



2019 Annual General Meeting

Theatr Colwyn

11 September 2019

6pm Registration / 6.25pm Start

1. Welcome

The Chair, Jennifer Whitlock welcomed everyone and offered apologies for any confusion over the start time, some members had arrived early to register for a 6:00pm start others at 6:00pm to register for a 6:30pm start. To accommodate this, the meeting commenced at 6:25pm.

2. Apologies

An apology was received from Cheryl Williams

Tim Watson, Grape to Glass was in attendance to register but had to leave at 6:30

3. Chair's Report

- The Chair welcomed everyone and highlighted the importance of communication between the Board of Directors and the Members.
- **Agenda.** Attention was drawn to the agenda that had been distributed, apologies were offered as the information was not correct.
- Update on resignation from the Board
 - Councilor Louise Emery - Conwy Council Borough Council – Resigned earlier in the year. Changes to Council policy mean there will no longer be Council Members as Directors. There are however still link members from the Council to attend meetings. Councilor Goronwy Edwards has taken Louise Emery's place but not as a Director of the Board.
- **Directors.** The Chair reminded members that Directors are volunteers, the only paid members on the Board are Council representatives. The current Chair was elected as a director at the last AGM and has become Chair by default.
- **Review of BID office.** It has been a difficult year; it is clear that the BID has not been operating as it should. Infrastructure at the office was not in place and there has been a high turnover of staff. Work is being done to address this which includes recruiting a marketing and administration officer 3 months ago, but it is taking a lot of time and effort to bring things up to standard.
- **BID set up.** The Chair advised that none of the current Directors were involved in the initial set up of the BID and there have been fundamental problems with its operation. Chris Turner from British BIDs has advised the Board that the BID boundary is too vast, the area covered is too diverse, it is difficult to manage, too ambitious and has too much control from the Council.

- **Mid-Term review.** An external body – The Means – conducted a mid-term review as is the best practice for BIDS. The report highlighted that the Council are not happy and there were damning results as very few businesses would vote yes at a re-ballot. There are too many independents paying the levy out of their own pockets in the BID boundary and not enough multi-nationals whose levy is paid by the head office.
- **Communication.** Levy payers need to see results and it was acknowledged that there have been failings in the communication between the BID and Levy Payers.
- **The BID will not be going for re-ballot.** The Board have been advised by Chris Turner, British BIDs, that the BID needs support from the Council and CCBC are skeptical of supporting a re-ballot. With the associated costs of £20,000 - £25,000 to hold a re-ballot the Board have made the decision that there will not be a ballot to decide if the BID will continue beyond its current term. It is not a decision that has been taken lightly, the Board have evaluated the costs of winding down the Company and want to ensure that the BID has a legacy. There will be a managed closure and the company will cease trading on the 31st of March 2021.
- **Current projects.** Examples of current projects are
 - The Rally
 - Social Media training
 - Cheese and Wine Networking events
 - Mochdre Signage
- **EGM.** Due to an issue that caused approximately 100 out of 860 AGM documents that were posted being returned to the office, new directors were not brought on to the Board. An EGM will be held in October so that all nominees can be treated equally and to give the current nominees the opportunity to withdraw. Date to be confirmed and letters will be sent out.

4. Presentation of accounts overview (by James Hastings)

The 2018/19 draft accounts have been produced, when they are complete, they will be passed to an external auditor. In the interest of transparency, the website will be updated with all statutory account information.

- Levy collected from CCBC approximately £259,000 this includes outstanding amounts from previous years that have been collected in this year.
- There was a 98% collection rate in 2018/19
- Project costs - £231,000 which includes grants to the 1940s event, Old Colwyn Christmas Market and the salary of the BID Manager. £121,000 was spent in the previous year.
- Overheads - £59,000 this year, £57,000 previous year.
- A £10,000 deficit has been brought over from the previous year's surplus.
- Reserves as of March 2019 - £200,000 surplus
- Projected BID levy for 2019/20 is £270,000 with £230,000 collected so far.
- Budget for 2019/20 is currently under review by the Board.



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5. Questions from the floor

- **Levy payment next year**

Discussion took place on this. The memo and arts states that there should be an increase next year, but this may not be applied. The Board have considered the option that the surplus could be used in place of the Levy payment next year. General consensus amongst the Board and the Members was that the Levy should not be taken next year.

- **Process moving forward**

In consultation with British BIDs, a vote will take place at the EGM to change the Memo and Arts. The Chair is in discussions with a former Board member to make sure things are wound down properly. The Chair urged all who are unhappy with paying the Levy to attend and have their vote.

- **Breakdown of commitments**

The BID Manager is responsible; however, this was not presented at the last meeting and no further information was available.

- **Suggestions for how the money should be spent**

Member suggestions

- Give the money to Charity.
- Build a Homeless Shelter.

Chair's suggestion

- Devolving the budget and giving the money to a focus group in each area.

The Chair appealed for more suggestions from members at the EGM in October.

- **Focus Groups**

A member commented that there is a feeling of apathy amongst the businesses towards the BID, business owners are too busy running their own businesses to contribute to focus groups, this opinion was supported by other members. Opinion from the floor was that focus groups had not worked in the past, ROSTA had compiled a list in the beginning of the BID however the items had not been received. The Chair's position was that this could definitely work in Rhos on Sea, ROSTA want their funding back. Regional Boards are being looked in to. A former board member explained that each area could have a pot of money, but they wouldn't necessarily be equal.

- **Project Management and Spending moving forward**

The Chair confirmed that issues with project management are under review and that subject to the Memo and Arts being changed the members could have control of spending the money moving forward.



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- **Rally**

Members felt that the £50,000 allocated to the Rally was a lot of money and questioned who authorised it and why such a big spend wasn't put to the members for approval. The Board confirmed that they unanimously agreed to host the Rally as there was surplus to be used and it will bring a great deal of attention and recognition to the area. The Chair explained that the purpose of a Board of Directors elected by the Members, is to make decisions on spending on their behalf.

- **Taking action against PFPB, the organisation who recommended a BID be set up in the Bay of Colwyn**

A discussion took place and a vote was held. The members decided not to look in to taking action.

- **Welsh Language**

The Chair advised that the BID is not required to supply literature in Welsh where the cost is prohibitive. A discussion was held with no conclusion amongst the members. The Chair decided that e-mail newsletters could be sent out bilingually.

- **Continuity of the Board**

Questions were raised on the turnover of Directors and whether the current board will be the ones to see the remainder of the BID through. James Hastings has already resigned from the Board but has agreed to continue helping out.

- **Mochdre Signage**

The Chair has taken personal responsibility for the project, there are finer details to approve. The aim is that it goes to the planning committee in October.

- **Future BIDs**

The Chair advised that the council would support smaller individual BIDs, the issue with the current one is the 4 different areas have contrasting needs and can't agree. People who don't want a BID again in the future should vote no.