

OSWESTRY BID - Minutes
 Wednesday 12th January 2022, 2pm
Location: Video Conference

	Present Ian Follington (IF) - Chair James Woodward (JW), Cold Move Lee Lucks (LL), Oswestry Borderland Tourism Tim Morris (TM), Booka Mark Derham (MD), Bridge Coffee Tania McGee (TMc), Lanyon Bowdler Duncan Tipton (DT), Wilko Patrick Evans (PE), Evans Enterprises Stuart Phillips (SP), Celt Rowland Graeme Kirkham (GK), Knock and Snitch Adele Nightingale (AN) - BID Manager Lindsey Pierce (LP) – BID Assistant Manager John Waine (JW2) – BID Admin Matt Potts, (MP) - Shropshire Council	ACTIONS
1.	Welcomes and Apologies: IF welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies from Samantha Cleal – Niche Patisserie Ltd	
2.	Minutes of Last meeting and Actions arising: Minutes of last meeting approved. Any actions arising to be dealt with during the meeting.	
3.	Conflicts of Interest. No conflicts of interest with Board members declared.	
4.	Governance I. Confirm appointment of Chair AN advised that the board needed to confirm the Chair following the AGM and IF was happy to stand again Vote: Agreed and IF confirmed as Chair II. Confirmed extension of lease on BID Office AN confirmed that a new lease on the BID Office, of 3 years with a 12-month break clause if needed, had been agreed. III. Confirm % rate of BID levy for 2022-2023 Proposal to maintain BID Levy Rate at 1.75% and not add inflation was presented to the Board. Vote: Agreed	

5.	<p>Finance</p> <p>I. Cash in Bank</p> <p>Cash in the bank as 07/01/22 - £386,985.78</p> <p>II. Levy Collection Year to date</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Liability (£)</th> <th>Receipts (£)</th> <th>Credits (£)</th> <th>Balance O/S</th> <th>% Collected</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018-2019</td> <td>250,872.88</td> <td>253,792.57</td> <td>3,832.70</td> <td>913.01</td> <td>99.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>262,953.18</td> <td>262,032.85</td> <td>1,553.38</td> <td>2,473.71</td> <td>99.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>277,003.69</td> <td>272,352.23</td> <td>2,499.81</td> <td>7,151.27</td> <td>97.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>277,625.06</td> <td>286,690.70</td> <td>18,563.32</td> <td>9,497.68</td> <td>96.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Totals</td> <td>1,068,454.81</td> <td>1,074,868.35</td> <td>26,449.21</td> <td>20,035.67</td> <td>98.12</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Liability (£)	Receipts (£)	Credits (£)	Balance O/S	% Collected	2018-2019	250,872.88	253,792.57	3,832.70	913.01	99.64	2019-2020	262,953.18	262,032.85	1,553.38	2,473.71	99.06	2020-2021	277,003.69	272,352.23	2,499.81	7,151.27	97.42	2021-2022	277,625.06	286,690.70	18,563.32	9,497.68	96.58	Totals	1,068,454.81	1,074,868.35	26,449.21	20,035.67	98.12	
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6.	<p>BID MANAGER'S REPORT</p> <p>I. Future Oswestry Group</p> <p>AN confirmed the final draft Future Oswestry Master Plan, was being compiled for consultation. FOG planned for it to be ready by the end of February/early March at which point it will go out to consultation period, which lasts around 6 weeks.</p> <p>II. Taxis</p> <p>AN updated that nothing substantial has been received from SC officers on Oswestry taxi services rules and regulations. The Board are keen to see if changes can be made to the ruling regarding Hackney Cabs and WAVs, and if any cross-border agreements could be reached to improve local taxi services.</p> <p>AN is supporting a new taxi operator (Oswald Cars) in gaining their Operators License to begin services. This should help ease the situation.</p> <p>III. Old Morrisons</p> <p>AN advised that a planning application has been lodged to demolish the Old Morrisons building. AN will keep pushing for further information on SC plans for the area.</p> <p>IV. Levelling Up Fund</p> <p>The joint application for Round 1 of Central Government Levelling Up funding was unsuccessful. We received feedback on the application, and we will apply again for Round 2 later this year.</p> <p>V. High Street Heritage Action Zone Funding</p> <p>Alleyways Project</p> <p>AN updated that the Alleyways project (to renovate and enhance key alleyways in the Town Centre) is moving quickly and there will be a press release coming out from SC next week. Timelines were really tight and all invoices were needed in by end of March. Planning applications are in and permissions have nearly all been agreed, so moving in the right direction.</p> <p>Shopfront Grants</p> <p>AN confirmed that there has been a strong take of funding for the shop front renovation scheme. The next round will open for applications in the next financial year and there was already some interest. A further grant to 'tidy' up your shop front will be released as well. This will offer 90% match up to £1,200 for a clean-up, paint job or new signage etc.</p>																																					

Flagship Project

AN confirmed that its now looking unlikely that the Regal/B-Wise project will go ahead as proposed. The business case plan doesn't support the capital investment required. FOG are looking at alternative buildings.

Additional Funding

AN confirmed that there are discussions with Heritage England to see if the money for the Flagship project could be re-assigned to other HAZ Projects.

Current idea is to look at Church Street, raising the highway to the level of the footpath. Also considering a clean-up and enhancement of The Cross and a clean-up on Festival Square. AN will update the Board once there is more information.

Cultural Consortium

AN advised that the 'Love Oswestry' Festival was set for the 12th February 2022. Music around the Town Centre, Lantern Parade, a Love Oswestry trail and workshops in the Library and the Museum. The Old Hillfort will be illuminated as well.

VI. Welcome Back Funding

AN updated that nearly all of the £13,000 funding received from SC had been committed/spent. This included the benches facelift, new benches, a bin clean up in the Town Centre and vinyls in B-Wise building windows. It also funded the Christmas Ice Rink.

VII. DARG Funding

AN confirmed that once again, funds received from DARG were almost all committed/spent. This included the Find it, Buy it directories for both the Industrial Estate and Town Centre, the Shop Online, Business Mentoring, Food Festival and Halloween events.

VIII. Rail

A meeting has been set for 26th February 2022 and our new MP (Helen Morgan) will be in attendance to discuss the proposed re-establishment of the Oswestry rail link. A feasibility study, funded by Central Government under the Reverse Beeching Scheme, is to be completed by September 2022.

AN confirmed that they have requested that AN lead the 'Steering Group' and requested confirmation that the Board was happy for this. **CONFIRMED**

IX. Festoon Lighting

AN confirmed that once Highline have taken down all the Christmas Lighting, the Festoon Lighting would go back up.

X. Omicron Grant

MP updated that there would be two new funding schemes and details were currently be finalised. This was similar to the re-start grant and will focus on the hospitality sector.

First part would be launching this week, and will require a new application. Businesses will have around 6 weeks to apply.

7.	<p>BID Second Term Campaign</p> <p>a. Current Levy contribution and expenditure</p> <p>IF ran through both the BID’s income and expenditure and highlighted that the monies received between the Town Centre and Industrial Estate was on a 58%/42% basis and the expenditure was 59%/41% basis and therefore the BID expenditure programme was aligned with Levy Payers contributions by area.</p> <p>b. BID Area</p> <p>Proposal to keep the BID area the same for a Second BID Term Campaign.</p> <p>Vote: Agreed</p> <p>c. BID Levy Basis</p> <p>Proposal to keep the levy rate at 1.75% for a Second BID Term Campaign.</p> <p>Vote: Agreed</p> <p>d. BID Levy Rate</p> <p>AN asked the board if they were happy to keep the Rateable Value at £12,000.</p> <p>Vote: Agreed</p>	
8.	<p>CURRENT PROJECTS</p> <p>a. Sculptures</p> <p>AN confirmed that the Arts Council have elected to not support the proposed match funding for the new sculptures for the Town Centre. The refurbishment of the existing sculptures is nearly finished and just waiting the last one to go up. We have gone over budget, as until some came down, they could not quite estimate the damage.</p> <p>b. Morrisons Gateway</p> <p>AN update that we were still waiting on a response from SC to allow us to plant on the Morrisons roundabout in collaboration with Morrisons and Oswestry in Bloom. AN is continuing to chase SC for permission to proceed.</p> <p>c. Industrial Estate Business Directory</p> <p>AN update that this has gone well and that we had copies circulated within Oswestry Life magazine as well. Now looking at distribution to nearby towns.</p> <p>d. Town Centre Business Directory</p> <p>AN confirmed that an information email had gone to businesses and Hunter Bevan (Consultant) was making initial contact. An advert had been taken out in the Advertiser, to ensure the message gets out to Town Centre businesses and encourage their participation.</p> <p>e. Night Bus</p> <p>AN advised that we were still waiting on the data, however the information received for the first weekend indicated that it was performing better than our first attempt in 2019.</p> <p>Still looking at costs to run this through from April to December, and AN is in discussions with Tanat Valley (Bus Company).</p>	

	<p>LP confirmed that the taxi issues had been raised at Pubwatch and there would be support for a weekend Night Bus from hospitality.</p> <p>f. Rickshaws AN confirm that there was nothing to report and last update had confirmed that they were struggling to get a pilot.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>CORE PROJECTS</p> <p>a. Marketing LP updated that a Marketing meeting was taking place on the 13th January, to run through our plan for the year.</p> <p>LL provided an update on OBT’s current position, new member of staff had started to assist were their marketing and confirmed that they were now looking at another video as there was some funding left over for this.</p> <p>b. LoyalFree JW updated that a Love Oswestry Trail was being set up, to tie in with the Love Oswestry Festival and would launch on the 12th February.</p> <p>c. Shop Local JW confirmed that the structure was nearly done and we were looking to launch in a few weeks.</p> <p>d. Footfall/WiFi JW confirmed that footfall was up 30% in December 2021 from November 2021, which was to be expected due to Christmas. Footfall was up 143% in November and 164% in December 2021 compared to 2020 (whilst in lockdown) which is encouraging</p> <p>Action: JW to look at just the evening footfall on Friday and Saturday nights in December for the night-time economy.</p> <p>e. Wayfinding AN confirmed that the pilot sign is up on the Industrial Estate. It was placed higher than anticipated on the lamp post due to the foliage and AN has requested SC look at trimming the overgrown vegetation, so it can be moved to the correct spot.</p> <p>Board was pleased with the pilot sign and are keen for the programme to be completed as soon as possible.</p> <p>Waiting on SC Highways to confirm that they were happy and then we would look to get the rest of the signs in place.</p> <p>f. Traffic management AN confirmed that all the yellow lines have now been painted on Maes-y-Clawdd and Radford’s Field and the new traffic management scheme is in place.</p> <p>g. Business Mentoring. AN confirmed that this scheme had been well received by businesses. 11 businesses assisted so far and 9 still to go.</p> <p>h. Pubwatch/Shopwatch/Security Patrols in Town Centre</p> <p>Pubwatch LP confirmed that the last Pubwatch meeting had been quiet, however good conversations took place over the night bus and ongoing taxi issues.</p>	

	<p>Shopwatch LP updated that Shopwatch was to be re-launched and we were waiting on availability from the Police to attend.</p> <p>Security Patrols in the Town Centre LP updated that following the reports of Shoplifting from the a core of repeat offenders, we were looking into some sort of Security Patrols. Some BIDs provided rangers, full security patrols or funding towards a PSCO.</p> <p>AN confirmed that Valley Security had been asked for a quote. AN explained that we had discussed with the Police, and they were supportive of the idea. LP and AN would update further once we had more information.</p>	
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>N/A</p>	
11.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>TUESDAY, 4pm on 22nd February 2022</p> <p>VENUE - TBC</p>	