**St Austell BID Board Meeting**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2024 at 17:30.**

**Present:** Dale Lovatt (DL), Martin Davies (MD), Bill Holland (BH) Gillian Mullany (GM) & Neil Woodward (NM)

**Apologies:** Allan Clare (AC), Dexter Lawrence (DLA), Piers Thompson (PT), Cllr Tom French (TF), David Rescorla (DR), Sean Marshall (SM)

**In Attendance** – Annette Miller

1. **Welcome & Apologies: DL** Welcomed everyone to the board meeting.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the board meeting held on the 5th September 2023 were signed off as a true and accurate record.
3. **Finance:** Monthly update provided by **DL** 
   1. Income to date (6th April 2023 – 20th February 2024) is £148,917.58 including voluntary contributions and funding from St Austell Town Council on shared initiatives.
   2. Expenditure to date on core BID themes including, events, publicity and town support is £100,665.62 with a further spending of £38,172.52 on administrative costs which include £1,226.93 depreciation on BID assets.
4. **BID Managers Roundup - AM**

**Town news**

Recently we have seen a noticeable increase in ASB, this is taking up considerable time and is very challenging to deal with. The BID along with the Town Council are waiting for information from Cornwall Council on the number of supported and emergency placements in close proximity to the town centre, whilst making them aware of the costs associated with the security provision managed by BID.

Our street cleaner has returned to the role and the town is looking clean and tidy again.

**Funding**

Our thanks to the Town Council, who voted in favour of our proposal for the Christmas lighting scheme over the next 5 years. They have agreed to increase their funding to £12,250 each year over the 5-year term. This equates to 50% of the total cost of installation and hire.

Unfortunately, our funding application made to Cornwall Community Foundation/Police & Crime Commissioner fund for CCTV cameras in Vicarage Place was rejected.

Our thanks to Cornwall Councillors Double, Rowse & Pears who have used their community chest funds to help us purchase x5 A1 wall mounted display boards for the town centre.

We have continued to apply for various grants but have had no luck so far. We are aware that other towns in Cornwall have received large amounts for events and ASB, we are trying to fathom out how we may access the same pots of money to help fund our ASB provision and enhance our events schedule.

**Upcoming Town Centre Events 2024**

2nd March - St. Pirans Day

18th May - Cornwall Pride

22nd June - Garden Festival

15th - August Community Fun Day/Danceathon

31st October - Zombie Walk

30th November - Light Switch On

7th, 14th & 21st -December Family Fun & Christmas Shopping.

**Marketing**

Our stage has been well used over the last 12 months and is proving to be a good buy, now saving us money on external stage hire. It’ll be used for all Town Centre events in 2024 as priority and we are now receiving enquires from external organisations and have a couple of bookings scheduled in. These bookings will earn us approximately £450 per hire.

Radio interview with Rewind last week and another scheduled with CHAOS next week.

We also plan to place a couple of adverts in the St Austell Trader, this has a reach of 28,000 addresses in St Austell and proves to be good value for money as far as print advertising goes.

Our Facebook page continues to have a good following, we will be using this more to further showcase and promote individual businesses within the town.

**Security**

Our monthly meetings continue with the Police, Town Council, ASB officer and Cornwall Council. There has been an increase in shoplifting, ASB and welfare concerns. We seem to have had an influx of new faces in town, which is exacerbating the ASB issues we already suffer from.

1. **Budget 2024/2025**

DL & AM presented the budget for 2024/2025, this was reviewed by all Directors present and after a general discussion was unanimously approved.

1. **St Austell Revitalisation Partnership:**

See link below to the minutes from the latest Revitalisation meeting held on the 16th January 2024, with the next one scheduled for the 19th March 2024

https://www.staustell-tc.gov.uk/\_UserFiles/Files/\_Minutes/177965-January\_2024.pdf

1. **Carlyon Road Working Group**

DL: With the Carlyon Road site falling within the BID boundary, St Austell BID has been represented at stakeholder meetings. Mei Loci has been commissioned by Cornwall Council to develop a future vision for the site. This takes into consideration the life expectancy of the current buildings on the site and the need for energy efficiency measures. An initial vision has been issued to all stakeholders including St Austell BID, once comments have been received and any amendments made the vision will be put out for wider consultation. On behalf of the town centre, St Austell BID has made the following comments:

* Concerns over development if there were to be any conflicts with town centre offerings- i.e. Services provided at Carlyon Road should be complimentary to and not competing with the Town Centre.
* Would like to see improved connection from the site to the town centre through safer accessible routes, better way finding and signage, lighting  i.e. High Cross St. &  Train station.
* Would support moving the hospital or health and wellbeing related services to the site, with key-worker accommodation.

1. **Directors’ updates/AOB:**

None to note.

***MEETING CLOSED AT 19:00***

***Board Meeting Schedule:***

***21st May, 17:30 at Burton House***

***13th August, 17:30 at Burton House***

***12th November, 17:30 (AGM) – White Hart Hotel***

***12th November, 19:00 (Board Meeting) – White Hart Hotel***