



THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD AT ITS NEXT MEETING

A Meeting of the Abingdon BID Board Was held on Wednesday 1st March 2017

Attendance:

Paul Holt, Bryan Brown, Stuart Bates, Mel Inness, Julie Downing, Russell Downing, Suzanne Huggett.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of: Mark Thornton, Rob Broadbent, Kevin Thomson, Nick Crosford, Andrew Watts, Sandy Lovatt, Mel Smans.

3. A.O.B:

Dean Bigley from the Crown & Thistle has now left, a new manager has been appointed who has been invited onto the board, unfortunately he could not attend this evening but will be invited to the next.

4. Minutes

There being no matters arising, Paul Holt proposed the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Mel Inness.

5. Correspondence

None received.

6. BID Managers Report

Julie Downing started the report by stating that engagement with the businesses is still an issue. If any of the board could help with this that would be beneficial. Even if we get negative criticism we can work with that, any engagement is better than nothing.

Mel Inness and Suzanna Huggett mentioned that it would be useful for the board to see the draft of the newsletter before it goes out so they could add and give opinion, also board members names to be added. This will be actioned in the next addition.

RESOLVED: That the report be accepted by the Board

7. Finance

Stuart Bates – nothing to report.



RESOLVED: That the report be accepted by the Board

8. Project Up-date

8.1 A well-Known Town

We are working with Fairacres Retail Park to see the best way of helping advertising the Town. Window displays in the old Beales unit will be designed to advertise Retail, Leisure and History in the Town. Also, there is the chance to use a permanent advertising space on the entrance/exit of the retail park. Annual events leaflet is in process of being distributed throughout Abingdon and surrounding areas to try and draw people into the Town for events. Second leaflet is in design stage to advertise 'all things good' in Abingdon. Julie Downing to arrange a meeting with the Town Council to discuss. Now working more with Experience Oxfordshire with blogs, news for their promotional material.

8.2. An Eventful Town

Julie Downing to talk to event organisers to see if we could expand on the events that are held in the Town.

8.3. An Attractive Town

Bunting will be extended hopefully down Stert Street in late Spring as long as the stress tests allow. The agents of the old Smiths Chemist will be cleaning up the shop front in the next few weeks.

8.4. A Productive Town

Meercat utilities will be starting in April. Each business will be visited by a representative to give the full information on the services available.

Working in partnership with the Vale to provide digital workshops throughout the year.

RESOLVED: That the report be accepted by the Board

9. K.P.I's

9.1 Footfall

Footfall was down 6% on last month.

The sensors will be left where they are for now to allow for a whole years of data.

9.2 Vacant Units



Julie Downing presented the vacant unit report, Abingdon currently sits considerably above the regional average.

Stan James' lease on the High Street has now been taken.

RESOLVED: That the report be accepted by the Board

A.O.B

Next newsletter to make it clear that the levy is based on the Rateable value and that lobbying is taking place.

Abingdon BID website, keep the domain but take off line.

Next meeting: 12th April 2017 – Crown & Thistle