Corrie MC, John Edwards JE and Emily Baines EB

2. Review of minutes from last meeting – all agreed.

3. HR Update – SB reported that a salary review had been done for all employees and put in to place, increasing salaries for Mike and Jenni in line with the budget changes to the living wage. After the recent interview process, Stefan has been appointed and will probably start at the end of November. He has a background of working in a small town centre business and his passion and experience should mean that he is a very good addition to the team.

4. Event Grants:

- **North West Music Academy** – grant application towards holding a Jazz and Blues Festival in January. AK raised concerns about awarding a grant for a paid ticket event, as a previous application for a different ticketed event had been refused. It was pointed out that the last time the organiser was someone who aimed to make a profit from the ticket sales, whereas NWMA are a non-profit organisation and the ticket sales are to fund the cost of the event. The event also includes free workshops at a launch event which will provide opportunities for 25 young musicians. The Board were divided on giving the award and asked PH to request more information and clarification before making a decision.
- **Re:New** – application for a grant to purchase selection boxes for a community nativity on the Town Square, in partnership with the Salvation Army. Unanimously agreed.

5. Business Growth Grant Applications/New Grant Scheme Proposal – PH has updated this after feedback from the last meeting and included examples. The new proposal was unanimously agreed.

6. Event Updates (PH):

- **Autumn Fest** – the event was very successful and has had lots of positive feedback. The only negative feedback was about pavement drawings, but this has now been rectified. The right number of pumpkins were provided. Cancer Care collected £1200 in donations and the Mayor's charity collected £70. PH thanked those Directors who had helped and JF said 'well done' to the team and it was mentioned that Matt from Grimefighters did a good job. CS thanked JF for use of her upstairs room as a sensory room. He received good feedback and 38 people made use of it. He said that it needed better signage next time.

- **Christmas Unwrapped** – town centre stalls and a walking procession finishing at the new light up Christmas parcel at the bottom of Dalton Road. The BID owned street lights will also be switched on.
 - **Christmas Trees** – over 100 businesses have registered so far.
 - **Business Breakfast** – Holiday Inn 7.30 to 9.30 am on 29th November
 - **Shop Barrow Day** – free parking in town centre and extreme bike stunt show.
 - **Dalton Christmas Lights** – Furness Building Society and BAE sponsoring the event. There will be creative workshops, alpacas and a walking procession to Tudor Square.
 - **Community Litter Pick** – BAE are supplying apprentices and NG Bailey are providing helpers. Community Payback are painting the wooden sleigh,
 - **Santa Express** – as in previous years, but it will be tied in with the panto launch and will have themed stations.
 - **Christmas Market** – stalls in Portland Walk, The Mall and the gravelled area. JF is organising the event. 29 traders have booked so far.
 - **Stamp Card Trail** – preparation is still ongoing. Ongoing building work has hampered siting of the ice rink.
 - The giant present and Abbey Road lights have now been installed. The Town Hall and Portland Walk Merry Christmas lights have been re-done in the same theme as the other lights. JM asked if the lights could be kept on in January to brighten up the town centre. PH will make enquiries about cost and logistics.
 - Christmas competitions have been launched.
7. **Barrow Buzz Awards** – JW asked the Board if they wanted to hold this again next year. He reminded the Directors that the timing had been planned to keep BID calendar events happening throughout the year. To hold the event again in March 2025, grant and sponsorship applications would have to be started soon. It was unanimously agreed to hold the event again. CS raised concerns about voting problems for people with disabilities and it was agreed to look in to alternative ways of voting. It was also agreed to have more nominees in each category and possibly more categories. Nominations would probably open at the end of January.
8. **Sculpture Trail** – JF suggested installing themed sculptures around the town. Suggestions included seals, submarines and natterjack toads. Local schools and communities would be asked to decorate them. Everyone agreed to the concept.

9. **AOB** - none

Date for next meeting: Tuesday 10th December 2024, 6.00 pm @ BID Office