



## **SWBA BID: Note of 2 September 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), Heidi Kruger (BizSpace), Vernon Kerswell (Extreme Fliers), Diana Sterck (Merton Chamber of Commerce) and Claire Morris (SWBA Estate Coordinator).

**Apologies:** Lee Anderson (GreenLight Electrical), Kathryn St John-Mosse and Gillian Hermanstein (RPC), Greta McIlhatton (Osborne & Little) and Ben Larke (BOC).

### **2. COVID-19 – update and discussion**

It was generally agreed that the situation was beginning to improve. Businesses and the estate appeared noticeably busier than had been the case for some time which was a welcome development. In addition, it was noted that a number of SWBA businesses had successfully applied for grants under the Council's schemes. However, the picture going forward seemed mixed as some businesses had been forced to begin re-employing staff and rebuilding their supply chains. Merton Chamber of Commerce explained that there were currently a number of initiatives to assist business recovery and development, including the Peer Networks scheme and 1-1 advice to help businesses get back on track.

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

The following points were noted:

- an application to Merton Council's Neighbourhood Fund scheme would be submitted in September in respect of the wayfinding proposal;
- the issues affecting the monitoring of the new CCTV cameras remained unresolved by the Council. Interim alternative arrangements had therefore been set up by the BID to ensure that coverage of the estate was maintained. This would continue to be pursued with the Council and its contractors;
- work on the new SWBA website had been completed and it was now live. As part of the update of the website, the issue of GDPR compliance was being reviewed.

### **4. Estate issues**

A response to the BID's request for action to deal with the numerous advertising signs which had been put up on the embankment separating Morden Road from Lombard Road had finally been received from Merton Council who advised that it did not own this land and was therefore unable to require removal of the signs. The Council suggested that the landowner might be TfL and the BID had therefore approached TfL to establish the position. There was also a question of who should undertake the upkeep of the embankment which the BID had previously cleared of excess vegetation. This would be kept under review pending developments.

It was further noted that a response was still awaited from the Council about a number of road issues of concern to businesses, including speeding, which had been raised a number of times by the BID.

The damaged manhole cover on the footpath leading from Deer Park Road to Deen City Farm had finally been repaired after several complaints from the BID about the danger this posed to pedestrians and cyclists.

## **5. Security Matters**

No matters of concern had been raised by businesses. Travellers had recently been at Sainsburys on Merantun Way but fortunately did not attempt to move on to the estate.

## **6. Financial Update**

It was noted that the BID continued to operate using its existing reserves.

## **7. Any Other Business**

The annual Merton Best Business Awards were due to be launched on 16 September, with a number of new categories to recognise and celebrate the resilience of businesses throughout the pandemic. SWBA businesses were strongly encouraged to put themselves forward with applications being accepted until the end of October.

It was suggested that it might be appropriate for a Christmas tree to be installed on the estate this year, potentially on the land by the roundabout at Jubilee Way, Deer Park Road and Windsor Avenue. This would be considered further, although the relevant landowner would need to be approached for consent.

## **8. Dates for next meetings:**

**SWBA Directors' meeting: 12.30pm, 7 October 2021**

**SWBA Members' meeting: 12.30pm, 2 December 2021**