

MINUTES

Discover Dunblane BID



Board Meeting: 17 June 2017

Venue: Riverside, Dunblane

Present

Chair: Graham Fleming, GF (Bennett's), Tracey Erskine, TE (Erskine Eyecare), Markus Beher, MB (Cathedral City Estates)

Apologies

Tom Casey, TC (Charisma), Wilma Lyon, WL (Beech Tree Cafe), Richard Noakes, RN

In attendance

Scott Abercrombie, SA (Project Manager)

1. Welcome & Introduction

Graham Fleming welcomed everyone to the meeting. SA was invited to lead the discussion topics

2. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes were accepted as written

Proposed by GF, seconded by MB

3. Finance update

Discover Dunblane BID funds remain healthy. The BID account with Stirling Council is still receiving income from the most recent levy, at the last check the balance held is: £9,667.66. This is available for drawdown as and when required.

Two businesses have yet to pay their invoices, Dunblane Store and Co-operative Foodstore. However it has been confirmed the Co-op invoice was lost in the post and has since been re-sent and approved for payment

4. Promoting

Promoting Spend for the next quarter

A discussion was had regarding the nature of promoting spending over the next quarter. Following this discussion, SA proposed a portion of the budget be used to fund online marketing of Dunblane during the quieter period in the build up to Christmas. Online platforms Facebook and Google ads were suggested as the means of distribution with the highest anticipated success rate.

The board asked the promoting group discuss the proposed budget for the Christmas Extravaganza prior to this spending being discussed and approved.

**** Promoting group to discuss/SA to prepare figures**

Bunting

The board agreed to a budget of £500 to purchase bunting for use at BID and community events, including Wimbledon and at the Christmas Extravaganza.

**** SA to source and order bunting**

Murray Court Proposal

Board agreed in principal to the proposal to apply for the area outside the gallery to be named. The board agreed the support of the community council and DDT would be key for the proposal to go ahead.

**** TC to discuss with the DCP**

5. Enhancing

Network Rail:

Stu and met with Network Rail along with DCC and DDT. Key points:

1. Preparatory work for the contra flow is underway and is expected to be finished 1st week in July. This will not result in any road closures.
2. We have asked Network to confirm dates when utilities contractors will need to implement the contra flow, to complete diversion of utilities in the work site. Final detailed plans have not yet been submitted by utility companies.
3. The dual carriageway will be closed while the large crane is built for the installation of the new bridge. New bridge will be installed over the weekend of 14th October and on this weekend the rail line will be closed also. Negotiations have brought the initial closure period down from an estimated 4 months to 12-14 days. Likely dates (tbc) are from 9th October to 22nd Oct, but this date could be brought forward to the 18th/19th.
4. We have requested further details on plans and have set a target for the project to be finished before Christmas - current plans show Feb '18.
5. We have requested that solid hoardings with pictures showing the town centre area be erected around the site area. We have shown pictures of what we have endured with previous contractors and have been given assurance that the standard will be significantly better. Discussions continue on this.
6. Parking - once the contra flow is in use there will be 10 short term parking spaces re-instated on the north lane of the dual carriageway. In total there will be a loss of c.30 free parking spaces on the south bound for the duration of the work.
7. Communication - NR have failed to meet their target date for issuing communications and holding information meetings for the public and businesses. Latest dates are for a communication to go to all residents by w/c 26th and for information meetings to be held between 28/6 and 4/7 - but we have not received confirmation that yes dates will be achieved.

Introduction of 2 hour free parking on North bound dual carriageway

1. Through great support from Graham Houston (local SNP councillor) and in several meetings with senior management of Stirling Council, we now expect the necessary processes to be completed in a few months time to enable implementation of the 2 hour

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free parking. A further meeting is scheduled end of this week when it is hoped that a better indication of a date will be provided.

Cathedral Square concept and consultation

1. Following completion of initial consultation events and an analysis of the online questionnaire, we are pleased to confirm that the initial concept drawing had now been removed. The project team is currently considering next steps in order to complete this phase.
2. It is important to note that there are no funds secured for delivering any agreed design. So any design that is agreed (and there are improvements that can be made for access in the Cathedral Square area), can be set aside and taken forward at a time when both funding is secured and when the community is ready for implementation.

Vacant Premises

The following premises are currently vacant:-

1. Former D. A. Hunter retail unit, High Street
2. Former Honey & Violet retail unit, High Street
3. Former Archie's Flowers & Gifts retail unit, High Street
4. Former Scottish Hydro retail unit, High Street
5. Former Tickety Boo office space, High Street
6. Former Fuzzies barber shop, High Street
7. Former Dunblane Podiatry clinic/office space, off High Street (stairs adjacent to Sue Ryder)
8. Various units at Duckburn Ind. Estate
9. Unit 9 at RFL House

The board discussed the options available to the BID with regard to supporting the successful occupancy of the units mentioned. It should be noted that all units mentioned are currently in private hands and for most agents have been assigned. It was felt by the board that there was little the BID could do in reality in addition to the efforts by the agents to source tenants other than continue to share the details of the properties available and support discussions towards occupancy.

The board agreed the BID should continue to liaise with property owners to ensure as much as is possible complimentary businesses are welcomed and encouraged to trade in Dunblane.

6. Supporting

Christmas Extravaganza

The promoting group will meet soon to discuss the Christmas Extravaganza. As already discussed, a discussion should take place to establish the budget for the event. Once this has been agreed, the board will sign-off

7. AOB - None

8. Date of next meeting

Monday 4 September 2017, 17:30 in the Riverside