

BID For Galashiels

Meeting minutes- April 1st 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: 6th May 2025, High Mill, Galashiels

1. Apologies

Craig Murray

2. Discussion

- I. Lewis welcomed everyone to the table. Each Director introduced themselves, referencing their background and what had drawn them to the role.
- II. Introduction from Lewis. He asked that Director's take time to consider the business plan and how they can support delivery, submit any additional ideas and suggestions and be mindful of both their own capacity and that of the PM who will be employed on a part time basis. He stressed that this is day one of a 5 year project and that the Board needs to take a strategic approach to delivery.

ACTIONS:

all to consider how they can best support delivery of the business plan and submit any fresh ideas

Mags to share the excel database with ideas collated through the consultation process

- III. Mags talked through an overview of BIDs (powerpoint attached) which raised several discussion points.

- Specifically on the issue of **empty units** it was agreed that the BID should ask SBC what support or streamlining they can put in place and the BID should work towards:
 - Completing an audit of empty premises and agreeing an initial 'top 10' target
 - approaching owners/estate agents to build working relationships; working with them to identify and overcome barriers to leasing/selling premises
 - offering a named person in Gala to assist with access for viewings
 - providing 5D imaging of empty premises to showcase potential
 - giving the potential for 'mentor' type conversations with existing businesspeople in the town,
 - giving potential for ongoing support through the BID
- IV. Mar Comms – general discussion about the Marketing and Comms, about how Heartland and BID for Galashiels sit together, comms channels.
- V. Internal Comms – Lewis set out that we are in the process of trying to secure a Not For Profit package with Microsoft 365 which would give all access to Teams and shared drive.
- VI. Events – agreement Christmas is a priority both by timing and importance to traders. Community Council have historically planned Christmas light switch on, reportedly with very little consultation with traders. Last few years have been a damp squib. Helen has extensive experience to draw on of Christmas events in Gala. She had a strong field of volunteers through EGT to support in delivery of the hugely successful event in 2019.
- VII. Public Presence for the BID – several ideas were discussed; stand at the monthly Heartland Market; monthly/quarterly space in the Tapestry building; BID Ambassadors; monthly community groups meetings

ACTIONS:

Mags to email Euan Jardine ahead of his meeting with Jenni Craig on 2/4/25 reminding of issues where SBC support is needed

Jay and **Alan** to audit vacant units across the BID zone

Mags to take forward planning and report to next Board meeting re Christmas

Mags to continue with process re Microsoft

Mags to continue with RBS

Mags to share consultation feedback

3. **Future meetings** will be on the first Tuesday of each month at 5.30pm at the High Mill

ACTIONS:

Lauren to check viability of this with Heriot Watt University and report to next meeting with any costs.

ENDS