



## **SWBA BID: Note of 7 December 2017 Meeting (Venue: Trinitarian Bible Society)**

### **1. Introductions and apologies**

**Present:** John D'Aprano (DS Systems), Nick Stefka (Box Office Supplies), Nick Golson (Deen City Farm), Lee Anderson-English (GreenLight Electrical), Marcus Miller (Millers Bespoke Bakery), Ian Docksey (Trinitarian Bible Society), Peter Elliott (BOC), Ian Meredith (Endecotts), Kathryn St John-Mosse and Gillian Hermanstein (RPC), David Skinner (Tenable Screw Company), Adam Laurie (Wow Your Crowd), Dawit Debesu (RTD Properties), Caroline Cook (Merton Chamber of Commerce), Sue Morgan (Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust) and Claire Morris (SWBA Estate Co-ordinator).

**Apologies:** John Simpson (White Light), Ash Daud (Flexicom Solutions), Sara Williams (Merton Council), Nikki Cleeter (Met Police) and Richard Armitage.

Ian Docksey was thanked for hosting the meeting and for providing lunch.

Ian Meredith was attending his final SWBA meeting. Ian had been an active member of the SWBA Committee since its creation in 2007 and was thanked for his considerable contribution to the work of the SWBA.

### **2. Matters arising from last meeting**

It was noted that the Merton Abbey Mills (MAM) membership scheme had not yet been launched but that a meeting had recently taken place to consider how the SWBA could be involved to secure benefits for estate businesses.

### **3. Presentation – Ian Docksey – Trinitarian Bible Society**

**Ian Docksey** outlined the work of the Society, which had been in existence since 1831 and provided people throughout the world with accurate and trustworthy editions of the Scriptures, translated from the best Biblical language texts. The Society had moved to its current premises two years ago and employed 15 members of staff on site with a similar number located in its overseas offices in Brazil, Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

The Society published but did not print Bibles and handled editorial and translation work, sales and grants at Deer Park Road where its warehouse was also located. In recent years it had undertaken some 40 different translation projects including Romanian and Chinese as well as a number of dialects. A major project at present was the revision of the Spanish version which was now out of date, which was highly specialised work and could take a considerable amount of time. Profits from sales were ploughed back into the business to aid the grants department in providing Bibles to communities in the poorest parts of the world and this was supplemented by donations and legacies from various sources to aid its work.

### **4. Presentation – Sue Morgan – CEO, Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust**

**Sue Morgan** explained that the Trust was a charity which had been formed in 2013 with the aim of delivering high quality and sustainable investment in the Wandle

Valley. Since 2014 the Trust had managed to attract some £1.4 million of investment and secured £166,000 of Heritage Lottery Funding.

The primary aim was to provide a green infrastructure to assist in improving public health and also to make industrial areas as green as possible, particularly since 10% of London's employment and manufacturing was located around the Wandle Valley. The Trust's strategy over the five years to 2021 was to promote and market various environmental projects and to develop the necessary infrastructure to allow a range of other organisations to deliver their economic and social enterprise goals. Examples of the Trust's work to date included placing reconditioned shipping containers along the Wandle for various community uses and providing bikes for free public use in addition to offering training and volunteering opportunities for apprentices and businesses.

The Trust was very keen to work with BIDs in order to develop partnerships aimed at improving the welfare and productivity of their businesses' workforces. There were a range of environmental options for this purpose such as the introduction of green seating areas for employees, planting trees and adding foliage to buildings for carbon capture and 'rain gardens' which filtered drainage and flood water more naturally. Those present agreed that the SWBA estate was particularly well placed to benefit from some of these ideas and these would therefore be explored as appropriate, including with a view to possible future partnership funding.

## **5. BID Proposals – Progress Report**

An update was provided on progress with the key proposals identified by the BID Board at its 2 November meeting as follows:

- the draft Baseline and Operating Agreement with Merton Council was currently being considered by the Council's lawyers and relevant departments with a view to this being finalised shortly;
- a meeting had been requested with the Council to discuss a review of parking measures;
- there had recently been discussions with the Council about ways in which the problem of litter around the estate could be dealt with and the Council was currently looking at options for tackling this in the light of discussion;
- two independent security companies had expressed an interest in carrying out a security review on the estate and were expected to provide initial reports and quotes for this work for the BID Board to consider in the near future;
- work would begin in the new year on ideas for improving signage around the estate;
- a potential source had been identified for securing deals on energy tariffs and this would be trialled by a few companies in the first instance to establish whether it was suitable to offer to BID members;
- the SWBA website had recently been updated and work now needed to begin on drawing up a directory of BID member companies with links to their own websites, although it was recognised that this would be very resource intensive;
- two quotes for the production of a short video aimed at building awareness of the BID and publicising the positive work achieved had been received, one of which had been provided by Wow Your Crowd. Those present agreed that the BID Board should consider approving this;

- there was also support for the provision by Merton Chamber of Commerce of first aid and fire marshal training courses for the benefit of BID members and details of these would be made available in the near future;
- quotes for a gritting bin and salt, which Tenable Screw Company had kindly offered to store at its Deer Park Road premises, were to be obtained.

It was noted in particular that there had been significant progress in respect of the proposal for improving lighting on the SWBA estate. Merton Council had recently upgraded all street lighting on the estate with the exception of Jubilee Way which was due to be completed shortly. This had resulted in significantly improved lighting quality and was welcomed by all present as a very positive outcome.

Finally, Nick Stefka was due to begin work as the part-time Estate Ranger at the beginning of January.

## **6. Estate Issues**

The continuing poor state of the vegetation along the parking spaces adjacent to the Tramlink on Deer Park Road was raised as a particular concern. The Council had been requested to take action to address this as a matter of urgency but had yet to do so and this would therefore continue to be pursued.

The Abbey Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team were not present but had advised that there had recently been a considerable increase in burglary and motor vehicle crime around Wimbledon. Whilst Abbey Ward had not been affected as much as other areas, businesses were urged to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the police.

## **7. Financial Update**

BID levy payments received by the Council at the end of November amounted to some £76,500 which represented almost 75% of the total anticipated income for the first year of the BID.

## **8. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **9. Date/Venue for next meetings:**

**SWBA Directors' meeting 12.30pm, 4 January 2018 (TBC)**

**SWBA Members' meeting 12.30pm, 1 February 2018**

**(Venues: TBA)**