



SWBA BID: Note of 3 June 2021 Meeting (Venue: Video meeting)

1. Introductions and apologies

Present: John Simpson (White Light), John D'Aprano (DS Systems), Ian Docksey (Trinitarian Bible Society), Gretta McIlhatton (Osborne & Little), Ben Larke (BOC), Gillian Hermanstein (RPC), Heidi Kruger (BizSpace), Andy Howe (Assist Security) and Claire Morris (SWBA Estate Coordinator).

Apologies: Nick Stefka (Box Office Supplies), Lee Anderson (GreenLight Electrical), Kathryn St John-Mosse (RPC) and Emma King (Deen City Farm).

2. COVID-19 – update and discussion

The general view was that the estate appeared to be busier and returning to more normal pre-Covid levels. In particular, it was noted that there were significantly greater numbers of parked vehicles than hitherto, especially at the start of the working day.

3. BID Proposals - Progress Report

The following points were noted:

- the wayfinding proposal had now been included in an application by Merton Council for a new GLA green funding scheme intended to aid London's post-Covid recovery. In addition, the BID planned to submit an application for funding for this project when the next round of Merton Council's Neighbourhood Fund scheme opened in the early summer. It was hoped that sufficient funding might be secured via either or both of these routes to enable the project to be implemented in its entirety;
- the Council had yet to confirm that it had resolved the problem with the monitoring of the BID's new CCTV cameras. The intention was therefore to write to the Council formally setting out the BID's concerns about this situation and its implications;
- work was currently being undertaken to rebuild the SWBA website to implement a number of system and other upgrades.

4. Estate issues

Those present agreed that the lighting in certain parts of the estate, notably along Jubilee Way and near the Tramlink, was not particularly good, especially at night and in the winter months. This concern would therefore be raised with the Council.

It was considered that there were several areas along Jubilee Way which would benefit from environmental improvements such as planting of wildflowers. However, it was noted that these areas were located on land which was owned by Aviva and any such measures would be subject to their approval.

Concern was expressed about vehicles driving in the wrong direction along the one-way system on Lombard Road. In addition, it was reported that there was a serious problem with vehicles regularly speeding along Deer Park Road. These concerns

would be raised with Merton Council with a request for appropriate measures such as physical restrictions and improved road signage to be introduced.

The proliferation of signs which had been put up along Lombard Road adjacent to the Morden Road was raised. The BID had previously asked the Council to deal with this but no action had so far been taken and this would therefore be pursued further.

There had been no significant problems with fly tipping in recent weeks. However, there was an issue with rubbish accumulating in the underpass to the Tramlink and the Council would be asked to deal with this as a matter of urgency.

5. Security Matters

It was reported that an app was currently being developed as part of an initiative to improve personal safety, particularly for women. It was agreed that this might be of particular interest to employees on the estate and further details would therefore be made available in due course.

6. Financial Update

In view of the significant overall impact of the Covid situation on SWBA members, the BID Board had decided that it would not be reasonable to expect businesses to pay the annual BID levy for the current fourth year of the BID term (running from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 inclusive). Merton Council had therefore recently issued these businesses with zero rate levy invoices. However, it was emphasised that this was an exceptional measure for this year only and there would be a requirement for levy payments to be made for the final year of the current BID term beginning in July 2021. It was expected that these invoices would be issued by the Council within the next few months.

7. Any Other Business

Businesses were reminded that there was still a range of support and free advice available from various sources, notably Merton Chamber of Commerce and the GLA's London Business Hub.

8. Dates for next meetings:

SWBA Directors' meeting: 12.30pm, 15 July 2021

SWBA Members' meeting: 12.30pm, 2 September 2021