



SWBA BID: Note of 4 June 2020 Meeting (Venue: Video meeting)

1. Introductions and apologies

Present: John Simpson (White Light), John D'Aprano (DS Systems), Nick Stefka (Box Office Supplies), Ian Docksey (Trinitarian Bible Society), Greta McIlhatton (Osborne & Little), Vernon Kerswell (Extreme Fliers) and Claire Morris (SWBA Estate Coordinator).

Apologies: Nick Golson (Deen City Farm), Lee Anderson (GreenLight Electrical), Kathryn St John-Mosse and Gillian Hermanstein (RPC) and Caroline Cook (Merton Chamber of Commerce).

2. Matters arising from last Members' meeting (5 March 2020)

All outstanding matters were covered by the agenda.

3. COVID-19 – update and discussion

There was a general discussion of the current situation. It appeared that there were probably about 80% of businesses within the BID area which were now operating in some form, although staffing levels were unclear. Whilst a few businesses had been able to continue trading with minimal changes, other than with staff working from home, many others had clearly been significantly affected. One of the key concerns in the coming weeks would be how to safely bring staff back into the working environment as the lockdown restrictions were relaxed. It was noted that Merton Chamber of Commerce had been running a series of online meetings for their members to discuss a range of concerns, one of which had been with the local MP and the Business Minister in which some SWBA businesses had participated. The next meeting would be held on 11 June and would cover guidance from Council officials about the safe opening of premises. The BID would be represented at this meeting and SWBA members would also be encouraged to take part. In addition, the BID had now written to the Head of Business Rates at Merton Council to express appreciation for the swift action taken to distribute business grants.

4. BID Proposals - Progress Report

The last BID Board meeting had been held on 7 May and the key action points agreed were contained in the minutes of that meeting. The following updates were provided:

- TfL had now advised that due to revised priorities and staff shortages the new pedestrian crossing at Jubilee Way and Morden Road was being delayed until further notice. The BID would ensure that businesses were informed once timing for this became clear;
- renewed representations had been made to the Council about the need for improvements to road markings around the estate and for width restriction signs;
- the second phase of the wayfinding strategy had now begun with consideration being given to new signage and potential new BID branding.

5. Estate issues

There had been several instances of fly tipping in recent weeks which had been reported to the Council and had been dealt with swiftly. There was currently a trailer which appeared to have been abandoned in the pay and display parking area on Deer Park Road by the tramlink and the Council had been asked urgently to remove this.

6. Security Matters

No matters of concern had been reported by businesses. In particular, there had been no further activity by travellers around the estate nor any other anti-social behaviour observed.

7. Financial Update

Discussion largely focused on the arrangements for the forthcoming BID year which was due to begin in July. It was noted that the legislation governing the operation of BIDs required Merton Council to continue to issue annual levy invoices notwithstanding the current situation and that these would need to be sent to businesses early in the new BID year. It was recognised that this would undoubtedly create payment difficulties for a number of businesses and the BID would therefore be seeking ways in which this might be addressed in consultation with the Council.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Dates for next meetings:

SWBA Directors' meeting: 12.30pm, 2 July 2020

SWBA Members' meeting: 12.30pm, 3 September 2020