

## **A meeting of the Newbury BID Board was held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

### **Attendance:**

Ross Drake, Russell Downing, Scott Waters, Graeme Leech, , Rob Boobyer, Andy Day, Hugh Peacock, Fiona Crook Smith, Anna Sampson, Andrew Marmot, Alison Bird, 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 Philip Gray, Jean Ince, Chris Davies, Phil Opie, Alastair Chapman, Andy Murrill, Mag Williams, and Matt Garvey.

#### **3. A.O.B**

Andy Marmot – Parkway Hours

Hugh Peacocke – Under 18's employment

BDZ – Ale Festival

#### **4. Minutes of last meeting.**

Minutes from the Board Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 were proposed by Andy Murrill and Seconded by Rob Boobyer.

#### **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.

Events – RD ran through the events plan for 2018 including some new events – Their Legacy, our History and Dragon Boat Racing. The Easter Hunt has been spruced up with the introduction of some giant bunnies being decorated by local schools.

CCTV installation – BT are causing delays. RD may require Andy Day's help to access West Street.

Commercial Revenue – Figures are good.

Attractiveness of town – Electric vehicle to be delivered shortly. Being kept at the Kennet Centre SLA in place for cardboard recycling.

Recruitment – The BID are struggling to recruit a third ranger. RD to circulate job description to the board.

Newbury Business Watch – Nominals and Exclusions are back up and running and comply with GDPR. Some work to do on Safetynet. Mark Tucker (TVP) continues to be the driving force behind Pubwatch.

Market Working Group - RD and NTC met with WBC to discuss the general decline of markets nationwide. The meeting was positive and one key action was to move the entire market into

Northbrook Street and resurrect the power supplies. This would mean all market traders were in one location, in a higher footfall area and would free up the market place to allow the restaurants to create larger alfresco dining areas.

Brand Newbury – RD, Andy Murrill and Chris Bolton visited Reading CIC to discuss the town plan and branding. The BID supports the NTC town plan, although they do not see a larger sports complex viable and believe Newbury Development Trust to be a CIC role. The town plan consultation ends this Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

Indies – Newbury BID chaired an Independents Committee, only 7 of the 140+ businesses attended, but the meeting was positive and many ideas are being actioned. A press release is ready to go Monday and we are looking to get the NWN on board.

Cashflow – Levy money is £6k down due to adjustments for listing building status. Collection of the levy has resulted in its first court case this week, which was settled on the steps. Each year the non-payers are the same handful of people.

Operations Meeting – Took place on 15<sup>th</sup> February – lots of good work has been achieved by both WBC and NTC.

Marketing – We missed our February target but growth is shown through events. Business emailers need to be GDPR compliant with an opt-in approach. Visit Newbury will soon see the addition of videos, blogger guest writers. The BID are looking to start a round-table approach to engage with the professional sector.

Footfall – January figures do not make good reading, showing a significant drop. This is out of alignment with Parkway and there is no apparent reason for this.

Vacancy Rates – A couple more closures is disappointing, however, the former Game shop is to be occupied shortly, alongside the addition of 'Between the Lines' last month.

Meercat report – Despite identifying significant savings for some businesses the uptake is disappointing.

## **7. Budget 18/19**

The levy figure is our 'best guess' at this stage. We have decided to err on the side of caution for commercial revenue and have made some adjustments for Newbury Business Watch for more radios and licences which are costly, as is full renewal of Purple Flag status.

**The Budget received full board approval.**

## **8. A.O.B**

### Parkway Opening Hours

John Lewis, Camp Hopson and Debenhams have agreed to standardise their opening hours believing consistency to be key. Parkway opens as follows:-

Mon – Sat 9am – 6pm

Sun 10.30 – 4.30 pm

Parkway will be closed on Easter Monday and New Year's Day. They will have one late night opening week in the run up to Christmas and be part of the BID late night event. Boxing Day opening is 9am – 6pm.

### Employing Under 18's

Hugh Peacocke had met with the Youth Council. Members expressed their concerns that there were no employment opportunities in the town for under 16 year olds. It was felt that there were opportunities available with smaller retailers but the larger stores were limited as to what they could offer due to health and safety reasons, insurance costs and licensing laws. Most businesses would offer work experience places is booked via schools.

### BDZ/Real Ale Festival

Bob from BDZ wants to develop the festival into a larger event – Anna to discuss ideas with RD separately.

### Phil Opie

Phil is struggling to get to meetings and would like to send Metro's local Manager in his place – this was fully approved by the Board.

Soulstice Wellbeing has closed – a new board member representing the leisure sector needs to be found.

### Nominated Charity

Noami's House and Jacks Place have been chosen as the BID's nominated charity this year. 'Store Wars' takes place on 31<sup>st</sup> May and RD would like as many people involved in the event as possible.

**The next Board Meeting will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 at 10.30am**