



SWBA BID: Note of 3 December 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: Lee Anderson (GreenLight Electrical) and Ben Larke (BOC).

2. COVID-19 – update and discussion

There was a general discussion about the current situation. Some businesses within the BID appeared to be continuing to operate fairly normally but others clearly continued to experience major difficulties. In some cases this had been exacerbated by the fact that they had received little or no financial support other than from the furlough schemes. It was noted that the Council was shortly expected to announce details of two new discretionary grant schemes intended to assist those businesses which had been especially badly affected.

3. BID Proposals - Progress Report

Much of the BID's planned work had of necessity been put on hold because of the ongoing restrictions. In terms of overall progress the following points were noted:

- TfL had previously advised that the introduction of the new pedestrian crossing at Jubilee Way and Morden Road was unlikely to happen for the foreseeable future. However, notification that the work would now begin on 7 December was received on 4 December and this was due to be completed at the end of January. There was likely to be some disruption but it was hoped that this would be limited;
- the signage and wayfinding strategy was still being developed and possible sources of matchfunding would be explored, notably with Merton Council;
- potential ideas for further environmental improvements, notably grants available for tree planting, would be investigated.

4. Estate issues

It was agreed that the estate was currently in very good condition, which in part was due to the fact that there had been little fly tipping of late. The green area adjacent to the roundabout at the junctions of Jubilee Way, Windsor Avenue and Deer Park Road had recently been tidied which had greatly improved the overall appearance of that part of the estate. There were currently two untaxed vehicles which appeared to have been abandoned. The

Council had initiated action to deal with these and one of them has now been removed.

5. Security Matters

No matters of concern had been reported by businesses. There was some discussion about the coverage of the CCTV system which had now been upgraded. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to introduce more signs around the BID area to indicate that CCTV was in operation to serve as a deterrent and this would be explored further with the Council to establish what might be permissible.

6. Financial Update

It was noted that the BID continued to operate within its existing budget, taking account of the need to scale back on expenditure on a number of planned projects.

7. Any Other Business

- Merton Council had recently issued a draft Local Plan for public consultation. The deadline for comments was 1 February 2021 and the BID would be considering this with a view to responding as appropriate. The Plan was available on the Council's website: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/local-plan/newlocalplan>
- Several businesses had signed up for the Post Office's new collection service and had found that this worked well.

8. Dates for next meetings:

SWBA Directors' meeting: 12.30pm, 4 February 2021

SWBA Members' meeting: 12.30pm, 4 March 2021