

Dorchester Business Improvement District (BID)
MINUTES
Meeting of Board of Directors

The Dressing Rooms, Corn Exchange
Wednesday 21st July 2010, 4.30pm

Present

Keir Francis (KF)
Phil Gordon (PG)
Tim Batty (TB)
Claire Robertson (CR)
Rachel Cole (RC)
Mark Andre (MA)

Observers:

Molly Rennie (MR)
Trevor Hedger (TH)
Alistair Chisholm (AC)
Denise Addison (DA)

Apologies

Lisa Cartwright
Chris Gould
Els Pontin
Emma Stapleton
Brian Keene
Gerald Duke

Democratic Period

Alistair Chisholm raised a series of concerns regarding the DBID and the work it is undertaking, and the direction of that work. Keir Francis advised that these concerns need to be discussed at a more suitable time due to the time constraints of the democratic period. AC has since written to the board listing his concerns. The Board of Directors has collectively responded to this correspondence.

Molly Rennie advised that she has investigated the Christmas lights position with DTC. DTC decided that they preferred the wrapped tree lights which was a democratic decision rather than those suggested by PG. DTC has written off the debt owed by Decorate Dorchester. MR had established that Dorchester Music and Performance Group/Promote Dorchester received £3000 from DTC and £1000 from WDDC. MR cannot establish where the free car parking will be. Park and Ride, WDDC and DCC are employing consultants in order to locate P&R sites.

ACTION

BOARD

Minutes of last meeting

Were agreed as a true record of the meeting 26th May 2010.

Matters arising

Chris Sheppard has resigned from the board. PG received a letter from DTC advising that DCC are not undertaking any weed control at the present time. DBID needs to check baseline and service agreements and whether this is noted on those. (DCC not WDDC)

PG/KF

Phil Gordon Report

PG reported on the following:

- Dorset Arts week Contribution
- Survey undertaken and the results thereof
- Ringgo working well in car parks but not on street
- Amour and Embarkation Contribution
- 18% website visitor increase
- Review of website optimisation spend – should this be cut back?
- All town promotion initiatives are to be reviewed
- A board discussions progressing well with WDDC, DCC and CofC
- Durngate Street wrought iron archway (MR suggest speak to Dorchester Heritage Committee who have some funding and may assist with planning application)
- Summer Saturday contribution (KF to ask Nick Wimberley what monitoring is being undertaken to asses success)
- Cardboard Recycling initiative: 30% subsidy (max £100 2010, £150 2011) to DBID businesses who use WDDC for their recycling. August start date expected.
- Cycles Rack feasibility study underway, 50 possible sites. £6000 of £12000 grant has been used for feasibility study which was previously quoted at £2000. DCC Adam Bowes is following up. (MR advised South Street surveys already done, may be able to use for feasibility study)Richard Biggs and Trevor Jones should be contacted if no success gained from Adam Bowes regarding significant overspend by consultants.
- Hardy Arcade Mural: DCC contact undertaking costing and feasibility. Negative response received from owners of Hardy Arcade. Meetings with developers regarding Dinosaur on Tesco/DTFC roundabout. TH reminded board that business rates will probably be applicable to any structure that may be erected.
- Several new businesses started over last eight weeks. Very few vacant units in town centre at present.
- Welcome packs continuing
- Hanging baskets: joint initiative with CofC.
- Car stickers, using 'discover our secrets' tag line. MR suggests that DBID send some to the 3 twin towns. PG will put in welcome packs, B&B, shop windows etc.
- Mary Portas Master class was well attended.
- Hardy Festival Contribution: PG requested some businesses in the town to monitor activity for two weeks before festival, during festival and two weeks afterwards.
- WDDC meeting on parking in town, hoping to get organised for September.

KF

PG

PG

PG

Finance Report

(refer attachment)

Board of Directors

Resignation received since meeting from Andy Brunning. LC will notify Companies House. PG contacted Echo to notify of vacancy on Board of Directors. Will also contact View From Publications as suggested by MR.

Funding request and procedure

Forms are required in order to ensure due process and due diligence for funding requests. The form devised for this purpose, for those who approach DBID. Some tweaks are required on the form but accepted on the whole by the board. TB raised the point that DBID are not a funding and grant providing body, and this should be made clear on the application form. TB will forward suggested wording to LC.

Items for Agenda – Next Meeting

Discussion over re-ballot 2012 and the requirements thereof.
Re-distribution of funds.

Any Other Business

Busking, begging and vagrancy report being undertaken by MR.
DA queried land train progression. Currently assessing need and options for re-distribution of funds if project rejected.

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 1st September 2010, 4.30pm, the Dressing Rooms, Corn Exchange.

Meeting Closed. Time unknown.

LC PG
TB/LC
LC
Board