



SWBA BID: Minutes of Board Meeting – 15 July 2021 (Venue: Video conference)

1. Apologies

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

Estate Coordinator - Claire Morris

Apologies: Directors: Lee Anderson (GreenLight)

2. Matters arising from last BID Board meeting (6 May 2021)

All outstanding matters were covered by the agenda.

3. BID Reballot 2022

Helen Santer who was working as the BID's consultant attended for discussion of this item. The aim was for the ballot to be held on 15 March 2022 which meant that a formal proposal document would need to be drawn up before the end of 2021 in order to comply with BID regulatory requirements. A survey of BID levy paying businesses would be carried out over the next few months in order to inform thinking and aid development of this document.

4. Covid-19 – update

It was observed that whilst many businesses were apparently operating at more normal levels than in previous months, there remained a considerable amount of uncertainty about the future. In particular it was agreed that the ending of the furlough arrangements in September would no doubt have implications for the ability of some businesses to operate although it was difficult to quantify what these might be. It was also unclear how the further lifting of restrictions on 19 July might affect SWBA businesses and their operations.

5. BID Proposals – Progress on Delivery Plan

It was noted that:

- Merton Council had included the BID's proposal for new wayfinding arrangements as part of a wider Merton application for GLA funding but this had been unsuccessful. The BID therefore intended to apply for funding for this project under the latest round of the Neighbourhood Fund Scheme which was now open;

- A response was still awaited from the Council about the issue affecting the monitoring of the new CCTV cameras. It was agreed that the BID would therefore look to adopt its own interim measures as appropriate to ensure that coverage was in operation;
- Good progress was being made with the redevelopment of the SWBA website which it was hoped would be completed shortly.

6. Financial Matters

It was noted that the BID continued to operate using its existing reserves. Levy invoices for the fifth and final year of the current BID term which commenced on 1 July were currently being finalised to enable Merton Council to issue these.

7. Any Other Business

Concern was expressed about the current standard of service being provided by Merton Council on certain fronts. In particular, issues such as the removal of fly tipping and repair of damage to pavements and footpaths was taking longer to be dealt with than had previously been the case. The Council had also been asked to take action to deal with the significant number of advertising boards which had been erected along the Lombard and Morden Roads which detracted from the appearance of that part of the estate. The BID would continue to pursue these issues as a matter of urgency.

8. Dates of next meetings:

SWBA Members' meeting - 12.30pm, 2 September 2021

SWBA Directors' meeting - 12.30pm, 7 October 2021