



SWBA BID: Minutes of Board Meeting – 4 February 2021
(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: Lee Anderson (GreenLight)

2. Matters arising from last BID Board meeting (5 November 2020)

All outstanding matters were covered by the agenda.

3. Covid-19 – update

The general consensus was that there seemed to have been less traffic around the estate during the past few months compared with the first lockdown period in spring 2020. Some businesses were clearly operating fairly normally but others continued to experience major problems due to the constraints imposed upon them. The BID continued to circulate information to businesses about the various forms of grants and other assistance which were available from Government and the GLA. Merton Chamber of Commerce had also been communicating with and advising businesses on an ongoing basis which it was hoped had been of benefit.

4. BID Proposals – Progress on Delivery Plan

Work on most of the BID's projects continued to be on temporary hold due to the ongoing Covid restrictions but the latest position on those which were being taken forward was as follows:

- Merton Council was being consulted about the proposals for new wayfinding arrangements including the potential for matchfunding to progress this. It was also noted that several quotes had been obtained to deal with the damaged SWBA sign at the Morden Road/Lombard Road entrance to the estate. The advice received was that this was beyond repair and needed to be replaced. Since the cost of doing so would be several thousand pounds it was agreed that this work should be carried out as part of the overall project rather than in isolation.
- The installation of the new pedestrian crossing at the Morden Road/Jubilee Way junction was currently being carried out by TfL and it was hoped that this would be completed shortly.
- There was an issue with the Council's monitoring capability for the new CCTV cameras and confirmation was therefore being sought that this was being addressed.
- It was agreed that whilst the SWBA website was now several years old it remained broadly fit for purpose and did not need to be replaced. An internal audit would however be undertaken to identify changes required and improvements which could be made.

- It was noted that there were currently no grant schemes available for tree planting projects which was one of the BID's environmental aims. The position would be kept under review.

5. Financial Matters

The BID continued to operate within its existing budget and financial returns were being completed as required. Whilst it had previously been the intention to employ an accountancy firm to deal with the BID's accounts it was proposed that the Xero accountancy based system should be used instead. The Board agreed that this would have the advantage of both lower costs and greater flexibility for payments to be made.

The BID's current 5 year term was due to end in June 2022. Preparation for a renewal ballot would need to begin in the next few months which would require sufficient funds to be reserved for the cost of this exercise.

6. Any Other Business

- A formal response to Merton Council's Local Plan consultation had now been submitted by the BID.
- The annual London BIDs Summit was due to be held on 11 February at which the SWBA would be represented.

7. Dates of next meetings:

SWBA Members' meeting - 12.30pm, 4 March 2021

SWBA Directors' meeting – 12.30pm, 1 April 2021