



SWBA BID: Minutes of Board Meeting – 7 May 2020 (Venue: Video conference)

1. Apologies

Present: Directors - John Simpson (White Light), John D'Aprano (DS Systems), Nick Stefka (Box Office Supplies) and Ian Docksey (Trinitarian Bible Society)

Estate Coordinator - Claire Morris

Apologies: Directors: Nick Golson (Deen City Farm) and Lee Anderson (GreenLight)

Key Action Points Agreed:

- to continue to pursue with the Council the need for safety improvements to Jubilee Way and Windsor Avenue in particular, including the introduction of appropriate width restriction signage
- to proceed with the next phase of the wayfinding strategy for the BID area in the light of the findings of the recent audit carried out

2. Matters arising from last BID Board meeting (16 April 2020)

All outstanding matters were covered by the agenda.

3. Covid-19 – update

The impact of the current restrictions was discussed. It appeared that many businesses within the BID area were either closed and their staff furloughed or working from home or else premises remained open and were operating with reduced staff numbers. It was noted that Merton Chamber of Commerce was running a series of video conference meetings which provided opportunities for its member businesses to raise concerns with Merton Council and others about various issues, including the operation of the business support measures which had been put in place. The latest of these had been held earlier in the week with Stephen Hammond MP and Paul Scully MP (Business Minister and Minister for London) in which several SWBA businesses and the BID had participated. There were also various sources of information and assistance available for businesses and the SWBA website provided links to these.

It was also noted that Merton Council was one of the three best performing London Boroughs in making payments available to businesses under the current Government schemes. This had clearly been very helpful to local businesses and the BID would therefore write formally to the Council to express appreciation for its performance.

4. BID Proposals – Progress on Delivery Plan

A brief update on progress in respect of the individual projects set out in the BID Proposal document was provided. The current restrictions had meant that much work had been temporarily halted but the following points in particular were noted:

- it was still not clear when the installation of the new pedestrian crossing at Jubilee Way and Morden Road was likely to be carried out. TfL would be asked to provide an update on its planned timetable for this work;
- the changes to the parking arrangements along Jubilee Way had now been completed;
- there had still been no progress by the Council in respect of the BID's request for appropriate signage to warn vehicles of the width restriction on Windsor Avenue and for the road markings around the BID area to be refreshed and for 20mph roundels to be added. This would continue to be pursued;
- following the completion of the initial research phase of the wayfinding project, work would now begin on developing a detailed strategy for this purpose.

5. Financial Matters

Discussion largely focused on the likely financial situation for the forthcoming BID year which would begin in July. It was noted that despite the current circumstances there was a legal requirement for Merton Council to issue annual BID levy invoices as usual and these would therefore need to be sent to businesses in the early summer.

6. Any Other Business

- there had been several cases of fly tipping on Jubilee Way and Lyon Road in recent weeks and these had been dealt with swiftly by the Council;
- TfL had prepared a short survey which was designed to identify the challenges businesses were likely to face in managing the return to work once the current restrictions began to be lifted. This would be circulated to SWBA members.

7. Date/Venue for next meetings:

SWBA Members' meeting - 12.30pm, 4 June 2020 (Video conference)

Dates for SWBA Directors' and Members' meetings for BID year 2020/21: TBA