



### **Advisory Board Minutes**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February (10:30-12)

Runway East, Bristol Bridge, BS16AA (Laika Room 1.2)

#### **Agenda**

##### **1. Welcome and apologies:**

**Attendees:** Vicky Lee, James Woolam (Chair), David Foley, Victoria Matthews, Trish Brown, Helen McGee, Andy Pick, Matt Birch, Danielle Kirk, Jamie Burman, Paula Ratcliffe, Ani Stafford-Townsend

##### **2. Actions from last meeting:** Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership proposal agreed.

- No further actions

##### **3. Quarter 4 Performance Report (October, November & December).**

VL:

- We only have provisional Visa data currently, but o2 data shows that footfall is up. Once we have the full report it will be published on the website and circulated to all AB members. Currently issues with a sensor on Victoria St.
- Annual Meeting was well received and resulted in further engagement from businesses.

##### **4. Budget and billing**

VL:

- Collection rate standing at 60% (end Jan) which is an increase on previous years but has still not achieved pre-covid rates. Cashflow is supported by Business West on guaranteed income, but Vicky remains cautious when planning activity for the year ahead, however Vicky is confident that the collection rate will improve, based on previous year trends.
- Carry forward balance has now been earmarked for further place making projects.

###### **a. Billing & data update**

VL:

- Summonses have been issued, the majority of business receiving these have stated that they didn't receive original paperwork. This has caused a number of businesses to contact BID directly.
- Data sharing issues – VL to provide an update at the next AB meeting in April
- Cllr David Wilcox has had conversations with Business West and will also be raising the issue of data sharing with BCC

## 5. Round table:

### a. Updates from Advisory Board members

MB:

- Academic year is changing to: 09/09/24 – 01/06/2025
- Students' exams will be prior to Xmas, meaning many may go home sooner. There will still be graduations after 01/06. There will still be graduations after 1<sup>st</sup> June. The reason for this is to give the students more research time over summer and increase their Christmas break to aid their mental health. Matt will provide detail to all AB members, this is only UoB not UWE.

DJF:

- This will have implications on the rental dates, as it stands they will be paying an extra month's rent to landlords from this September

VL:

- Looking to develop student website hub site – 1 stop shop for all students as a welcome to the city centre including introductions to businesses for post grads. Working group set up already. Students are looking for different activities and so the BID are looking to see how businesses can benefit from this.

MB:

- UoB would be very interested to be part of these conversations and SU should also be included in further discussions.

VL:

- This could provide a follow-on pathway for businesses in the city.

JW:

- Did everyone notice the increased footfall? In response to Park Street 20% footfall increase year on year for Q4

TB:

- Yes, but there were events on at St George's which may be the reason.

JB:

- St Nicks up 16% on last years footfall

VL:

- Waiting for economic impact report on BLF to see if businesses benefitted from additional footfall.

## 6. Advisory Board vacancies

JW:

- Stepping down after April. Hayes Parsons is leaving the BID area. JW has chaired for 4 year feels it's a good time to handover.

Explained the role of chair:

- Monthly meeting with VL and occasionally helps in bigger projects.
- Sits on VW board which meets every 2 months online. If anyone is interested in taking this role, speak to VL/JW.
- Does anyone else want to step down – it's important that everyone is able to make the commitment to attend meetings so if anyone feels that they would like to step down, again speak to VL.

VL:

- We have a retail position to fill in addition to the above.
- Everyone is welcome to stay if they wish. Samir will cover Trish's mat leave and then she will return.
- BID will advertise positions on channels.
- Seats are proportionate by sector.

## 7. Future Projects, Campaigns & Activity:

### a. Sustainability Projects update

VL:

- Launch event at JLL on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Meeting is to intro the team, brainstorm on barriers to success and then further sessions to come from this.
- JLL lead is also presenting on that day as part of their position on the climate leaders board. Will send invite to board members after meeting.
- Cargo bike – subsidies available. Works well in London hoping to replicate that. Will be talking to businesses to understand what their requirements are.
- Project launch – consultants will talk to businesses and discuss needs to match to local sustainable transport organisations.
- BID – receive BCC grant to match fund the project £25K (also working with R7T BID).
- Bikes can travel within 5 mile radius (TBC).
- Used delivery of office catering/document deliveries and Spicer & Cole who use a cargo bike service to deliver to each outlet from their central kitchen as examples.
- Option to buy a bike at a reduced rate after testing the service.
- BCC development work is ongoing around central delivery point currently and we are linking closely with the BCC team. May call it the Final Mile Project TBD.
- BID are exploring options to work with local charity to provide planter maintenance in the city centre.

TB:

- Brandon Hill Trust – had a landscaping arm – Chris is a contact originally from BHT who has started out on his own. TB will share contact details with VL.
- Would like to support but don't deliver out. Can they connect their suppliers with someone central? VL that will be further down the line.
- Suggested we should also speak to Pattersons as they deliver in large vehicles, Bristol Beer Factory & BARBIE

### b. TAP for Bristol

PR:

- Current focus on TAP being nominated by businesses as their fundraising recipient. Should any AB member want to consider this, please contact PR.
- Further marketing work underway with CIB
- Explained new Z House Project and funding split.

### c. Bristol Crime Reduction Partnership

VL:

- Many concerns around business crime in the city.
- BCRP going through accreditation to formalise the model. We will also be co-ordinating an AB from city representatives and feed into the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership. Be Streetwise – New training package developed with Street Intervention Service Team and BID. Scenario based training to educate on interacting with street community. Good opportunity for businesses. Lots of issues with rough sleeping and ASB. Increased crime in the city centre.
- With all knife crimes in the city centre, perpetrators have been caught very quickly, showing a zero tolerance approach from the Police.
- BID in early discussions with Empire Fighting Chance to see if there is anything we can do in the centre to provide somewhere for young adults to spend their time and channel their energy.

AST:

- Financial situation in BCC is bad as 80% on adult social care so things are about to get worse as previous years' cuts will start to have an impact.
- Castle Park changes are needed sooner than later, lots of criminality.
- Also need bleed kits (this saved the boy in McDonalds) we need more of these and also training on usage.

VL:

- Castle Park winter lights scheme – will consider if this can be brought forward in response to resent issues.

DJF:

- Implications of knife crime on shop lifting. His company has taken over management of Eastville Retail Park. Security guards can't challenge people as they are concerned for their safety. Therefore, it will have implications for businesses in the centre.

JW:

- A lot are social issues which are beyond the BID' remit but would be good to understand what the plans are for the future from the police (once they have dealt with the current situation).
- BID could do engagement with businesses around activities for young people.

AST:

- Knowle West residents are upset about closure of youth centre, and this has caused ASB issues. Gangs are increasing their boundaries, and this is spilling into the city centre. City Centre residents' number 25,000 in central ward and 5 – 10% are under the age of 16.

VM:

- Empire Fighting Chance have funding for setting up youth clubs.

AST:

- Event: A Manifesto for Hope - How the city nurtures its young people.
- Trojan FreeFighters (old Staples store) CEO of Oasis Academy Trust is keynote speaker.

HM:

- Door Security used to be from the boxing clubs but current security don't know the individuals. Maybe link up someone from boxing clubs with Street Pastors to intro individuals to boxing clubs?
- Wave Training now accredited by Highfield – welfare and vulnerability training Safer Business Network
- - d. Bristol Harbour Festival 24-27

VL:

- Twice monthly meetings being held, and steering group has been set up to create further engagement with the business community.
- Expressions of interest for performances – over 50 applications received.
- Changes being made to the programme together with the introduction of a talk tent into Millennium Square to encourage engagement from businesses and inviting them to talk about their business to the public.
- Plaster have been engaged as the PR agency.
- Fringe Programme is the next step – VL discussing how to get businesses involved. Wants the AB to consider how they may want to be involved in the programme.
- College Green will still be the children's area.
- BCC is happy with BID as the new delivery partner.
- Will arrange for the event organisers to attend an AB meeting.

e. Bristol Light Festival update.

JW:

- Well done, lots of challenges but worked well, good security, good event, well publicised.

VL:

- Festival went without incident for the public but there were many issues which the team had to deal with behind the scenes.

DJF:

- Media Coverage was great.

VL:

- The increased coverage and popularity of installations has opened up opportunities for what we do next.
- BBC piece is now going on tour, designers of Ascendance (astronaut) have now got a fully booked year. How can BLF benefit from this? BID is developing a business plan around further opportunities.
- Wet weather reduced footfall over a couple of nights, but the increase in footfall at the weekends levelled out the numbers.

VL:

- We need to maintain the current standard so how do we reduce the BID liability whilst raising funds.

DK:

- We need to raise the standard as it has become more popular.

JW:

- What are the reasons for not holding the BLF over half term?

VL:

- Not dark enough and people already come for half term – may consider extending the festival but we would not move it, date wise.
- If we have indoor venues where light isn't an issue, we may be able to open these earlier.
- Because of queue issues, we may need to move more installations outdoors.

DJF:

- Well done on Xmas lights. King St/Corn St – brilliant. BRI less so.

VL:

- We can build on this. But some infrastructure is not holding up for the winter lights project. Baldwin St uplighters will be moved to College Green and increase lighting in other areas (BRI).
- King St and Park St will need to be replaced within the next couple of years.
- Will be looking at a new project with the hospital for the children to design lights in that space. Also, streetlamps on which we can do hanging displays as we are not always able to do cross street festoons.

## 8. AOB

DJF:

- Should we invite someone from Bristol Beacon onto the AB?

**Future meetings:** April 30<sup>th</sup>, July 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup> (10.30am to 12)