

Minutes of Bute BID Board Meeting

Date: 7th August 2024

Location: Bute Fabrics 5.30pm

Attendees: John Glen (JG)
 Sophie Reid (SR)
 Erin Murphy (EM)
 Ian McCulloch(IM)
 Duncan Martin (DM)
 Willie Glen (WG)
 Reeni Kennedy-Boyle (RKB)
 Fergus Murray (FM)
 David Adams McGilp (DAM)
 Kirsty Durrant (KD)
 Dorothy McDonald (DCM)
 Alayne Byers (AB)

Matters Discussed

Action

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Sara Goss
2. **Declarations of Interest:** DM advised that he has become a Board Member of Regal Enterprise Bute Ltd – which is taking forward plans for the Royal Hotel.
3. **Bute Kitchen Presentation:** Lizzie McKirdy gave a presentation about Bute Kitchen and explained what Bute Kitchen does and why they are requesting funding. Currently 17 levy-paying businesses are members of Bute Kitchen. Lizzie McKirdy left the meeting at 6.05pm.
4. **Minutes** of the Meeting held on 19th June were approved.
5. **Matters Arising from Minutes:**
 - a. Mid-term Evaluation. There has been a very poor response to invitations to attend a focus group with Richard Whitcomb. DCM will discuss potential solutions with Richard. RKB suggested follow up with the attendees from the Business Brunches. DCM
6. **Update from Argyll and Bute Council:**
 - a. FM updated on progress with the Pavilion and Royal Hotel.
 - b. The council are in the process of appointing a non-domestic rates officer to tackle the empty buildings issue.
 - c. FM introduced Kirsty Durrant as part of the Project Team who will assist with council support to BIDS and others.
 - d. KD will liaise with DCM to finalise the Operating Agreement as well as to discuss the Strategic Event and Festivals Funding once it has been released.
7. **Update from Visit Scotland:**
 - a. DAM advised that there was no public body interested in running the Discovery Centre so interest from the community will now be sought. He advised that Jenny Minto will arrange another meeting on Bute. EM asked about the potential for a commercial buyer. DAM suggested that interested parties should be referred to him. RKB suggested a local vehicle is required to do an options appraisal, so costs and a valuation are needed soon.
8. **Annual Plan Progress Report and Financial Report:**

DCM's written report, including the final quarter budget, was accepted. Board Members agreed to take some of the remaining 5000 Visit Bute leaflets to locations on the mainland and it was suggested DCM consider putting some of the leaflets on other CALMAC ferries. ALL BOARD
DCM

9. Christmas Event Update:

DCM reported that she had been informed that the council policy has changed and power from lampposts for Christmas Lights will no longer be provided by the council. FM will follow this up and he was not aware of this change and he is in charge of organising the Christmas lights in Lochgilphead. Regular meetings are taking place to plan the event.

FM

10. EGM

a. IM requested the Board to hold an EGM in the format of a meeting that can be split into smaller groups. It was agreed that the Mid-term review process, which included levy-payer meetings, would fulfil this function at present.

11. AoCB – Proposal from Uist Beo – Digital Platform

Live Uist is a population retention project using a platform to share success stories from people in Uist, they are looking to do the same for Skye and Bute and are looking for a host for the person doing the job. The Board requested further details, such as the running costs to then take on and continue the project and whether or not the BID/ host would own the IP address etc.

DCM

12. Any other competent business:

IM asked why the council cut the grass for land and grassy verges owned by Mount Stuart. RKB advised that the council cut the verges for public safety. IM suggested that Mount Stuart should cut their own grass. RKB will raise the issue on Ian's behalf.

RKB

13. Record of Board Approvals:

- a. Expenditure limits were agreed that within approved budgets the following rules will apply:- up to £500 Manager, £500-1000 approval by Board Chair/Vice-chair required, over £1000 approval by full Board required.
- b. It was agreed to support Bute Kitchen with funding of £3k which will be subject to KPIs which closely align with BID objectives.
- c. Approval for purchase spring bulbs for town centre planting (perhaps also for Port Bannatyne and Kilchattan bay) with volunteer planting sessions to be arranged in September.
- d. Approval to provide Tour Guiding Training and develop new visitor experiences. DCM to offer the training to senior pupils of Rothesay Academy as well as other interested local adults.
- e. Approval to purchase some items for the Christmas Event prior to the end of September.
- f. Approval to provide 50% business development grants and event development grants during the winter months as previously suggested.
- g. Approval to provide attractive window treatments to empty shops.
- h. Approval for DCM to explore further ideas re Port Bannatyne midget submarine.

14. Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 11th September 2024.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm