



SWBA BID: Note of 4 March 2021 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), Ben Larke (BOC), Dawit Debesu (RTD Properties) and Claire Morris (SWBA Estate Coordinator).

Apologies: Lee Anderson (GreenLight Electrical), Kathryn St John-Mosse and Gillian Hermanstein (RPC).

2. COVID-19 – update and discussion

It was noted that little appeared to have changed in recent months with the estate continuing to be less busy than before the current lockdown had come into effect. A number of businesses were managing to function at normal levels whilst others, including BOC, had experienced increased demand due to the particular nature of their operations. However, there were a number which continued to experience major difficulties due to the ongoing restrictions.

3. BID Proposals - Progress Report

There had been only limited progress with the majority of the BID's planned projects. However, the following points were noted:

- work had now been completed on the new pedestrian crossing at Jubilee Way and Morden Road. It was agreed that this, together with the recent changes to the parking arrangements along Jubilee Way, had resulted in a significant improvement in the flow of traffic which was very welcome from a road safety viewpoint;
- the signage and wayfinding strategy was still under consideration and Merton Council had been asked for its view on what was proposed. A response was currently awaited;
- there had been an issue relating to the Council's ability to fully monitor the BID's new CCTV cameras which was being addressed. It was agreed that there was a need for more signage within the BID area to indicate that CCTV was in operation and this would be pursued with the Council.

4. Estate issues

There had been no major issues in recent weeks, other than occasional cases of fly tipping which had been dealt with in a timely manner. There was also an untaxed vehicle outside the studios on Deer Park Road of which the Council was aware and it was hoped that this would be removed shortly.

BOC reported that there was a problem with damaged masonry on its building at the corner of Lombard Road and Deer Park Road. The area had been cordoned off and it was anticipated that repairs would be completed within a few weeks.

Finally, the property at 20A Jubilee Way which had been in a poor state for a considerable time had now been demolished and the surrounding area tidied up which had markedly improved that part of the estate.

5. Security Matters

There had recently been a case of diesel theft from a vehicle parked on the spur road off Windsor Avenue near the Saxon Business Centre. It was also noted that there had been a spate of thefts of catalytic convertors in various parts of the Borough, although there had been no reports of this occurring within the SWBA estate.

6. Financial Update

The BID's accounts were up to date and would shortly be filed with Companies House. It was noted that the BID had sufficient funds available at present to continue to progress several key projects, albeit on a reduced scale.

7. Any Other Business

- There was some discussion of how businesses could best advertise their services to raise wider public awareness of what they could offer. It was agreed that as well as inclusion in the Business Directory on the SWBA website, Merton Chamber of Commerce was a useful conduit for levy paying businesses to promote themselves.
- The BID had recently participated in the annual London BIDs Summit organised by the GLA. This was a useful forum to raise with policy makers and other key authorities outside Merton the particular issues affecting businesses located within the small number of industrial areas in London.

8. Dates for next meetings:

SWBA Directors' meeting: 12.30pm, 1 April 2021

SWBA Members' meeting: 12.30pm, 3 June 2021