

A meeting of the Newbury BID Board was held on 16th November, 2017

Attendance:

Russell Downing, Ross Drake, Lindsey Finch, Chris Davies, Alastair Chapman, Philip Gray, Hugh Peacock, Fiona Crook Smith, Anna Sampson, Mag Williams, Andrew Marmot, Alison Bird, Matt Garvey, Sandra Weir and Paula McAuley.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Andy Day, Andy Murrill, Phil Opie, Rob Boobyer, Jean Ince, Graeme Leech and Scott Waters.

3. A.O.B

Sponsored Waste Bins – Ross Drake.

Tennis Courts – Hugh Peacock

4. Minutes of last meeting.

Minutes from the Board Meeting on 14th September, 2017 were proposed by Matt Garvey and seconded by Chris Davies.

5. Correspondence received.

None.

6. Managing Directors Report.

The Board considered the report of the Managing Director, which covered a number of areas of activity. A summary of these activities is set out below.

(i) Finance/Budget Review.

Chris Davies ran through the accounts to date.

Levy collections are still slow this is being addressed with WBC.

Accounts as expected. Ross Drake queried the Business Watch figure. To be discussed with Russell Downing at a later stage.

Matt Garvey requested YTD cumulative report.

(ii) Operations.

Christmas Light Switch On and last Artisan Market of the year is 26th November.

Hallowe'en Hunt best year to date, 400+ entries – businesses pleased.

CCTV now signed and due to be back on in 6-8 weeks. Lindsey Finch stated the ideal would be for them to be working for New Year's Eve.

Commercial Revenue still continues to be strong.

Walk round – Some works have been completed.

Newbury Business Watch - Launch was a success with more people using the radios now. Chris Davies questioned Sam's role in Business Watch – Russell Downing explained that Sam had been instrumental in setting up the scheme, but would be back to her Rangers Role for more hours now, with assistance from a third Ranger when hired.

- (iii) Marketing – September results were good. October not available due to the licence expiring. Businesses need to have a clear GDPR policy in place – Philip Gray to provide further details.
- (iv) Footfall – Figures continue to be positive with Newbury bucking the trending in the South East, 2 weeks ago we out-performed other market town by 15%. No patterns detectable.
- (v) Vacancy Rates – The BID has lost around £7k due to conversion to residential. Several new shops opening, particularly independents whose use needs to be encouraged, along with the vast array of food types available.

Parkway now at full capacity with the addition of Harper Kids, Yankee Candles, and Calendar Club.

The Pearl Assurance Building needs hoarding as currently unattractive.

Interest in Black Friday appears to be dwindling with many shops offering discounts throughout the festive season. BID to encourage shoppers to use the High Street rather than online.

RESOLVED: That the report be approved.

7. A.O.B

Waste Bins

Ross Drake is in talks with NTC regarding sponsoring Bins in Victoria Park.

Tennis Courts

Facility in Victoria Park will re-open on 30th November with floodlighting.

Next Meeting 18th January, 2018