

The BedfordBID Company Limited
2016 Annual General Meeting
Monday 17th October 2015, 6.00pm, Bedford Swan Hotel



BedfordBID
Business Improvement District
Funded by Town Centre Businesses
www.lovebedford.co.uk

ATTENDED

Directors:

Sam Laycock (Chair)	Harpur Centre
John Yatchisin (Vice Chair)	Woodfines
Charles Royden	Bedford Borough Council
Mark Thompson	The Reuse Centre
Christina Rowe	BedfordBID
Zap Hussain	McDonald's
Dave Roffey	Bedford College

Also Attended:

Atul Kariya (MacIntyre Hudson), Andrew Dennison (MacIntyre Hudson), Jacquie Manners (Manners PR), Mark Short (Marks & Spencer), Sam Damiano (EE), Jules (Top Shop), Simon Russell-Roberts (Toni & Guy), Peggy Butland (Pegalicious), Jan Page (Arcadia), Debbie Page (Arcadia), Jedd Lawrence (Charisma), Jan Lawrence (Charisma), Nov (Novakovic & Co), Zulekha Jaffer (Topshop), Dave Hodgson (Mayor of Bedford), Victoria Panther (BedfordBID), Lorraine Sparrow (BedfordBID), Surjit Singh (BedfordBID).

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Sam opened the meeting and thanked all for attending.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Those present were provided with a comprehensive and detailed printed explanation of all activity carried out in 2015/16 aligned to the business plan. Sam outlined key points and thanked the Bluecaps and BID team for their work.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Andrew Dennison from MacIntyre Hudson presented the report, with an explanation of some key points.

- Timing differences due to cash accounts both in terms of payments and income
- Cash held at end of year £152k – to cover costs including voucher liability, VAT and project expenditure required for the new financial year
- Timing of income is variable – fallback needed in case of any delayed payments from businesses and the Council
- Voucher income netted off against vouchers redeemed. Always a cost due to promotional vouchers and discounts. Any changes due to fluctuations in redemptions and amounts sold
- Drop in income turnover reflects drop in levied hereditaments with conversions from businesses to residential properties

It was noted that the level of disclosure is more than most companies, encouraging transparency. Sam thanked Dave Roffey for his support.

4. ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

To adopt the Report of the Directors and Financial Statements.

AGREED: There were no objections to adopting the report.

To elect Accountants for the ensuing year and authorise the Directors to fix the Accounts' remuneration.

AGREED: There were no objections to MacIntyre Hudson continuing as accountants to BedfordBID or remuneration.

5. ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director(s) standing for re-appointment

Steve McBrearty, Cash Converters

Proposer: Christina Rowe, BedfordBID

Seconder: Kamljit Chana, TK Heaven

Mark Thompson, The Reuse Centre

Proposer: Zap Hussain, McDonalds

Seconder: Sam Laycock, Harpur Centre

Michael Green, Blue Arrow

Proposer: Dave Roffey, Bedford College

Seconder: Christina Rowe, BedfordBID

Members standing for election as Directors

Gareth Ecott, Boots

Proposer: John Yatchisin, Woodfines Solicitors

Seconder: Dave Roffey, Bedford College

Mark Short, Marks & Spencer

Proposer: Sam Laycock, Harpur Centre

Seconder: John Yatchisin, Woodfines Solicitors

Rob Bartlett, The Standard

Proposer: Kamljit Chana, TK Heaven

Seconder: Zap Hussain, McDonalds

Deborah Page, Arcadia Sweets

Proposer: Natasha Trudgill, Bedford Swan Hotel

Seconder: Christina Rowe, BedfordBID

Margaret Butland, Pegalicious

Proposer: Sam Laycock, Harpur Centre

Seconder: Mark Thompson, The Reuse Centre

There were 8 candidates for 8 vacancies so no vote was necessary.

APPROVED: Steve McBrearty, Mark Thompson, Michael Green, Gareth Ecott, Mark Short, Rob Bartlett, Debbie Page and Peggy Butland were all agreed to become BID Board Directors.

Sam thanked all the Directors for their continuing support and for giving up their time voluntarily.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Simon asked what is happening with the old BHS unit and was concerned that it might become a charity shop. Dave Hodgson said that the Council are in talks with the owners of the building, but can't say yet what plans for the unit are, only that it should not be a disappointment. The Council don't want to see BHS empty for as long as the Woolworths unit was.

Simon added that parking prices in Cambridge centre are going up to £26 for 5 hours, leading to people who usually shop in Cambridge going to Peterborough instead. He felt it would be good to get some of these people to Bedford instead, especially since it is nearer.

Sam noted that the 2 hours free parking on a Saturday has improved footfall in the Harpur Centre.

Nov has noticed continued issues with traffic on Lurke Street on Saturdays due to so many cars trying to park in the Lidl car park and feels that an improved system needs to be put in place. Cars queuing up Lurke Street are blocking access to Lurke Street car park. Bedford Borough Council have been monitoring the situation on CCTV and said that it has improved since Lidl reduced their parking time from 2 hours to 1 hour. Debbie suggested improving signage on Lurke Street to state that 1 hours free parking is available in Lidl car park while you can park free for 2 hours in Lurke Street multi-storey.

Simon asked if the Riverside North development is on target. The Mayor responded that the developers say they are 2 weeks behind but Dave believes them to be on schedule. The handover is still expected for February with rent being paid from the middle of next year. It was confirmed that development is within the BID area. Parking will be available close to the area in River Street multi-storey car park, plus Prebend Street surface car park, and in the Bedford College car park on weekends.

Sam added that town centre are becoming more based on a social experience rather than just retail, and that Riverside North can add to this with the cinema offering, helping people to enjoy a full day out in Bedford.

Sam thanked those present for attending and asked them to try to attend open Board meetings. The meeting was closed at 7pm.