



SWBA BID: Minutes of Board Meeting – 8 October 2020 (Venue: Video conference)

1. Apologies

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

Estate Coordinator - Claire Morris

Apologies: Directors: Ian Docksey (Trinitarian Bible Society) and Lee Anderson (GreenLight)

2. Matters arising from last BID Board meeting (7 September 2020)

All outstanding matters were covered by the agenda.

3. Covid-19 – update

Anecdotal evidence suggested that around 80% of businesses currently appeared to be operating within the BID area although staffing levels were difficult to gauge. Those sectors which had been particularly badly affected by the Covid situation continued to experience major problems and it was unclear what their future prospects might be. The BID would continue to offer support to businesses, particularly in association with Merton Chamber of Commerce which had provided invaluable assistance throughout the crisis.

4. BID Proposals – Progress on Delivery Plan

Whilst the continuing Covid restrictions had limited the BID's ability to progress a number of planned projects, work had continued in particular on the wayfinding strategy which would be developed as appropriate taking account of available funding.

5. Financial Matters

The BID had discussed with Merton Council the question of whether the collection of BID levy for the current year which had commenced on 1 July could be waived in view of the severe impact of the Covid situation on many SWBA businesses. It had now been agreed that the BID could take this approach as an exceptional measure, albeit for the current year only. The BID's budget had been revised accordingly and it was noted that there were sufficient funds available for the BID to continue to operate during the remaining nine months of the year provided that projects were scaled back or put on hold as appropriate. The Council would still issue invoices to levy paying businesses in respect of this year but these would be in the form of a zero demand.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Dates for next meetings:

SWBA Directors' meeting – 12.30pm, 5 November 2020

SWBA Members' meeting - 12.30pm, 3 December 2020