

BID Board Meeting

Date: 28th Jan deferred to & 7th Feb
Time: 11am
Venue: TEAMS-Online
Present: Vice Chair: Jonathan Oldroyd (JO), Gloucester House
Graham Perry (GP), The Bridge Fair Trade Shop
Lynne Fisher (LF), St John's Guest House
Tamsin Mutton Mcknight (TMM), Merlin / SEA LIFE
Hayley Moore (HM) The Flamingo Room.
Cllr Jon Orrell, (CJO) Dorset Council

In Attendance: Dawn Rondeau (DR), Chief Operations Officer, We Are Weymouth
Cllr Rob Hughes (CRH) Dorset council

WELCOME

JO welcomed everyone and as Vice Chair informed the board that CT had sent his apologies and therefore JO would be chairing the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from
Chris Truscott (CT), McDonalds
Jye Dixey (JD) The William Henry JD Wetherspoon
Cllr Jon Worth (CJW) Dorset council
Helen Heanes, (HH) Dorset council

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

OBSERVERS

Cllr Rob Hughes (CRH) Dorset council

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

No matters arising from previous minutes.

GOVERNANCE

- (a) DR Updated board that levy collection is ahead of projections for this financial year with 77% by end of December, £10K collected this month.
- (b) The board discussed Josephine Claxton form Ebike Café application to be a board member representing the food & drink sector as well as the harbour, encouraged by her background in sales and events. The board unanimously agreed to appoint her to the board

BOA/1910/7 FINANCE REPORT

(a) Updates & Budgets

The board had acknowledged in November's meeting that cashflow was lean and that any financial decisions had to be made with this in mind. CT had requested that DR bring a

financial summary and proposal for the next 4yrs to the January board for discussion and encouraged all board members to attend this crucial meeting.

DR presented a PowerPoint to the board outlining current commitments, projects which had been originally budgeted for and project pots. Due to government changes on ratable value, yearly billing cycle as well as increasing costs, DR shared that we are faced with a reduction on our projected income of circa £120K over 4yrs and narrower margins with which to deliver the next BID term. The presentation encouraged discussions on how BID delivers on promises, has increased visibility, and continues to develop projects, increase footfall, covers, and stays for our Levy payers increasing the love for what we do. In short, we need to ensure the BID needs to continue to play an active part in growing Weymouth's Economy for future years.

DR outlined presented scenarios which offered solutions making a difference despite decreased income as well as how to capitalise on income with grants and advertising whilst ensuring other sectors are more accountable

Discussion ensued on both general and specific scenarios. Suggestions such as

- Funding request windows with directives to prevent projects from applying beyond a threshold eg: funding window in April for Autumn 2024 grants for up to £4K to support events based on ROI to our levy payers, September window for grants in Spring/Summer 2025, so we can budget effectively. DR to approach all previously funded projects to ask if they will be intending to make a funding request this financial year eg: Pirates, Motocross as well as new projects DR aware of.
- DR to get costs for other funding request such as WTC flyers, SAVI and renewals.
- BID to press police commissioner to restore a visible police presence as there used to be an 8 member police unit for the town and now only one PCSO. All cuts occurred after 2010 and not restored. DR to hold a WCRP meeting and provide stats and detail from retailers on lack of Police presence and what is needed for Weymouth. Invite David Sidwick and others to another Weymouth crime reduction partnership meeting, especially as he's up for re-election as well in May.
- Developing cashflow forecast based on reserves, fixed costs, commitments to make a custodial decision as a board on best use of resources.
- Accommodation BIDS were also highlighted as a long-term solution for BID 4 to define BIDs within Weymouth where a Tourism tax would be allocated within bookings and not a levy to business owners this might suit Haven and Waterside, Premier Inn and Best Western but research needs to be undertaken about whether this was an inclusive scheme and how could the money be spent for Tourism. Future planning required.

Whilst DR had presented worst case scenario there was optimism that this wasn't as bad as originally presented due to reserves, agreement that radical cuts at this crucial time was maybe not necessary, rather refinement and capping on projects and for DR to create projections based on actual commitments.

BOA/1910/8 MARKETING

- (a) No questions were raised

IMPROVE

- (a) JO raised question reference BID response to the Carnival. All in agreement that BID could not support an August Carnival in 2024 due to the committee ploughing ahead with August despite reservations and guidance. But the board still wanted to keep dialogue open should the carnival committee approach BID again with an October date or proof of financial viability in 2025. Agreement was made

internally to maintain discussions regarding whether BID should support Dusk til Dark or Carnival in Future years.

The board voted unanimously against supporting Weymouth Carnival in 2024.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Deferred to February 28th Board meeting

SHAPE

DR highlighted attendance at Barge Community Impact group and matters raised by levy payers regarding requests for directions to general public, offering services for cash and increased numbers of groups of men in the town during mid-afternoons.

Board requested DR to offer maps to Barge and encourage staff to request that these are distributed rather than asking general public for directions.

Request as to information on increased presence of CSAS where, when and what are they dealing with, as information for business community plus

Request CSAS attend WCRP.

DR to continue to progress with home office money for positive PR to identify positive PR projects such as video footage for the town.

AOB

None

DATE OF NEXT & SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS

28th February - Pilgrim House

ACTIONS & DECISIONS LOG