



SWBA BID: Note of 2 December 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) and Claire Morris (SWBA Estate Coordinator).

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

2. COVID-19 – update and discussion

Those present agreed that the estate was generally busier and, barring further setbacks due to latest developments on the virus front, it was hoped that recovery would continue. The Council had just announced new discretionary grants for medium sized businesses and details of the registration process for this scheme had been circulated with the agenda of the meeting.

3. BID Reballot 2022

Work was ongoing in preparation for the BID ballot to be held in March 2022. In January the Council's Electoral Services would be sending all businesses whose premises had a rateable value of £8,000 and above information about the ballot process. Ballot papers were due to be issued in mid-February and businesses would then have a month to vote to decide whether the BID should continue for a further five year term.

4. BID Proposals - Progress Report

The following points were noted:

- the BID's application to Merton Council's Neighbourhood Fund scheme for the wayfinding project had been successful. Details of the funding arrangements were currently awaited and once this was clear, work would commence on implementing the proposals to introduce new signage within the BID area;
- a meeting with the Council was to be arranged shortly with the aim of resolving the issues affecting the monitoring of the new CCTV cameras.

5. Estate issues

A meeting had recently been held with the Council to discuss a number of issues of concern to businesses.

The Council had now acknowledged that they owned the embankment separating Morden Road from Lombard Road and they would therefore be liaising with those agents and businesses who had placed the various advertising signs there to arrange for their removal.

The Council had also undertaken to review the 20mph signage and road markings in various parts of the estate, notably on Lombard Road and Deer Park Road, and to consider options for improving these to address the road safety concerns raised by the BID on a number of occasions. Timing was unclear, largely due to budgetary considerations, but the BID had emphasised the need for this to be done as soon as possible to meet the concerns of businesses and had requested a timetable for action.

It was reported that there was a particular problem with the state of cleanliness around the underpass from Lombard Road to the tramstop at Morden Road. Although this area was not within the BID's boundary, it was nevertheless a main point of entry to the estate and the issue would therefore be raised with TfL which it was understood was responsible for its upkeep.

6. Security Matters

No matters of concern had been reported by businesses.

7. Financial Update

The BID continued to operate using its existing reserves and the budget for the remaining six months of the current BID term was being kept under close review.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Dates for next meetings:

SWBA Directors' meeting: 12.30pm, 3 February 2022

SWBA Members' meeting: 12.30pm, 3 March 2022