

**St Austell BID Board Meeting**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2020.**

**Present** **via Zoom:** Richard Hurst (RH), Sean Marshall (SM), Brian Palmer (BP), Allan Clare (AC), Kelly Fegan (KF), Clive Acraman (CA), Grant Macdonald (GM) & Martin Davies (MD).

**Apologies:** Giles Bingley (GB).

**Absent:** Ameena Williams (AW), Roberto Cubbedu, (RC), David Rescorla (DR), Ben Delaney (BD), Donna Roberts (DR) & Dale Lovatt (DL).

**In attendance via zoom:** Annette Miller (AM).

1. **Welcome: RH** welcomed the board to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the board meeting held on the 7th April were reviewed and approved.
3. **Finance:** Monthly update provided via email by **GB**.
4. **AGM Timetable.** The constitution allows this to be deferred until September after this point Government guidelines will be followed. **Agreed.**
5. **South West & Cornish Bid’s.**

**South West Bids.** Have written to the Government asking for businesses with a rateable value between £51k & £150k to be eligible for a £25k grant.

**South West Bid’s** made a request to the Government to grant all BID’s a year’s levy to see them and the businesses through COVID 19. This had the backing of our MP. Bid’s we granted 5% of their levy collection for 2019/20 to help with operational costs.

**Cornish BID’s.** Have written to Cornwall Council requesting a cash flow facility of 50% of the levy income. This would need to be paid back and we have asked for a period of 2 years. We hope with the revised budget to manage without this loan. Councillors Heyward, Brown & French have written to support this.

**British BID’s** At a time where recovery plans are starting to take motion with BIDs across the country, the research study aims to discover new knowledge, and then provide insight and guidance to BIDs and industry stakeholders.

They are bringing together a research focus group of 32 BIDs, stratified by region, type of BID and level of income, representing a 10% sample of the total BID community. St Austell is part of this focus group.

1. **Covid -19 update.**  Social distancing will be problematic when the town starts to reopen. Information using posters and social media to ask people to RESPECT the advice from government. Businesses will need to comply with the directives, but we are unsure how this will work until guidelines have been put in place.

**Security**: It was proposed that the current schedule be maintained during the lock down. Patrol levels to be reviewed monthly by the board. **Agreed.**

**Planting:** The reduced scheme would go ahead.

**It was agreed to keep the BID Manager in post.**

1. **Meetings:**
   1. **Safer St Austell - RH & AM** are attending weekly video link meetings with Safer St Austell and will continue to do so. Shoplifting is continuing but with most shops closed this is on a smaller scale with Poundland, Co op and Wilkinson’s being the main targets. Anyone on the streets who appear homeless have been reported to the relevant organisations for housing.
   2. **Associated Groups – RH & AM** continue to liaise with Cornwall Council, Town Council, Cornwall Bids, British BID’s, Association of Town Centre Managers and South West BID’s.
   3. **Garden & Whitegold Festivals –** It is hoped that these two events will be combined and have been scheduled for the 19th September. This will depend on government guidelines.
   4. **BP** said that the Town Council would keep Priory carpark free for the time being.
2. **A.O.B**.

RH closed the meeting thanking everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone well during the coming weeks.

**Meeting closed 18.15**

**Next meeting 2nd June 2020**

**5:00pm via video link.**

**(If restrictions lifted Burton House)**