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BID For Galashiels

Meeting minutes – 13th August 2025, The Great Tapestry

Present:

Mags Fenner, Lewis Roden, Jay Hogarty, Angela Buglass Kelly, Debbie Fuller, Tam Denholm, Euan Jardine, Sgt Crawford Laing (Police Scotland)

Apologies:

Luigi Catterino, Sebastian Janus, Andy Hay, Helen Calder, Lauren Jamieson

Next Meeting:

3rd September 2025, Location TBC

With thanks to The Great Tapestry for their hospitality and tour.

1. Review of July's Minutes

- No questions raised.
- **AP** - Action Log to be created and issued.

2. Administrative

- We welcomed Sgt Laing from Police Scotland. We heard about the team that he works with and the areas they cover. There is one officer who has specific community responsibility for Galashiels to Newtown St Boswells and part of the A68. He is keen to collaborate and work to support BID, particularly around safety, environment and crime, he will join our meetings when he can.
- Finance – MF gave an update on income and spend. See detail in attachment issued with Agenda.
- Operating Agreement with SBC – MF gave update on final amendments. Agreement signed off by Board.
- CRM – now an urgent requirement to have this in place. TD and MF to follow up to get things in place before next meeting.
- VOIP Phone – MF raised the need for a VOIP phone number for BID use, cost will be around £10 per month. Board agreed and approved.
- MS Office – agreed to park until CRM is in place.

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- Board Training – John Evans, CEO of Border Community Action can design and provide. He will attend our next meeting to observe and get some feedback.
- Accountancy – EQ to be appointed as BID Accountants. Board agreed and approved.
- Insurance – Howdens to be appointed as BID Insurers. Board agreed and approved

3. Creating a Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment

- Vacant Shops Academy – We were joined, via zoom, by Iain Nicolson from the Vacant Shops Academy, who gave us an overview of their work and how this could benefit Galashiels. (based on proposals and notes shared prior to meeting). Iain has worked with over 39 towns in the UK and shared several positive examples of VSA projects. They helped one town in Oxford go from 23 vacant properties to just 3, in 18 months. There is potential access to further funding to support this work through the Tackling Vacancy Grant Scheme, or similar. The Board discussed and approved the IN-Place option for Galashiels. Sub-Group to take forward, MF, JH and AH.
- Galashiels CCTV Cameras – EJ gave an update on the new cameras; they are in and on. Police Scotland are still awaiting access. EJ to connect MF with a contact at council to discuss potential for football tracking etc. MF also suggested a joint announcement for the community.
- Street Cleanliness – MF gave an update on the street walkabouts and potential outcomes including new bins, which we may be able to sponsor/brand. A list of actions on broken and vandalised bins and other environmental fittings has been collated and will be regularly pursued for completion. MF also recommended a feature piece in a future newsletter on managing commercial waste, reporting problems and so on.

4. Developing Events and Attractions

- Christmas – MF gave a brief update. Sub-group has been formed, including community volunteers as per pre-issued documentation. TD and LR to arrange date asap to collect and test festive lighting. Key dates for “Galashiels – Where Christmas Comes Together” are:
 - November and December – Seasonal Shopping Trail (BID lead)
 - 29th November – Festive Light Switch on and Christmas Event (BID lead)

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- 6th December – The Heartland Market, Community Council Victorian Christmas (Non BID lead)

All these events will use the same #GalaWhereChristmasComesTogether Branding. Board approved the group to proceed with planning.

- BordersFest – Board agreed a £200 donation to support this event, running across the weekend of the 13th and 14th September.

5. Increasing Footfall and Spend

- Scotland Loves Local Week – Galashiels will be a feature town in Scotland Loves Local Week, 23rd – 29th August. Photoshoot took place on 14th August for local businesses, pictures and short interviews will feature in local and national press and social media. MF to share collateral as it is released.
- Tourism –
 - LR will follow-up with Tweed Pathways re Galashiels inclusion on the map and how the town will be described in the context of the trail
 - MF to take membership of South Scotland Destination Alliance on behalf of BID Galashiels. We also discussed inviting SSDA and Visit Scotland to speak to us at a future meeting.
 - 2027 Scotland Connect – MF raised this travel conference and that we should consider presence to raise the profile of Galashiels, perhaps partnering with other local towns to represent this area of the Scottish Borders
- Parking – EJ suggested lobbying Tesco re evening and special event use of the carpark, relaxing time restrictions after 5.30pm, for example.

6. Business Support

- DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) Survey soon to be issued. MF to share outputs when available.

ALL ACTIONS DETAILED IN ACTION LIST.

ENDS



DRAFT