



## **SWBA BID: Note of 1 February 2018 Meeting (Venue: Deen City Farm)**

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

**Present:** Ash Daud (Flexicom Solutions), Nick Stefka (Box Office Supplies), Ian Docksey (Trinitarian Bible Society), Kathryn St John-Mosse and Gillian Hermanstein (RPC), David Skinner (Tenable Screw Company) and Claire Morris (SWBA Estate Co-ordinator).

**Apologies:** John Simpson (White Light), John D'Aprano (DS Systems), Nick Golson (Deen City Farm), Lee Anderson (GreenLight Electrical), Adam Laurie (Wow Your Crowd), Danny Aina (CEF), Diana Sterck (Merton Chamber of Commerce) and Nikki Cleeter (Met Police).

Deen City Farm was thanked for hosting the meeting and for providing lunch.

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

It was noted that the Merton Abbey Mills (MAM) membership scheme was likely to be launched in the next few weeks and details would be made available at that time.

It was confirmed that the Nuffield Health free 7 day trial and membership offer for employees of SWBA businesses was still available and details would be recirculated to SWBA members.

### **3. BID Proposals - Progress Report**

An update was provided on progress with the key proposals identified by the BID Board at its 11 January meeting as follows:

- the draft Baseline and Operating Agreement with Merton Council had been considered by the Council's lawyers and relevant departments. Several outstanding points remained to be resolved and were currently being discussed;
- a meeting had been held with the Council about parking issues and possible future arrangements to address these. As a first step a survey of parking and traffic flow on the estate was being considered and quotes for this were being obtained;
- three external companies had been approached about carrying out an independent review of security. Two had provided quotes and the BID Board was considering these;
- it was intended shortly to set up a directory of SWBA members and those businesses would be invited to have their details and links to their own websites included on the SWBA website;

- Wow Your Crowd had been asked to produce a promotional video about the SWBA and the BID and work would begin on this as soon as practicable;
- the BID Board had agreed to purchase two grit bins for use around the estate and these would be stored on private land;
- it was intended to hold several training courses (first aid and fire training) for BID member companies in the next few months. Details were being drawn up by Merton Chamber of Commerce;
- following the presentation by the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust at the December meeting discussions had been ongoing about the possibility of securing capital grant funding for green projects on the SWBA estate. The Trust had proposed a partnership arrangement which would focus on Deen City Farm and would require a contribution from the BID and other interested parties. It was intended that this would be developed as appropriate;
- Nick Stefka had now been carrying out his role as the Estate Ranger for a month. Nick was thanked for the work he had done so far which all agreed had resulted in an overall improvement in the general appearance of the estate.

#### **4. Estate issues**

It was noted that there had been a number of instances of flytipping around the estate since the start of the year and that action taken to deal with these had been unsatisfactory. In addition, the overall standard of street cleaning had been poor and both these issues were being pursued with the Council as a priority. There were also several parts of the estate which had areas of overgrown vegetation and the Council would therefore be asked to indicate when it planned to deal with these.

Merton Council had now completed the upgrade of all street lighting on the public roads around the SWBA estate and it was agreed that this had improved the overall quality of lighting.

The Abbey Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team had advised that there had been an increase in burglaries in Abbey Ward and businesses were therefore asked to continue to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the police.

#### **5. Financial Update**

BID levy payments received by the Council at the end of December amounted to £86,000 which represented 82% of the total anticipated income for the first year of the BID. The Council had now been invoiced for these funds.

#### **6. Any other business**

Details were provided about a free membership scheme which had been set up by the London Digital Security Centre (LDSC) for primarily small and medium sized businesses. The LDSC was an organisation founded by the

Mayor of London as a joint venture with the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Police. The Centre helped businesses to operate in a secure digital environment and membership provided an initial assessment of digital security needs as part of the sign-up process. Members also received tailored support, access to timely advice, alerts regarding latest threats and vulnerabilities and training and education programmes for staff. Information would be circulated to SWBA members to enable them to access this service if they wished to do so.

**7. Date/Venue for next meetings:**

**SWBA Directors' meeting 12.30pm, 1 March 2018**

**SWBA Members' meeting 12.30pm, 5 April 2018**

**(Venues: TBA)**