

## BID For Galashiels

### Meeting minutes- May 6<sup>th</sup> 2025

Date of meeting

Present:

- Lewis Roden
- Luigi Catterino
- Sebastian Janus
- Jay Hogarty
- Andy Hay
- Tam Denholm
- Euan Jardine
- Angela Buglass Kelly
- Debbie Fuller
- Lauren Jamieson
- Helen Calder

Mags Fenner

Next meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025, High Mill, Galashiels

#### 1. Minutes from the April meeting were agreed

#### 2. Matters arising (not covered by the May agenda)

- Attendance at Heartland market – agreed in principal, but only when there was something relevant to share
- Venue for meetings; SJ volunteered that Cullen Kilshaw meeting suite in the Transport Interchange HC volunteered the ‘outside’ space at The Salmon Inn.

**Action: MF to follow up with both.**

- TD said that he had tried and been unable to access a BID Base test site.

**Action: MF to request new login from BIDBase**

#### 3. Discussion

- I. Lewis welcomed everyone to the table and handed over to MF for an update.

#### *Administrative update*

- Still no bank account. RBS report the application is with analysts. Board agreed that MF should investigate process for opening a bank account elsewhere.
- Collection of levy. MF reported that without a bank account the Company was unable to register for VAT, register as a supplier with SBC and therefore draw down any fundin
- Still a vacancy for Financial Director and accountant.

**ACTION MF and LR to follow up**

- MF said that she was concerned that without the bank account and a functioning CRM, all data is being stored in various locations and is going to take time to transfer into the

new software when it becomes available. There is also the risk that something could be lost in moving things across.

**ACTION TD volunteered his own time and expertise to make the switch when the packages are available.**

#### *The Business Plan updates:*

##### *Creating a Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment*

- Empty Premises – JH reported that he and AH had audited the empty premises. JH had met with Jon Andrews from the Energise Galashiels Trust and had a good understanding of the activity EGT have undertaken and the challenges in filling the empty units. He referred the Board to a Montagu Evans report from 2022 on vacant units in the town centre (NB NOT the whole BID zone). The information contained is still largely relevant.

MF said that she had an e-meeting arranged with Ian Nicholson of the The Vacant Shops Academy. Ian had completed projects with Aberdeen BIDs and others, successfully filling empty units.

**ACTION MF to report back to June Board meeting.**

- MF reported that she had a meeting arranged with Retailers Against Crime  
**ACTION MF to report back to June Board meeting**
- MF reported that she had a meeting arranged with Police Scotland to explore areas for partnership and

**ACTION MF to report back to June Board meeting.**

##### *Increasing Footfall & Spend*

- MF had spoken with Chris Wemyss of MacArts who was keen to be involved in any working group concerned with Nighttime Economy. HC and DB interested in participation.

**ACTION:**

**MF to contact MacArts, HC, DB, Pavilion cinema to arrange a meeting to discuss a way forward**

**ACTION: MF to make contact with Wolfys, Overhaugh Street.**

- New businesses. Auberge due to open end May/beginning June. MF keen to make contact. HC will pass on contact details.

**ACTION: MF and HC to liaise**

- Tapestry – discussion about how BFG and GTOS can work together for the benefit of the GTOS and the wider town leverage

**ACTION: EJ to facilitate meeting between BID (MF and LR) and Tapestry.**

- Longer term, BFG is mindful of the potential opportunities that will come with the Center Parcs development.

### Developing Events & Attractions

- Annual events. The calendar of annual events for Galashiels is sparse. Three events gave opportunity for increased partnership with the town's businesses:

Galashiels Walking Festival (April)

Tangled (May)

Borders Fest (September)

**ACTION: MF to make contact with organisers**

- EJ advised that Park Run will begin a regular event at Abbotsford in Summer ;25, which is great news.
- A meeting date had been set by EGT to allow BID, Community Council and other groups to share ideas, experience and best practice. There was agreement that there needed to be a joined up approach by all groups and organisations with the Heartland brand taking an umbrella approach.

**ACTION: LR to attend and report back**

- There was discussion about Borders Book Festival with a proposal that BFG approach the festival organisers and request that programmed event(s) be located in Galashiels. The Coulter statue and square would be an ideal position for anything related to children's activities or readings.

**ACTION: MF to follow up with Borders Book Festival**

- The BID business plan had set an aim of delivering one quality event that could grow year on year. There is no food and drink festival in Galashiels or neighbouring towns and this was discussed as an option. Potential to draw in the school and college. Potential for chef demos in Volunteer Hall. Timing – September?

**ACTION: MF to follow up**

- Hallowe'en – AH suggested Hallowe'en as a potential for increased footfall .. ideas include a town centre 'pumpkin patch', Hallowe'en trail. Funding stream dependent.

**ACTION: MF to follow up**

- Christmas. TD volunteered to support with Christmas lights. He can arrange qualified electricians to install and remove. He can also possibly arrange for storage. It was agreed that the BID Company needs to know exactly what lighting is held by the CC, where it is stored and what condition it is in before we can fully agree to anything.

**ACTION: MF to contact Judith at CC to arrange an early meeting/inspection.**

- Christmas tree, the Board unanimously approved HC suggestion re a live Christmas tree for Bank St Gardens. MF was concerned that we may be too late to move forward with this for Christmas 2025. **ACTION: MF to arrange meeting with Carol Cook at SBC, MF and HC to liaise.**

- Christmas light switch on. MF reported that proposed switch on was last Saturday in November, 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Christmas lights – there was agreement that BID For Galashiels will not invest in new Christmas street lights for the 2025 season. They would look to cost/source individual ‘your name in lights’ fixtures for traders. **ACTION: MF to investigate lighting for shops**
- Christmas general. It was agreed that it was imperative that BID For Galashiels did everything possible to ensure that this was a successful event for all of the businesses located in the BID Zone.

There was no desire to ‘take over’, but a will to work in partnership with Community Council, Rotary and Heartland Market to ensure the best for the town.

Potential added value from BID for Galashiels - there was discussion about a torch procession as was held in 2019

Separately to this, MF will begin to scope out a Christmas trail for shops/traders.

#### **Other matters**

**Collection of the levy.** Some traders had reported to MF that they had not received the original bill, only the reminder. LC confirmed that this had been his experience. This was worrying, but outwith the control of BID For Galashiels. **ACTION MF to pick up with SBC as the billing agent.**

**Ideas.** LJ had submitted a list of ideas. MF would sift through these and merge with the list already compiled through the period of consultation with the businesses. To share ahead of next Board meeting.

ENDS