

**BedfordBID Board Meeting 111**

Monday 7th November 2022 @ 4:30pm,

Harpur Centre Management office

**Directors attended:**

Christina Rowe BedfordBID

Sam Laycock (Chair) The Harpur Centre

Martin Keys (Deputy Chair) Gallone’s

Amanda Olliver The Body Shop

Charles Royden Bedford Borough Council

**Also attended:**

Andrew Dennison McIntyre Hudson

Patrick Lyons Bedford Borough Council

**Apologies received**:

Shaun Barnett Leaders Lettings   
Dave Roffey The Bedford College Group   
Mike Lewis Clarity Marketing (Riverside North Development)  
Greg Warwick Jeeves

Dean Thompson The Bedford Swan Hotel

Samantha Hunt Inspector, Bedfordshire Community Policing Team

Eleanor Karklas Bedford Borough Council

**1. CHAIR’S WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

The Chair opened the meeting with a warm welcome to guests and thanked everyone for their attendance.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING. ITEMS FOR AOB**

The Directors approved the minutes of the last meeting. Matters outstanding is for a meeting with the new/acting Chief Constable to be arranged and that the matter of skateboarders at Silver Street again be discussed in AOB.

**3. TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS**

No applications received.

**4. DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS UPDATE / CHRISTMAS, TEAM UPATE**

Directors were reminded of the pre circulated papers and copies tabled for the meeting. These included the analysis of BedfordBID’s successful River Festival 2022 marketing support activity which contained the comprehensive electronic newsletter communications to the public and businesses. Also circulated in advance were the planned Christmas 2022 events programme and details to business for ‘how to get involved’ this year (copies attached).

The Chair acknowledged the comprehensive content and support for the variety of three weekends of activity this Christmas rather that one day/big event. Her comment concluded that marketing costs are no longer considered a subsidiary but essential.

The Deputy Chair pointed out that the feedback he has had from other towns is that the BID in Bedford in comparison to others, is exceptional and that claims that we “don’t do enough” is unjust and inaccurate.

No Christmas late-night opening detail was reported at the time of the meeting apart from that planned by Harpur Centre’s 8-8 push before Christmas.

It was further noted that the BedfordBID networking and briefing breakfasts be reintroduced once resources allow which could be revised to twice yearly i.e. February and September instead of the historical four.

**AGREED; Drive through and vehicle friendly signage to access Harpur Centre car park be improved for River Festival 2024.**

**Send a further copy of the Christmas 2022 calendar to Body Shop.**

**5. TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM PATRICK LYONS, MANAGER FOR THE BEDFORD TOWN DEAL, BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL.**

Having secured an allocation of £22.6m funding, Bedford Borough Council is required to work through comprehensive business case development and assurance processes to enable drawdown of funding.

The Manager for the Bedford Town Deal reminded the Directors of the 7 projects planned and status on current embargoed submissions awaiting sign off the day after the Board meeting. The full details can now be viewed using the following link given that these are now in the public domain [Agenda for Bedford Town Deal Board on Tuesday, 8th November, 2022, 6.00 pm - Bedford Borough Council](https://councillorsupport.bedford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=683&MId=6088&Ver=4)

Of note was the response and support from Midland Road residents and businesses to the longer-term infrastructure improvements aimed at addressing some of the issues that area faces given its important gateway location and future proofing intention.

The Chair concluded with thanks and congratulations to the Manager for the Bedford Town Deal for his successful and extensive work involved in the vitally important developments for the town.

**AGREED/ACTION: To provide a copy of the video used at the Midland Road presentation to the Board once available**

The Manager for the Bedford Town Deal also provided an update on the High Street Heritage Action Zone initiative acknowledging current status with Silver Street Square which is due for completion at the end of the month and progress being made with former Goldings, Salvation Army and Bridal Shop on High Street.

Status on the various deals and offers being negotiated for investment potential were discussed. Borough Hall has also been part sublet. It was concluded and acknowledged that there is “lots happening” with a healthy appetite and interest in Bedford town centre.

**6. DRAFT ACCOUNTS 2021/22**Draft papers had been circulated prior to the meeting requesting comments and feedback from the Directors. No comments had been received. The comprehensive commentary was acknowledged detailing explanations for both the various headline figures and different presentation of the balance sheet from usual.

**AGREED: To approve the 2021/22 draft accounts for signing and filing with Companies House by 31st December 2022.**

**7. AOB**

A member of the Board raised further issues with skateboarders at Silver Street Square. A 5 second supporting video demonstrated what the surrounding businesses are having to deal with “every day when these guys come out of college”. It demonstrated that they are very noisy, annoying and just generally a nuisance with the concern that someone might get seriously hurt and it is causing damage to property and street furniture. The law enforcement officers just get a mouthful of abuse from them if they try to move them. The Chair asked if providing the officers with the marked exclusion map would help manage the situation.

**AGREED/ACTION; The Deputy Mayor agreed to speak to officers at the Council to deal.**

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To coincide with date of AGM when confirmed for early 2023.

Meeting closed 6.15pm.