

BID For Galashiels

Meeting minutes- 3rd June 2025

Date of meeting

Present:

Lewis Roden
Luigi Catterino
Sebastian Janus
Jay Hogarty
Andy Hay
Angela Buglass Kelly
Debbie Fuller
Lauren Jamieson

Mags Fenner

Next meeting: 1st July 2025, outside space at The Salmon Inn

1. Apologies

Euan Jardine, Tam Denholm, Helen Calder

2. Review of May's minutes

- I. Wolfy's – still to be contacted. MF to follow up.
- II. Tapestry – meeting TBC - MF and LR with Tapestry
- III. Meeting of various town groups; Lewis had attended, Felicity @ EGT compiling master sheet of participants and areas of interest/expertise
- IV. Book Festival – MF and LR to follow up after June event

3. Ian Dalglish from Energise Galashiels Trust set out the history of the Trust and gave an overview of the 4 key priorities going forward:

- Acquisition of premises in Channel Street
- Hike & Bike premises
- MacArts – roof and general maintenance
- Active Travel Plan

All of the above are grant/funding dependent. Ian is looking forward to BID participation with Heritage Lottery Trust walkabout early in June.

4. MF – administrative update as per Board papers also:

- TD1 radio, BBC Radio Scotland have offered regular and ongoing coverage. Agreed **MF to follow this up.**

- John Lamont meeting on 27th June highlighted with Board
- Board agreed that they should be represented at August Community Council meeting to inform the Council about BID plans and to develop the partnership. **MF to follow up**
- Dalkeith have requested MF speak at an event in August as they consider their own position vis a vis BIDs. Agreed **MF to take up this offer.**
- Ambassadors. Potential Ambassadors identified across the BID zone. MF to contact and follow up.

AGENDA POINT 5 – items for decision:

Vacant Shops Academy

Board agreed that JH and AH would pursue with the Vacant Shops Academy and report back to next Board meeting. Separately **MF to contact SBC re contribution to cost.**

Retailers Against Crime

Board agreed to defer membership, there are concerns about the relevance or suitability for the smaller, independent businesses – whilst the larger National stores will already have membership of RAC or similar.

Agreed to focus instead on building a working partnership with Police Scotland and seeking their advice and training in crime prevention. A WhatsApp group to be established to allow for reporting of shoplifting, anti-social behaviour etc. 'Business Watch' stickers or similar to be distributed. Press announcements about partnership with Police and new initiatives as a deterrent to would-be criminal activity. **MF to follow up.**

Flyer for Peebles Visitor Centre

Funding Dependent. Agreed to produce A5 flyer for speed of distribution this summer, once funding stream allows.

In slower time, to consider a map and information 'booklet' for wider distribution.

Borders Fest

Agreed **MF to stay in touch with Bill Jeffrey** and explore how BID For Galashiels can support.

Christmas

Agreed to supplement Council budget for Galashiels Christmas Tree 2025, and at the same time to pursue the idea of a 'live' Christmas tree, which is likely to take 4 to 5 years to grow to maturity. **MF to follow up**

Separately, **MF to pursue meeting with Community Council** re Christmas Lights AND to email Community Council, Heartland Market and Rotary to seek a joined-up approach to Christmas season.

Discussion about having collection buckets at Heartland Market and other key events to fundraise for Christmas 2026.

Monthly drop-ins

Agreed that MF will host a monthly drop-in on the first Tuesday of every month from a varying location within the BID zone. **MF to pursue.**

September mini-networking event

Agreed MF to develop plans for a mini-networking event mid to late-September 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE

LEVY COLLECTION

MF explained how SBC as the billing agent share information about payments received.

INCREASING FOOTFALL AND SPEND

BIG VOICES

MF reported on her meeting with BIG VOICES and outlined their proposed project for September 2026. MF to stay in contact with BIG VOICES and explore areas for collaboration/support including potential for sponsorship of eg catering by individual businesses, support with costs for rehearsal space, partnerships with hospitality businesses.

SSDA

MF reported very positive meeting with Gowan Millar of South of Scotland Destination Alliance. Lots of scope for BID and SSDA to support each other in shared aims. However, the Galashiels presence on the Scotland Starts Here website is disappointing. Board reviewed the pages in live time. LJ offered to compile a list of 'top 5 things to do in Galashiels' 'things to do on a family day out in Galashiels' for submission to SSDA and for inclusion with other place marketing materials.

ACTION – LJ to compile list

Nighttime Economy

MF and DF had met and discussed how to begin project to grow the nighttime economy. They had agreed that as a first step a working group needs to be set up and the businesses themselves need to say what they need/want. Call for interest to be put out with newsletter and

on social media. MF to separately email businesses who are involved with the nighttime economy.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

MF briefed as per note with Board Papers.

MF in contact with EyeBright who offer potential for cost savings for businesses across all utilities and broadband.

MF reported TD suggestion of a membership card for businesses with the opportunity for 'member rates' and other BID member incentives.

AK offered to compile a resource on software from Talent and Learning Resources.

AOCB

MATCHED funding opportunity

AK drew attention to SBC [UK Shared Prosperity Projects](#) - An open grant scheme providing community groups with the opportunity to access funding for transformative projects that enhance the region has been launched.

Heartland Market

Businesses at the Tapestry end of Channel Street were very disappointed that the Heartland Market was relocating to Market Square, and with the short notice given. MF said that the move was difficult to square with the BIDs aims of drawing footfall away from the retail park, Tesco/ASDA and further into town, though she understood that this would have been a commercial decision based on the experience of stall holders. There remains a misconception that the Heartland Market is a part of Heartland and by extension under the auspices of the BID, which further complicates the issue. MF to discuss prospect of filling the empty Tapestry Square space with eg Arts Activity on Market Days. **MF to follow up**

Budgets and Expenditure to Date

SJ asked that a breakdown of ongoing costs and spend to date be circulated. MF to arrange.

ENDS