



## **MINUTES**

### **Sutton Coldfield BID Board Meeting**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 4.30pm**

**Coburg Banks, Wrens Court, South Parade, Sutton Coldfield**

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

In attendance (alphabetical order):

- Alison Clack – Cerda Planning
- Cllr David Barrie – Birmingham City Council
- Cllr Richard Parkin – Sutton Coldfield Town Council
- Dan Sinton – Gracechurch Centre
- David Hemming – Burley Browne
- Kevin Wood – Howdens
- Mark Wilkinson – Coburg Banks
- Michelle Baker – BID Manager
- Stephen Roberts – Robson Lister

Apologies (alphabetical order):

- Anna Jackson – Sutton Coldfield College
- Mark Harris – Harris & Co
- Stephen Nixon – Enoch Evans

MW welcomed all to the meeting at his offices Coburg Banks recruitment and introduced the Gracechurch shopping centre's new representative Dan Sinton. DS provided the Board with an overview of his role and the positive work that the Gracechurch had accomplished in recent months including three new lets in the last few weeks.

MB informed the Board that Chris Prescod, Manager at Brewhouse & Kitchen had moved back to London. The Board agreed that Chris had made a positive contribution to the BID Board and asked for their thanks to be put on record. MW informed the Board that the minutes of July's Board meeting had been uploaded to the BID website, which is done every month.

#### **2. Finance update**

- BID budget – MB said she would circulate the updated cashflow forecast to directors.

- BCC clawback – MB said Birmingham City Council wanted to claw back £27,552 of BID levy from the BID as the City Council said there has been an overpayment to the BID. The Board has requested on numerous occasions evidence of the overpayment and details on which properties the uncollected BID levy relates to and the dates the debt relates to. BCC has said they are not able to provide this but are adamant that they have transferred over funds for businesses that had not actually paid. The Board agreed that it would be negligent for the BID to pay the Council without evidence on how the overpayment has accrued and which businesses did not pay the levy. The BID will then review this data and if it is accurate the Board will pay the money to the Council. MB has this month emailed BCC to request a face-to-face meeting with the BID Board with the Council's head of finance.

### 3. **BID Projects**

MB provided an update to the Board on upcoming BID events:

- NEW 2-Day Food Festival – BID event in partnership with LSD Promotions  
Sat 14<sup>th</sup> & Sun 15<sup>th</sup> September. Opening hours: Sat 10.00 – 20.00. Sun 10.00 – 17.00  
-Press release including list of traders distributed to Board  
-Details of the event entertainment and the kitchen stage demonstrations schedule were discussed  
-LSD Promotions are managing/booking stallholders for the event and the BID is organising/managing the entertainment including the cookery stage
- NEW 22-Day Christmas Chalet Market – BID event in partnership with LSD Promotions  
Thurs 28th November – Sun 22nd December  
Opening hours: Tues – Thurs 10.00–18.00 / Fri & Sat 10.00–20.00 / Sun 10.00–17.00  
-BCC have approved street trading licence  
-MB discussed the press release she had written which had been published by Birmingham Live and the Chamber of Commerce  
-LSD Promotions are managing/booking stallholders for the event and the BID is organising/managing the Christmas entertainment in the town



The Board agreed that both events will be brilliant for the town.

RP said the Town Council had proposed subsidising free parking in the town centre for the past three years, but Birmingham City Council have turned it down. RP said he is hopeful that the proposal will be approved this year and that it would benefit the 22-day Christmas market.

- Meet the Gruffalo event – Sun 27<sup>th</sup> October – same day as Farmers & Craft Market to assist the footfall in town on that day. This event is in partnership with Gracechurch, and they are paying half of the character costs and hosting the meet and greet. DS said this will be part of a wider event with a woodland theme. KW said Howden Insurance are holding a free photo shoot on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October.



- Graffiti removal on private business premises/land has been scheduled for September by the BID. KW said there is graffiti on the side of Howden Insurance,
- Three new litter bins have been ordered by the BID, for installation at the police station (bin replacement). College (bin replacement) and DVSA office (new bin) and will be installed this month.
- The bunting along The Parade that was installed in April and will be taken down 8<sup>th</sup> October. RP asked when the Christmas lights will be installed, MB said she did not know as they are installed by BCC.



- MB said when she joined as BID Manager in May 2022, the BID's Facebook page had 1,300 followers after ten years of operating and in the last 2 years this has increased by 8,700, reaching a new target of 10,000 followers.
- MB distributed a draft copy of the BID Newsletter 'September 2024' issue and said it will be printed by Mainstream Print, then hand delivered and emailed to businesses next week.
- New BCC / Police Task and Finish group – MB said she has been invited to be part of new group with BCC, Police, Town Council, Gracechurch to focus on the

town's crime and safety. The issues that were discussed by the new group were:

- Tackling street begging – MB outlined a successful BID project in Cardiff where anyone wishing to donate money to homelessness could do so at a specific contactless point on a vacant shop window and the funds raised were distributed to homeless charities. Instead of giving cash
- Reintroduce the business crime radio scheme – DS said Gracechurch now offer this to their tenants
- Under reporting of crime remains an issue – Inspector Ahmed raised this as issue

#### **4. Review of Summer BID events**

MB provided a review of BID events that had taken place:

##### Kid's Music Workshop

This event took place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August (the day after Bank Holiday Monday) outside Trespass and Waterstones. It was a free event for children to enjoy making some noise this summer.



##### Kid's Carfest

Following the success of last year's event, we brought Kid's Carfest back on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August. 7 cars from TV and film were parked along The Parade along with free entertainment including children's face painting, glitter tattoos, craft workshop, bubble-ologist, balloon modeller and a live music.

MB said the footfall had been good but not as high as last year's Kid's Carfest. KW said next year could be different cars. DS said the rain in the morning had not helped.



### Fireman Sam

Sutton Coldfield Fire Station held their annual Open Day on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August and to support their event we arranged for Fireman Sam to attend for a free meet and greet and we promoted the event on our social media platforms to raise awareness. The event was a huge success and the Station Master said they raised £3,000 for the Firefighters Charity which is an open day record! AC asked if the fire station is a BID Member and MB said they are.



### Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival

We were delighted to support the festival's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and we funded live jazz and blues bands and musicians for the following local venues (BID members):

- |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| • Brewhouse & Kitchen            | • Simpson's Bar  |
| • Coffee Number 1                | • Token Tea      |
| • Eleon                          | • The Duke Inn   |
| • Heavenly Desserts              | • The Gate       |
| • House of Fraser Café Botantico | • The Station    |
| • Patty Freaks                   | • The Three Tuns |

### Euro 2024

To celebrate the Euro's, we organised free football table fun on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 13<sup>th</sup> July. The Gracechurch Centre paid 50% of event costs as a partnership project and hosted the football tables in Bishop's Court





### Dino Day

Due to the success of T-Rex visiting Sutton Coldfield two years ago, we organised Dino Day on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. T-Rex was the star of the show, and he was joined by other dinosaurs, the Jurassic Park jeep and free entertainment including face painting, bubble-ologist and balloon modelling.



## **5. Upcoming BID Events**

- Food Festival – Sat 14<sup>th</sup> & Sun 15<sup>th</sup> September
- Vegan Market – Sun 17<sup>th</sup> November
- Meet The Gruffalo – Sun 27<sup>th</sup> October
- Christmas Chalet Market – Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> November – Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> December
- Monthly Farmers & Craft Market – last Sunday of the month March–Nov

## **6. Updates relating to the BID area**

- Update from The Gracechurch Centre. DS provided a detailed update on the Gracechurch centre including the new tenants and future plans.
- Update from Sutton Coldfield College. AJ was not present.
- Update from Sutton Coldfield Town Council. RP provided an update and said the funding for the transport hub is protected, the Town Council have sent all residents a survey and dependent on the data from the survey, the precept may be increased. SR said this was unlikely to be supported by residents.
- Update from Birmingham City Council. DB provided an update and said the sale of the Red Rose Centre is key for the town.

## **7. Any other business**

- BID Chair, BID Manager, SR, AC are all meeting with MP Andrew Mitchell on Fri 25<sup>th</sup> October to provide an update on the positive work of the BID.
- MB said the BID Board have been invited to visit the McCarthy Stone retirement apartments. AC, DB said they would be interested in visiting. MB to arrange.
- BID representation on new Town Board. RP said the Town Council has asked government whether this is still going ahead.
- Planning policy – SR, DH, AC discussed the need for a BID Policy on how the BID reacts to planning applications and possible letters to support / oppose. AC to draft a policy for the BID.

AC said she would like an item for the next agenda to be, the BID's strategy for Birmingham Road and the High Street.