

**MINUTES OF BID STEERING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 @ 2PM  
AT MCDONALDS, WESTON-SUPER-MARE**

Present: Steve Townsend  
Beverley Tucker  
Paul Batts  
Caroline Darlington  
Rachel Lewis  
Michelle Michael

Apologies: Richard Nightingale  
Nick Cooke  
Sam Walker  
Tim Lamb  
Steve Berry  
Sara Pacey  
Hayley Johnson

**1. Minutes from last meeting**

All agreed.

**2. Financial**

2018/19	
<b>Income Collected:</b>	
BID Levy Collected	238,535.68
NSC Liability	13,878.75
<i>Total Collected</i>	<u>252,414.43</u>
Collection Fee	- 8,384
Payments Made	- 234,000
<i>Total Paid</i>	<u>- 242,383.56</u>
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<u><u>10,030.87</u></u>

  

<b>Collection Rate:</b>	
Invoices Raised	251,394.43
Invoices Outstanding	12,858.75
Invoices Paid	238,535.68
<b>Collection Rate</b>	<u>95%</u>

2019/20 BID levy invoices to be sent by Liberata imminently. Outstanding debtors list 2018/2019 was reviewed at exec meeting.

**Projects**

**Marketing**

Town centre map – Amendments now approved, and reprint ordered.  
TCP team reviewed website with MS and changes being implemented. ST to contact Tim Brown at NSC re future hosting.

2019 Pocket guide distribution is imminent.

### **Events**

Local Producers Market – 13<sup>th</sup> April – two new stallholders

Eat Weston – 13<sup>th</sup> April – both very successful.

Easter Egg trail – 15-22<sup>nd</sup> April

ST to update on Whirligig event and subsequent funding request.

Xmas light night shopping – NC/ST to survey High Street and SOVSC retailers to gauge appetite for late night shopping. RL suggested this include the car park figures.

### **Street Management**

Joint initiative re rough sleepers in conjunction with Community Response working well.

All staff undertook Counter Terrorism training and course very well attended.

Missing defibrillator located.

New team member holiday/sickness cover (Ian)

All planter signage being replaced and sponsored plants due beginning of May.

Business visits to commence with wardens taking responsibility for zones.

BT liaising with NSC re benches in the Town Centre having a possible seasonal refurb.

### **Footfall**

Footfall counter installed data populating at present time. A dashboard that updates hourly will be linked to the front page of our website as well as monthly reports. ST to attach email login details and installation costs to BSG minutes.

ST/MM contacted M&S manager to obtain historical annual footfall data – no response yet, despite numerous emails and calls. ST to attempt to contact old manager for details.

### **Support**

#### **Business Cost Reduction**

Business cost reduction visits continue.

MS/ST produced draft newsletter – PB to approve.

MS now assisting with social media.

MS also assisting Visit Weston with refreshed photography of town centre – BT to forward photos to CD.

## **4. Town Centre Regeneration**

### **Future High Streets Fund**

In March this year, North Somerset Council submitted an expression of interest to round one of the Future High Streets Fund – this fund has the ability to drive and enable a significant transformation of Weston-super-Mare's town centre. In December 2018, the Government announced an exciting £675m fund dedicated to transforming high streets and town centres across the county. The Future High Streets Fund aims to help local leaders implement bold new visions to transform their town centres and make them fit for the future with co-funding to consolidate properties on the high street, improve transport and access into the town centres, and converting retail units into new homes. The outcome of round one is expected to be announced later this summer.

### **Shopfront Enhancement Grant**

Following the designation of the Great Weston Conservation Area at the beginning of this year, North Somerset Council are now able, in partnership with Historic England, to offer a grant scheme to local businesses and property owners to improve shopfronts within the town centre. Historic England have offered the council £369,000 to administer a shopfront grant scheme. This scheme will allow owners to restore their shopfronts and signage whilst maintaining or enhancing the historic interest or character of their buildings. Properties in Orchard Meadows, Grove Village, and the High Street will be eligible for this scheme. The council are currently finalising plans for the delivery of this grant scheme, with an aim to launch the scheme later this year.

### **Town Centre Transport Enhancements**

£4.5m of public realm and landscaping enhancements are in the pipeline to improve the Station Road and Alexandra Parade areas – this is funded by the Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Growth Fund and the Department for Transport's National Productivity Investment Fund. The first phase of these improvements is due to start April this year. Phase One focuses on improving pavements, junctions, and planting mature trees in Station Road. Station Road is a key welcoming route into Weston-super-Mare, therefore the planned enhancements will significantly improve the attractiveness and utility of Station Road for those entering Weston by car or from the railway station.

### **Know Your Place Funding**

Know Your Place is an exciting digital mapping programme which overlays maps from various periods of history, allowing users to compare how streets or areas look today alongside maps from the past. North Somerset Council has been awarded £10,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and £1,000 from the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone, to run a heritage volunteer training programme to enhance the information contained on the

Know Your Place website. This funding will enable a volunteer training project, with a team of 'super volunteers' who aim to work with the local community to unearth historic gems from North Somerset's past. In collaboration with Weston Museum, Weston Town Council, Historic England, and the Heritage Action Zone, the project now has the resources to add collections of local heritage information to the Know Your Place website, making this information freely available to members of the public.

### **Birnbeck Repairs Notice**

Birnbeck Pier is Grade II\* listed and is the only pier in the country which connects the mainland to an island, however the pier closed to the public in 1994 and is on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register as a Priority A. The privately-owned pier is in a highly dilapidated state, and the condition continues to decline – the owner has however not taken any significant action to halt the deterioration of the Pier. With funding and support from Historic England, North Somerset Council are therefore developing a repairs notice to issue to Birnbeck's owner. The pier is much loved, and of significant historic interest, therefore the council is interested in encouraging the regeneration of the pier.

### **Demolition of the Old Police Station**

Demolition work on the Police Station started in December last year. Contractors prepared the building by removing asbestos, taking out fixtures and fittings, and disconnecting utilities. As is visible from the street, the demolition is near complete. The former link to the neighbouring Magistrates' Court was first removed, the police station was then demolished bit by bit. A dust suppression system was erected which sprays mist into the air, along with a large net, to reduce dust during the demolition. The demolition work will be completed, and the site cleared during this month. The demolition will enable development to take place on this key central site, in order to revitalise, rejuvenate, and transform the area. In the meantime, the site will be used as a depot for contractors during the Town Centre Transport Enhancement works on Station Road.

WH Smiths hoping to reopen at Whitsun.

## **5. AOB**

Parking review – EAR provided confidential feedback and response to BID proposal at Board Meeting, which ST relayed to meeting.  
PB to contact manager at Clip & Climb re invite to future BSG meetings. If not possible, ST will extend invitation to Emma at Cineworld.  
RL stated that planters at The Centre will need to be relocated when Station Road works commence. BT to source new locations.  
CD to bring details of advertising campaign for Weston to next meeting.  
RL to also extend invitation to D&E/Regeneration team heads, which ties into MM concerns regarding lack of touristic focus.  
MM requested that RL revisit site requirements with local business/employer.

**Date of next meeting:** Please note there is no meeting in May due to annual leave commitments – next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00pm – McDonalds Training Room, Regent Street