



SOUTH WIMBLEDON BUSINESS AREA (SWBA) BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) MINUTES :

1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Deen City Farm, 12th June 2018

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Present: BID Directors: John Simpson - Chair (White Light), John D'Aprano (DS Systems), Nick Golson (Deen City Farm), Nick Stefka (Box Office Supplies), Lee Anderson (GreenLight Electrical).

Others in attendance:

Ian Docksey (Trinitarian Bible Society), Callum Bush (MediaDevil), Dawit Debesu (RTD Properties Ltd), Diana Sterck and Caroline Cook (Merton Chamber of Commerce) and Claire Morris (SWBA Estate Coordinator)

2. Chair's Report:

John Simpson reported on developments in respect of the various initiatives contained in the five year BID proposal document published in 2017. The first year of the BID term was now coming to an end and whilst progress on some proposals had not been as rapid as hoped, there were nevertheless a number of key achievements of note.

In particular, a review of security on the SWBA estate had been completed and recommendations received; a review of parking and traffic flow had been commissioned and was due to be carried out shortly; the part time Estate Ranger had been working since January 2018 and there had been a significant improvement in the overall appearance and cleanliness of the estate as a result; there had been considerable lobbying of the Council and other agencies to resolve a range of issues including fly tipping and traveller activities; and the streetlighting on the estate's public roads had been upgraded and improved.

There had also been a good uptake by BID member companies of the services now available to them as a result of their free membership of Merton Chamber of Commerce. SWBA open meetings had been held every two months for BID member companies to keep them informed of developments and to provide an opportunity for them to raise issues of concern, although numbers attending had sometimes been disappointing.

Other work had commenced and would be carried forward in the coming year. In particular, the completion of the baseline Agreement between the BID and Merton Council had been delayed but the BID was pressing for this to be finalised as soon as practicable; work to develop the SWBA website, including the development of a business directory, was also being accorded priority; and the BID was working closely with Merton Council in order to improve and upgrade the CCTV cameras on the estate.

3. Financial Report 2017/18

The total amount of BID levy collected to date for the first year of the BID term ending 30 June 2018 was £92,624.22, with some £7,000 still outstanding and Merton Council was currently pursuing recovery of this.

Whilst some £50,000 of this total was yet to be spent, these funds had been allocated to future projects in line with the published proposals. The intention was to utilise these funds in the second year of the BID term to ensure that a surplus would not be built up. The BID Board was now preparing the budget for the forthcoming BID year and proposed expenditure in key areas would be specified and be publicly available.

Accounts for the year ending 31 January 2018 had been prepared and would be filed with Companies House.

4. Election of BID Board

Those BID Directors who were present confirmed that they were prepared to continue to serve on the Board for a further period and this was unanimously agreed.

5. Any other business

Presentations were made as follows.

Rishi Sood, Managing Director of Meercat Associates, explained how his company could work on behalf of the SWBA BID to secure cost savings on a range of utilities and other services for BID member companies. The BID Board would consider the options available with a view to contracting Meercat for this purpose.

Ian Smith, Director of Shield Associates, outlined the key findings of the security review of the SWBA estate which his company had recently undertaken on behalf of the BID. The report and resulting recommendations had been made available to the BID Board and would form the basis of an action plan and initiatives to be implemented for the future. Details of the review's outcome would be made available to BID member companies to alert them in particular to issues of relevance to their business premises.

Dates of Future Meetings

Dates for meetings of the BID Board and SWBA members to be held from July 2018 onwards would be finalised and notified in due course.

