

Minutes of Bute BID Board Meeting

Date: 10 Sept 25	
Location: Bute Fabrics 5.30pm	
Attendees: John Glen (JG) Phil Prentice (PP) Sophie Reid (SR) Duncan Martin (DM) Ian McCulloch (IM)	
Apologies for Absence: Reeni Kennedy-Boyle (RKB) , Fergus Murray (FM), Kirsty Durrant (KD) Jill Devlin (JD)	
Declarations of Interest: None	
Matters Discussed	Action
1. Minutes of previous meeting of 20 Aug 25 - Approved	
2. Update from DAM of Visit Scotland: No update	
3. Update from Argyll and Bute Council KD submission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are continuing to work with Phil and are awaiting news from the UK Government for the Community Regeneration Funding. - We have worked with Robertsons for them to use an empty shop premises on Bute with grant aid coming through our shopfront improvement monies. The upgraded shop unit will be used by them through the rest of the pavilion project and then returned back into use. - Playground games planning – The application was registered on 5th September (reference number is 25/01437/PP) and an advert will appear in the Isle of Bute News on 19th September with the period for representations expiring on 10th October. Steven Gove will be over on Bute tomorrow to post the Site Notice. - Contaminated land – We are waiting for a timescale for the soil testing and I will continue to keep you updated on progress. 	
Agenda Points	Action
PP – Introduction and Observations to date Meeting with Dorothy McDonald to discuss Winter Garden and a potential role for the BID & Visit Bute in the front 2 offices. Julie Tait, Pavilion. Discussion on how the BID can link with the Pavilion and the greater Bute business community. Lots of positive feedback in the town and negativity only from a select few who will always be against the BID process. Key focus has got to be transparency and communication with Levy Payers. War Memorial – move signage.	PP

<p>Planning for Playground still in consultation with contamination issue.</p> <p>Linda – Island Red Phone Box trail development. Wellness, advertising, fun network. Very interesting and will carry on work into how BID can help support.</p> <p>Port Bannatyne Development Trust – possibility of working with them for the Trust to take on the Toilet block from the council and clean / manage to keep at the expected standard and generate some income from potentially.</p> <p>Events – Halloween well organised. BID will just support and do a shop window best dressed event. Similar with Christmas – to discuss.</p> <p>Volunteers – Sean and Scott cleaning town and a little flower bed maintenance in hi -vis to promote the BID. Need to grow number of volunteers. Making sure we are not doing the council’s job as they are currently not meeting the requirement of their baseline service agreement as this would vex the Levy payers and also the Board!</p> <p>IM encouraged PP to have the council clean the bins and then sweep the roads and not the backward way they are currently doing it.</p> <p>PP having a meeting with the council to walk round town to highlight the areas needing urgent attention as parts of town look dreadful. IM highlighted Dunoon town centre as to what we should aspire to and why we are not at this level? Hygiene worst PP has seen for a number of years.</p> <p>The Royal Hotel – PP looking into wrapping it to hide the eyesore until the future of it is finally agreed.</p> <p>Business Improvement Scheme – Grants coming in and PP will review when back from leave. Focus on making the best difference by going for as many low / middle value grants as we can afford and not a small number of high value. All successful businesses will have BID stickers in their displays.</p> <p>TVL will await the vote results but feeling is it will happen. DM, SR, IM all adamant that the funds raised on Bute must stay on Bute. DM outlined the Jersey scenario where hotels / B&B’s have priced them out the market as a destination and visitor numbers well down. SR highlighted importance to Bute of the top end luxury accommodation offer.</p> <p>October consultation meeting – will be hosted by PP with Andrew Spense from Oban BID doing a short presentation on background and importance of BIDs. If Board members are present it is as part of the audience and not hosting / presenting. Agreement from the Board will be confirmed by email JJ. Oban BID success highlighted with a small Levy income but now becoming a serious events destination.</p> <p>Vicinity system a massive asset to drive the BID. To be populated by Board members with any contacts / discussions had with Levy payers PP</p>	
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<p>Cathy Craig (CC) AITC to provide specific metrics for Bute visitor numbers and spend which has been asked for by SR and only general whole area numbers provided. PP following up with CC. We need to evidence our spend with AITC for Levy payers and also show monthly the success of the BID in marketing the island and Cal Mc must send us numbers monthly. PP to follow up with Peter Griffiths.</p> <p>Cruise Ship just been announced to be docking at Bute on Friday SR. Difficult as forecast is awful so tricky to organise the usual welcome committee! Play it by ear and decision to be made afternoon of 11/09.</p>	

AOCB	

The meeting closed at 7.10pm