



Minutes

Meeting: West Chester Commercial BID AGM
Date: Thursday 11th May 2023
Time: 12:30pm – 2:00pm
Location: Chester Football Club

- Jordi Morell - Obsidian Group (JM)
- Ann Rogers – Deva Design (AR)
- Lexa Farthing – Library Shared Services (LF)
- Mary Murphy – Proximo Group (MM)
- Chris Leicester – Sanctuary Group (CL)
- Elaine Thomas – Living Floors (ET)
- Jeremy Hartigan – Lavamac (JH)
- Evie Hartigan – Lavamac (EH)
- Shirley Hartigan – Lavamac (SH)
- Mike Dutton – United Carpets (MD)
- Moira Mealing – United Carpets (MM)
- Geoff Smith – The Quad (GS)
- Sue Johnson – QHP (SJ)
- Beryl Morgan – B&S Group Ltd (BM)
- Claire Lewis – Library Shared Services (CL)
- Hollie Connah – Brio Leisure (HC)
- Greville Kelly – Groundwork CLM (GK)
- Hugh Shields – Groundwork CLM (HS)
- Stephanie Leese – Groundwork CLM (SL)
- Gill Williams – CWAC (GW)

Apologies:

- Mark Diaper – Legat Owen (MD)

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Welcome	<p>JM welcomed all those present to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.</p> <p>The BID has now entered BID 2, and there was a 23% increase in the vote since BID 1. JM described the improvements to the area and local services that the BID has provided. JM explained the BID puts on free training courses for BID training courses – there is high demand. Much improved relationship with CWAC.</p> <p>Parking remains a problem still in the area especially due to the closure of the Park and Ride. The BID will aim for this problem to be rectified.</p> <p>JM asked how businesses are doing after Covid – HS will come and speak to businesses to establish growth.</p> <p>CCTV Project is coming to fruition – there will be broadband available across the trading area.</p> <p>JM thanked the team at Groundwork for the hard work and special thanks to HS.</p>	

<p>Presentation of Annual Report and Accounts</p>	<p>GK introduced himself to those present. GK is reporting on the work of the BID throughout year 5 of BID 1, and what the BID is looking to provide in the first year of BID 2.</p> <p>The BID has worked on a number of projects regarding Theme 1 – Safe and Secure. The CCTV Project has been progressed, while Property Marking kits have been distributed to businesses. HS has worked closely with Cheshire Police regarding issues on the site, including illegal traveller incursions. Mobile Security patrols are provided by Alpha Omega and Rapid Text Service provides updates to businesses who are registered.</p> <p>The BID has also invested in Theme 2 – Sustainable and Greener Environment. There is a programme of planned maintenance that takes place over the year and HS conducts weekly image audits. HS has meetings with Streetscene and Highways to rectify any issues.</p> <p>GK invited businesses to report any areas they would like to see tackled with additional investments.</p> <p>The BID has invested in Theme 3 – a co-ordinated, supported and connected business community. HS is available to contact with any issues where he can support. HS has attended jobs fairs and vacancies are uploaded to the website. The BID team represents the BID at a number of local partnership meetings. Grants and Support information is distributed to businesses. The BID offers 20% off Brio Membership to BID employees and family members and provides free training for employees which has resulted in almost £12k worth of savings for individual businesses.</p> <p>GK detailed the accounts in terms of income and expenditure. There is a £92k surplus which will be carried forward to BID 2.</p> <p>In July 2022 a successful ballot for BID 2 was delivered which achieved 75% by number and 76% by rateable value as a yes in support of the BID.</p> <p>Under BID 2, the BID will be delivering 3 themes, A safer more resilient business community, Greener and more Sustainable, and a Connected and Supported Business Community. In BID 2, the BID will be looking at Net Zero elements and pushing ahead with a number of projects surrounding this.</p> <p>GK asked if there were any questions. Parking is an issue. HS informed those present what the BID is looking at with regards to parking issues. Sustainable transport has been raised at CWAC. AR asked if there was a Bike to Work Scheme that takes place.</p>	
<p>Election of Executive Board</p>	<p>GK instructed those present to cast a vote in the ballot to approve or reject the proposed Executive Board. The votes were counted and there were 15 ballots in approval, and 0 rejecting. The Executive Board was elected by a unanimous yes. GK thanked the Executive Board for the work they do for the BID.</p>	

<p>Speaker Net Zero (George Ablett)</p>	<p>George has not been able to attend in person. GA connected via remote link to speak on the Net Zero work at the council. GA is the energy sector specialist at CWAC and his role is to help de-carbonise the CW borough and to assist businesses in the role as de-carbonisation plans. The council has 2 targets relating to de-carbonising the borough. 11% of the borough's emissions come from smaller businesses. The Council are looking to help businesses understand what the carbon emissions are, how to rectify them, and provide funding to assist. This includes LED lighting, heating, supply chains and how staff get to buildings. Training can be offered around this. UK Shared Prosperity Fund – there will be small grants for businesses around £10k. Several actions to be undertaken by businesses – 10 key actions to address. These are to understand carbon emissions. Various schemes and money to support SMEs. GK thanked George.</p> <p>GK spoke about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and how to reduce both Co2 emissions and energy costs. Advisory visits to businesses which provide a summary of the key opportunities in reducing energy costs and emissions. A grant programme will be linked to this rolled out in 2023/24/25. Nationally the government are provided direct grant support in investments in energy efficiency in the next 12 months.</p> <p>Looking at opportunities estate wide on de-carbonisation projects collaboratively.</p> <p>Question – solar panels are installed but no knowledge on where this goes. GW will take this back to George and the council. Ideally want the solar energy feeding back to the premises, not being sold back to the energy companies.</p>	<p>GW to take back question on the solar panels installed and where the energy is going.</p>
<p>Questions from the businesses</p>	<p>GK encouraged businesses to ask the BID team any questions. There were none on the floor.</p>	
<p>AOB</p>	<p>HS encouraged businesses to submit any good news stories for the bulletin and website. GK thanked all for attending.</p>	