



SWBA BID: Note of 7 March 2019 Meeting (Venue: Deen City Farm)

1. Introductions and apologies

Present: John Simpson (White Light), Nick Golson (Deen City Farm), Nick Stefka (Box Office Supplies), Ian Docksey (Trinitarian Bible Society), Kathryn St John-Mosse and Gillian Hermanstein (RPC), David Skinner (Tenable Screw Co), Dawit Debesu (RTD Properties), Richard Armitage and Claire Morris (SWBA Estate Coordinator).

Apologies: John D'Aprano (DS Systems), Lee Anderson (GreenLight Electrical), Peter Elliott (BOC), Adam Laurie (Wow Your Crowd), Nilesh Mandvia (Hotbray), Julia Hancock (Ikhofi) and Diana Sterck (Merton Chamber of Commerce).

Nick Golson was thanked for hosting the meeting.

2. Matters arising from last Members' meeting (6 December 2018)

All outstanding matters were covered by the agenda.

3. BID Proposals - Progress Report

There had been a BID Board meeting on 26 February and the key action points agreed then were contained in the minutes of that meeting. In addition it was noted that:

- Merton Council had been asked to carry out remedial work to repaint the faded road markings within the BID area and had advised that this would be undertaken during March. Discussions would be initiated with the Council and TfL about traffic safety concerns, particularly along Jubilee Way;
- options for improving signage and waymarking were being investigated;
- it was agreed that the recent first aid and fire warden training courses had been useful and that the BID should continue to offer subsidised places for these and potentially for other types of training;
- the development of a directory of BID member companies for the website was considered to be very important and in view of the low response to date it was proposed that details of SWBA businesses should be added unless they indicated a wish to opt out. There was some discussion about how to improve the overall appearance and content of the website in order to make it more appealing to a wider audience, such as including a social page, and this would be given further consideration;
- those present agreed that work on various ideas for environmental improvements to the BID area should be taken forward. There were differing views about what might be achieved as well as concern to ensure that any projects could be maintained long term and at an affordable cost. As a starting point, discussions would take place with a company which specialised in small scale greening projects to establish what might be feasible.

4. Estate issues

- it was noted that the outcome of the recent public consultation on the possible extension of the tram network from Sutton to South Wimbledon was now likely to be announced towards the end of March;
- flytipping cases continued to be reported to the Council but were not always dealt with rapidly. A meeting was due to take place later in March with the Council and Veolia to discuss the situation.

5. Security Matters

A crime prevention initiative which offered vulnerability assessments to SMEs and charities was being provided free of charge by the police. Further details were available by emailing cyberprotect@met.police.uk. In addition, advice which had been received in respect of a new trend whereby merchant till receipts were being stolen from sales counters and customer details being obtained would be circulated to businesses.

6. Financial Update

It was noted that Merton Council had now collected the majority of the BID levy for the 2018/19 year and that action would continue to be taken to recover the outstanding payments from the small number of businesses which had yet to pay their levy.

7. Any Other Business

- The Mayor of London had announced a new van scrappage scheme for microbusinesses with 10 or less employees and charities to help them meet the requirements of the new Ultra Low Emission Zone. Any businesses wishing to apply for the scheme could do so at www.tfl.gov.uk/scrappage-scheme
- A range of assistance was available for small businesses via the London Growth Hub which served as a gateway for business support. Registration was free of charge and further details could be found at www.growthhub.london
- Merton Abbey Mills and the Colour House Theatre were organising a Wimbledon Pride event on 27/28 July. Any businesses which were interested in offering sponsorship could obtain further information from Charlie Shakespeare at the Theatre (tel: 0208 542 5511).

8. Date/Venue for next meetings:

SWBA Directors' meeting 12.30pm, 4 April 2019

SWBA Members' meeting 12.30pm, 6 June 2019

(Venues: TBA)