

BID Board Meeting



Location: BID Office, Duke Street

Time/Date – 6.00 pm, Tuesday 10th September 2024

Attendees: Paul Hodgson PH, Jenny Fazackerley JF, Kay Kane KK, Jonny Williams JW, Sandra Collings SC, Melanie Corrie MC, Jo Grainger JG, Simon Broadley SB, Neil Hodgson NH, Ashley Holroyd AH, Caleb Staples CS, Garry Date GD and John Edwards JE (remotely)

1. Apologies: Allan Kerr AK and Emily Baines EB

JF welcomed the two new Directors CS and GD. JF and AH have interviewed Jackie from The Hive. It was a good interview and they both recommended her as a future Director. Everyone agreed to her appointment.

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

3. **HR Update (SB)** – SB and PH have met and will continue to meet every 3 to 4 weeks. Jason has now left and SB/PH is dealing with recruiting a replacement. SB and PH have been looking at redefining the role and person specification to take into account the roles and skills of the other employees. The role will include a 12 month calendar, marketing and a measure of effectiveness. 30 plus applications have been received so far and shortlisting will take place soon.

4. **2023/2024 Review** – PH sent out a summary for the year highlighting the BIDs achievements and asked for feedback from directors. JF to congratulate PH on an excellent 12 months.

5. **New Premises Proposal (MC/NH)** – MC and NH have been looking for a potential new premises for the BID due to the current office lease soon being due for renewal. The property has space for a meeting room, office space and there would be room for community use. CS raised concerns about accessibility which were addressed. The landlord is looking for a 6 year lease, with a 2 year break clause has been negotiated to tie in with the end of the BID's current term coming to an end and the market work being completed, which may offer other opportunities. There is a potential opportunity to utilise the current premises for a brief crossover period. The new premises may be available from November. It was agreed that the new property needs to be kitted out to a good standard. It was unanimously agreed with proceeding and MC is to proceed this further with the landlord.

6. Event Updates:

- **Brilliant Barrow Weekend/Soapbox Review** – the event was sponsored by BAE. There was very positive feedback. JF said “well done” to PH on a good weekend. PH thanked the Directors for their help. The Dock Museum had their busiest day with approximately 5000 people attending. A similar number attended the Quayside event. Footfall for the Soapbox was about the same as last year. BAE are looking to continue to support the event next year. Everyone agreed to go ahead with the event next year. PH said that the weekend had proved that they could run events outside the town

centre area to generate revenue to be reinvested into Barrow town centre. The weekend got coverage on the BBC news which is a positive for Barrow. JF commented on how well Westmorland and Furness Council, BAE and the BID had collaborated on the weekend.

- **Outdoor Cinema Screening Review** – PH thanked JF, MC and AH in joining in the fundraising event. The gunge raised over £1000. The screening went well. This is an easy and low cost event to run, which can be repeated throughout the year. The BID has a good relationship with the Town Council who have now given the BID annual support funding for running events.
- **Autumn Fest** – similar event to last year with a pumpkin patch in the area of the demolished shops, a mobile cave in the outside market and other stalls etc continuing round into Portland Walk. PH asked for ideas to expand the event and CS suggested using the BAE hub for a quiet space.

7. 2025 Calendar (PH/JW) – CandoFM have a new member of staff, Adele, who has suggested that the BID produces a calendar. It is proposed to produce 500. Levy payers will be given one free of charge and businesses will be also asked for sponsorship and to sell them. Money raised will be split between the Mayor's charities, CandoFM and some payment for Adele's time. BID events will be promoted on the calendar and SC suggested that as extra events were added after printing that businesses could be given stickers about these events to stick on the calendars.

8. Grant Applications:

- **Barrow Music Week** – same format as the last few years taking place in 4 venues within the town centre. It is a not for profit event. Grant was unanimously agreed.
- **Dandy's** – shop is having a massive refit. Grant application has been submitted for materials required for installation of a disabled toilet on the ground floor. Grant was unanimously agreed.
- **Mobile Man** – shop is moving to new premises in The Mall. Application is for new vinyls. Everyone agreed to the grant.
- **Coffee D'ash** – (AH had left the meeting) application for various things required to set up this new business premises. The grant request is only for a small percentage of the overall project cost and the premises is to include a community based performance space. Grant was unanimously agreed.

9. AOB – SC raised concerns about inconsiderate cyclists in the pedestrian areas who are narrowly avoiding colliding with pedestrians. PH will email/write a letter to the Police raising their concerns and he was asked to highlight the impact on the visually impaired. JG said that cars going the wrong way down Crellin Street and delivery drivers illegal parking were causing dangerous situations. PH will speak to Highways about this.

It was agreed that the BID grant scheme should be discussed at a future meeting and to explore the possibility of asking the Council to partner with the BID on funding for shop front improvements.

Next meeting 6.00 pm on Tuesday 8th October 2024 @ BID Office.