

## Barrow BID AGM



Location: BID Office

Time/Date – 6.00 pm, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Attendees: Paul Hodgson PH, Jenny Fazackerley JF, Melanie Corrie MC, John Edwards JE, Neil Hodgson NH, Kay Kane KK, Sharon Tate ST, Craig Healey CH, Ashley Holroyd AH, Jonny Williams JW and Sarah Roberts SR.**

1. **Apologies: Sandra Collings SC.**

JF introduced and welcomed Craig from the Holiday Inn as a new Director. Staffing - Tyler has resigned with immediate effect.

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

3. **Third Term Business Plan Update –** The business plan brochure has now been produced. The next stage is to verify the voter list, which the Council will provide next week. The BID will be able to review businesses, addresses and proxies and the results have to be submitted by 26<sup>th</sup> April. Voting papers will be dispatched at the end of May. The Directors were asked to promote the business plan and to encourage businesses to vote. Levy payers have 1 month to return their ballot papers. JF said that the business plan is an excellent piece of work and thanked the Directors for their work.

4. **Barrow Buzz Awards 2027 –** JW asked the Board if they would like the event to go ahead next year. Everyone agreed that it should be held again in the Town Hall. JW is to obtain available dates for March 2027 from the Town Hall. The event is good PR for the businesses that are nominated. JW suggested the possibility of paying mystery shoppers to feed their findings in to the voting.

5. **Event Update:**

**Barrow Does Comics –** this coming Saturday. Everything is in place for the event which is being held in various town centre venues. It is fully funded by Arts Council England and other sponsors. The Festival of Colours run by BarrowFull is taking place at the Town Hall and Town Square at the same time, but this will appeal more to families and older people. Feedback will determine future similar events.

**Dino Day –** 16<sup>th</sup> May. All plans are in place. There will be new dinosaurs this year and new robotic baby dinosaurs. The baby dinosaurs are going to have their own arena on the newly tarmacked area off Dalton Road. Sponsors

have been reluctant to come forward to sponsor this year's event due to the uncertainty and negativity around the town centre developments.

**6. Community Planting** – 3rd June at the Town Hall. The Directors agreed to go ahead with the hanging basket/tub scheme again this year.

**7. AOB:**

AH asked other hospitality owners to join a campaign for the reduction of VAT for hospitality businesses.

JW said that there has been some online negativity regarding the town centre sound system, but he has made regular evening visits and he has not seen any gangs hanging around the area.

PH announced that the Heart of Barrow Project is in its final stages of being approved.

**Date for next meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 6.00 pm @ BID Office.**