

The BedfordBID Company Limited
2015 Annual General Meeting
Monday 19th October 2015, 6.00pm, Bedford Swan Hotel



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

ATTENDED

Directors:

Rae Levene (Chair)	HCB Park Woodfine
Kerry Cash (Vice Chair)	5 th Avenue
Charles Royden	Bedford Borough Council
Steve McBrearty	Cash Converters
Mark Thompson	The Reuse Centre
Christina Rowe	BedfordBID
John Yatchisin	Woodfines
Sam Laycock	Harpur Centre
Zap Hussain	McDonald's
Michael Green	Blue Arrow

Also Attended:

Sarah Cox (Beds on Sunday), Ian Pryce (Bedford College), Dave Roffey (Bedford College), Adrian Bullers (Adrian Bullers Photography), John Medhurst (John Medhurst Jewellers), Nov Novakovic (Novakovic & Co), Dave Hodgson (Mayor, Bedford Borough Council), Andrew Dennison (MHA MacIntyre Hudson), Dominic Mills (Dominic Mills Solicitor), Eric Walke (Michael R Peters), Paul Mead (Tavistock Sound & Vision), Simon Gatehouse (Barclays), Victoria Panther (BedfordBID).

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Rae Levene opened the meeting and thanked all for attending.

He opened up to the room for further nominations for Directors. None were forthcoming.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Those present were provided with a newsletter containing the Chairman's report in full, but Rae outlined key points:

- The success of BID 3 – copies of the mandate are available on request or online at www.lovebedford.co.uk.
- Businesses must be alert to the effects of the council's autumn spending review
- Regular BID breakfasts are going from strength to strength

3. FINANCE

Andrew Dennison from MacIntyre Hudson presented the report, with a reminder that BedfordBID operates on a cash basis.

Eric Walke questioned the VAT on BID income. Andrew explained that levies are collected by Bedford Borough Council and are paid across to the BID including VAT. This is standard procedure for BIDs around the country. Nov commented that if the BID collected their own money then the BID wouldn't have to charge VAT. Andrew explained that all BIDs have a collection agent and it is a legal requirement. There is no option for a BID to collect its own levy.

Ian Pryce asked what the levy amount collected should be. The council know the most up to date figures and provide regular statements. Mayor Dave Hodgson can provide the current figures.

Eric Walke agreed that it would be nice to know how much of the levy has been collected as part of the annual review document.

Rae said that it could also be included as a footnote in future accounts, and that the collection rate is 96%.

Ian Pryce commented on the content of the newsletter which although very informative, felt an alignment to the accounts figures would be useful. Christina said that it would be broken down next time to match up as usual, as the reporting will only be relevant to BID 3 and not the previous and current BID, which is why the reporting changed this time.

Paul Mead asked what the discounts on page 2 referred to on vouchers. Christina explained that large bulk purchases have discounts against them. The college purchase £80k-£90k vouchers and they continue to bulk buy thanks to their discount. In comparison with vouchers used elsewhere there is a higher redemption of college vouchers.

Paul asked if more promotion for the Love Bedford vouchers could be put into place rather than people buying Love to Shop vouchers. Ian offered to explain to businesses why the college is using Love Bedford vouchers, and asked if Paul could tell him which businesses are using the Love to Shop vouchers.

4. ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

To adopt the Report of the Directors and Financial Statements.

Proposed: Ian Pryce, Bedford College

Seconded: John Yatchisin, Woodfines Solicitors

AGREED: All in favour of adopting the report.

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

Proposed: Christina Rowe, BedfordBID

Seconded: Zap Hussain, McDonalds

AGREED: Nobody was against MacIntyre Hudson continuing as accountants to BedfordBID.

5. ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director(s) standing for re-appointment

Paul Dawson, The Rose

Proposer: Christina Rowe, BedfordBID

Seconder: Sam Laycock, Harpur Centre

Members standing for elections as Directors

Michelle Scott, Boots

Proposer: John Yatchisin, Woodfines Solicitors

Seconder: Christina Rowe, BedfordBID

Dave Roffey, Bedford College

Proposer: Christina Rowe, BedfordBID

Seconder: John Yatchisin, Woodfines Solicitors

There were 3 candidates for 3 vacancies so no vote was necessary.

APPROVED: Paul Dawson, Michelle Scott and Dave Roffey were approved as Directors.

Rae thanked the college for their support, as well as those who attended for coming to the meeting and for providing support. He also thanked the Bluecaps and asked them to pass the Board's thanks on to their colleagues – they are the face of the BID.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Mead said that there are traffic wardens issuing tickets at 10.15pm and thinks it is off-putting to visitors looking to park to use the night-time economy.

Charles Royden explained that if you park unlawfully or unsafely the council have a duty to make sure fire engines etc can get through. Mayor Dave Hodgson used Castle Lane as an example, where small cars can't get through let alone emergency vehicles. The Borough Council are very keen to ensure that people have places to park at night, so River Street and Lurke Street multi-storey car parks are both open 24/7.

Ian Pryce said he assumes everyone who is attending the AGM is a positive voter for the BID, but noted that there were not many people present.

BedfordBID continues to engage with the electorate in various ways, including sessions at the start of Board meetings and regular breakfast meetings which all BID businesses are invited to.

Sam Laycock pointed out that in Bedford we have accepted having a BID as the norm – when people recognise what they would lose without the BID it is very powerful.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said that in the autumn statement that they are looking at 20-40% cuts, so BID and non-BID towns will have a bigger difference.

Nov thinks that everyone hates the BID because none of the small businesses understand what the BID does. He feels that the BID needs another Bluecap to explain to businesses and listen to their grievances.

Sam said that Directors have split the town into sections to get to see each business. Nov replied that small businesses were the anti-BID ones – newsletters come out and Bluecaps don't have time to talk to businesses. Michael agreed that directors could work harder at this. Nov feels that the BID needs to spend less money on Love Bedford.

Eric asked about the Mary Portas funding. Christina explained that the money from the Mary Portas grant was ring-fenced and has been spent by the Portas town team on various projects over the last few years. Rae added that BedfordBID had no involvement with spending the Portas money and is rather a custodian of the money. Details of the report on full expenditure is available on the Love Bedford website.

Adrian Bullers moved into the High Street thanks to the Portas money and his business is going from strength to strength after 2 years.

John Yatchisin explained the concept of the new Healthy High Streets initiative. This scheme engages larger business to serve as champions and mentors to support smaller businesses and champion the High Street ie the look and feel of the town, plus initiatives to bring more people in. BedfordBID was selected in year 2 to be part of the scheme. Marks and Spencer, Boots and Greggs are all involved. There has been engagement at the BID breakfast and they have done town centre walks to emphasise key places in the town / gateways etc. If anyone is interested in taking part please contact Christina Rowe.

Rae Levene thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 19.22.