



## **SWBA BID: Note of 6 September 2018 Meeting (Venue: Deen City Farm)**

### **1. Introductions and apologies**

**Present:** John Simpson (White Light), John D'Aprano (DS Systems), Nick Golson (Deen City Farm), Nick Stefka (Box Office Supplies), Peter Elliott (BOC), Gillian Hermanstein (RPC), Ian Docksey (Trinitarian Bible Society), David Skinner (Tenable Screw Co Ltd), Ashlee Tulimba and Tullika (Healthy Dialogues Ltd) and Claire Morris (SWBA Estate Coordinator).

**Apologies:** Lee Anderson (GreenLight Electrical), Kathryn St John-Mosse (RPC) and Diana Sterck (Merton Chamber of Commerce).

Nick Golson was thanked for hosting the meeting.

### **2. Matters arising from last Members' meeting (12 June 2018)**

All outstanding matters were covered by the agenda.

To date, there had been no expressions of interest in becoming BID Board Directors and businesses were therefore encouraged to consider doing so.

### **3. Merton Healthy Workplaces Programme – Presentation by Healthy Dialogues Ltd**

Ashlee Tulimba explained that this programme was being funded by Merton Council in collaboration with One You Merton with the aim of supporting businesses to become healthy workplaces by improving the health and wellbeing of their employees. There was a range of support available, including advice on addressing mental health concerns, assisting with stopping smoking, improving physical activity, free mini health checks for staff and signposting to appropriate services such as advice on debt management. In the first instance, Healthy Dialogues would discuss on a one to one basis the key areas of concern to businesses to help them identify the needs of their employees and with a view to reducing sickness absence, improving productivity and staff retention. There would also be a series of seminars on specific issues including mental health in the workplace and men's health which would run from October onwards and details would be made available in due course.

It was emphasised that this was a free service which was available to all businesses on the SWBA estate and would run until April 2019. Businesses were encouraged to contact Healthy Dialogues either by completing an initial survey about the areas of concern to them or direct at: [workplaces@healthydialogues.co.uk](mailto:workplaces@healthydialogues.co.uk). The survey and associated information had previously been circulated to SWBA members but would be reissued with the minutes.

### **4. BID Proposals - Progress Report**

An update was provided on progress with a number of key proposals as follows:

- the draft Baseline and Operating Agreement with Merton Council was still with the Council's lawyers despite ongoing requests from the BID for it to be finalised without further delay and this would continue to be pursued;

- the survey of parking and traffic flow on the estate had been carried out at the end of June and the report was expected imminently. David Skinner said that his company was extremely concerned about the double parking arrangement along Jubilee Way and he would therefore be writing to the Council and TfL to raise this. It was noted that the issue of safety in this particular part of the estate was one of the key factors being taken into account as part of the traffic flow survey. The findings of this would be used in the BID's lobbying of the Council and TfL for improvements in this respect;
- work had now begun on the development of a directory of BID member companies for the website and a request for content would be sent to businesses in the near future;
- discussions were ongoing with the Council and its contractor about the costs and arrangements for improving the 6 CCTV cameras on the estate. The Board had considered this and had decided that the preferred option was progressively to purchase new cameras over the BID term as opposed to upgrading the existing ones. Although the cost of this was significant, it was agreed that this was a priority for the BID and sufficient funds were available to achieve this;
- a meeting had now been held with Meercat Associates to discuss detailed arrangements for a combined cost-saving scheme to offer various services to BID members. The intention was to launch this within the next two months and details would be made available as soon as possible;
- the Board had agreed to subsidise up to 12 places for BID members on a first come first served basis for a fire warden training course to be held on 18 September. The cost of this would be reduced by £50 per place and Merton Chamber of Commerce had recently sent booking details to BID members;
- Adam Laurie from Wow Your Crowd had now produced a promotional video about the SWBA and the BID and this would be added to the website shortly;
- it was noted that the BID had recently been approached by a university department with a proposal for its students to undertake an environmental project on the estate in the next month. However, it was considered that there were potential difficulties with this, not least in view of the need to seek agreement from the Council and landlords. It was therefore agreed that the preferred option would be to undertake a full green audit as originally intended to ensure that any future proposals were properly formulated and costed;
- Nick Stefka had now been the Estate Ranger for eight months and those present agreed that there had been a significant improvement in the overall appearance of the estate as a result of his work.

## **5. Estate issues**

- Litter and fly tipping incidents continued to be notified to the Council with a request for urgent action to address problems. The standard of service since the beginning of 2018 had generally been very poor and complaints had been made about this. The Council had agreed to a request for an on-site meeting with Veolia managers to discuss the situation but had yet to offer dates for this purpose. This arrangement also still needed to be formalised in the baseline agreement with the Council to ensure that the service provided was acceptable. The BID's proposal for locating litter bins at key points on the estate was also being pursued.
- The roadworks currently under way at the junction at South Wimbledon tube station were scheduled to continue until 7 October.

## **6. Security Matters**

The outcome of the recent security review had been made available to BID members and work now needed to begin on drawing up and implementing an action plan to improve security within the BID area. Advice on preventative action to deter fuel thefts had also recently been sent to estate businesses.

## **7. Financial Update**

It was noted that there was currently £74,000 in the SWBA BID account, although some of these funds had already been earmarked for specific projects. Invoices for the 2018/19 BID year had been sent out by the Council at the end of July and total levy payments received so far amounted to £51,714.85. Final notices were due to be issued on 10 September. There were still a small number of businesses which had not paid their first year's levy despite action being taken by the Council to recover this money. The outstanding total amounted to some £2,800 and the BID was continuing to liaise with the Council to address this issue.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- The Mayor of London had introduced a new Cleaner Heat Cashback scheme for SMEs which was intended to offer 30 to 40 per cent cashback when old heating systems were replaced by new cleaner systems. Details would be circulated with the minutes.
- The London Growth Hub had introduced a new business support programme, "Meet the Buyer", which was aimed at helping small businesses access buyers from companies (including some multinationals) with a view to securing new sales deals. A series of sector-specific events would be held from October onwards and details would be circulated to enable businesses to sign up for these.

## **9. Date/Venue for next meetings:**

**SWBA Directors' meeting 12.30pm, 4 October 2018**

**SWBA Members' meeting 12.30pm, 6 December 2018**

**(Venues: TBA)**