

A meeting of the Newbury BID Board was held on 18th January, 2018

Attendance:

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

3. A.O.B

Graeme Leech – Rotary Club Youth

Andy Murrill – Newbury Weekly News

Jean Ince (via Fiona Crook Smith) – Best Dressed Window

Hugh Peacocke – Civic Awards

4. Minutes of last meeting.

Minutes from the Board Meeting on 16th November, 2017 were proposed by Fiona Crook Smith and Seconded by Alison Bird.

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 - The Christmas light switch on was a success, as was late night evening, although some shops did not partake. Andy Marmot has attended a meeting where John Lewis/Debenhams/Camp Hopson are discussing co-ordinating opening hours, this may help in the future. The Rotary were pleased with the Santa Fun Run, which also had great coverage in the Newbury Weekly News. Newbury BID to supply Graeme Leech with BID logo for Rotary Website.

CCTV installation will start 29th January with a view to going live on 3rd February, 2018.

Banners – Two additional spaces are now available for hire – some space has already been booked.

Attractiveness of town – Some members of the board would like to see a demonstration on the steam cleaning.

Newbury Business Watch – Good progress is being made, with the next Pub Watch meeting being held at Broadway House.

Fair Trade Town Status – We are looking into this initiative if there is an appetite for it.

- (i) Finance/Budget Review
The income from Business Watch is slightly less than expected at this stage, but new members are joining, no other questions were raised.
- (ii) BID – levy collections are on track. Andy Day recommended changing some wording on the operating agreement as content was inherited from another BID– this was agreed. A copy of the new agreement will be loaded onto the website.
- (iii) Operations – The next walk-round is on 15th February. An improvement has been seen, and we have also encouraged private landlords to keep their areas clean with some success. Hugh Peacocke said that NTC/WBC had amalgamated their grounds maintenance including parks.
- (iv) Marketing - Rob Boobyer queried the decimal places under B2C – RD to investigate.
- (v) Footfall – Newbury continues to outperform the region and UK with positive growth. Parkway showed similar results.
- (vi) Vacancy Data – We have seen a decline in new openings, this is more noticeable in prominent locations than usual.

RESOLVED: That the report be approved.

7. A.O.B

Rotary Club Youth

Graeme Leech introduced Rotary Club Youth. They are working with schools and business and would like to give a Rotary Youth Leadership Award for someone aged 18-25 years. Graeme would like the BID to advertise this initiative to help find a candidate for sponsorship. Andy Murrill/Andy Marmot/Russell Downing work with the Skills & Education Partnership. It is felt so many of our talented youth leave school, go to University and do not return to Newbury. Andy Day suggested the costs of housing may play a large part in this.

Newbury Weekly News

Andy Murrill explained the sad loss of the Newbury Weekly News Print Room, which resulted in approximately 30 redundancies. Thankfully they have all found alternative employment. The Newbury Weekly News will now be printed at Yattendon Estates, and the group continues to be a viable businesses.

Matt Garvey wondered if it was possible for the Business News section to have a permanent BID feature to promote things like the Rotary initiative and West Berkshire Training Consortium.

Best Dressed Window

Fiona Crook Smith said there was some disappointment amongst retailers with the window judging. It was felt that runners up to need to be recognised for their effort in the future maybe with a gold, silver and bronze award would be appropriate.

Civic Awards

Newbury Town Council are to launch their Civic Awards and would like to nominate a young person aged 21+ as part of the Business Awards. They would like the BID community to become involved.

Vice Chair

Ross announced Scott Waters has stepped up to be Vice Chair.

NOTE: Apologies - It is apparent some members did not receive board papers due to the file size. Russell has created a Dropbox File and sent out email invitations to join – if you have any problems please contact him.

Next Meeting 15th March, 2018 (note the room is only available until 12.15)