

**Cambridge BID Board Meeting Minutes
8.30am Wednesday 24th November 2022**

Attendees, Apologies, Minutes and Declarations of Interest.

Alice Gilderdale	AG
Alison Wright	AW
Anne Bannell	AB
Becky Burrell	BB
Chris Douglas	CD
Dominic Joyce	DJ
Glen Sharp	GS
Helen Hames	HH
Ian Sandison – Chair of meeting	IS
Jane Baker	JB
Philip Greer	PG
Roger Allen	RA
Simon Wallis	SW
Sallie Wright	SWBID

In Attendance

Joel Carre

Apologies:

Nick Finlayson-Brown	NFB
Valerie Lambert	VL

Quorum (1/3rd of board members) present

No Declarations of interest

Board agreed that IS should Chair.

1. GCP Congestion Charge Update and discussion – Peter Blake

Board members were given the opportunity to voice their comments and concerns regarding business activity in the city, especially issues with staff access to the city and the current operating hours and bus frequency. Peter Blake agreed the improvements to the bus service need to be in force prior to a congestion charge and the consultation is a way to get feedback about the proposal. PG commented on whether a school bus service would ease heavy school drop off traffic. AB queried whether a referendum would be held regarding the proposed congestion charge, however, there is no legal requirement for this to happen. BB asked if there was a 'plan B' at this stage, there is not as the consultation is still ongoing. The result of the consultation will determine progress with the proposal. RA commented there are concerns by businesses and new developments in the city centre. DJ said there is a significant emotional attachment to Cambridge by residents who feel as they have lived in the city for so long, why should they pay. JB asked if conditions were going to be set out in the proposal to make sure promises are delivered, PB advised everything will be scrutinised and carefully monitored. The reason there will be no reduction for electric vehicles is due to affordability and equality. There

will be no reduction for residents as 53% of congestion is allegedly caused by short journeys within the zone – therefore they would lose a significant portion of any revenue generated. AG commented on the widespread disbelief by residents that a bus service in Cambridge will be delivered to the extent that is necessary to support transport issues in the city and warrant the introduction of a congestion charge. AG looking at exemptions for low paid and young people amongst others that will struggle with affordability. CD said there was an element of confusion regarding the number of traffic management consultations, and it would be helpful if they were combined to a single project and therefore 1 consultation period.

2. Introductions & Minutes

September minutes signed off with all actions met.

3. IS & Team reports

IS distributed his report prior to the meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding term 3 levy collection.

Team report distributed prior to the meeting. BB currently looking at Christmas lights tender for next term. RA will give contractor info for potential new supplier.

Action 1: BB to liaise with RA re Christmas lights tender

4. CCC Update

Living wage foundation webinar on 29 November 2022 to discuss Cambridge becoming the first living wage city and putting together a 3 year plan. Businesses were invited to attend.

New Street Support Officer to work in a supportive role to help tackle the issues of homelessness, begging and abusive behaviour in the city.

Market canopies to be replaced and additional CCTV installed with a wayfinding app due to be launched soon. The third electric bike will be operational in the next few weeks, assets having been formerly transferred to Cambridge BID Ltd.

Ongoing investigation regarding the market square and district heat network which is having a slight impact on the progression of the Market Square redevelopment.

Parking charges are due to be reduced overnight.

3. Board Update

PG (Commercial Director CUA Hotel) Strong trade for room occupancy from mid December to mid January, November has been quiet. Focusing on bookings for next year.

AW (Owner, Fitzbillies) Overall business is good with busy weekends, however less afternoon tea's and casual customers during the week. Concerned about January.

CD (General Manager, Graduate Cambridge) Christmas party bookings strong however room occupancy is November was low, however October and December are strong.

AB (Owner, Jack's on Trinity/Giles & Co) Good trade in October, but lower in November.

Missing the Asian tourism trade.

JB (Development Manager, Cambridge University) Still low occupancy in some of the more remote offices. University looking at reducing their footprint and how they can use the estate more efficiently.

GS (Junior Bursar, Trinity Hall) Staffing levels returned to 'normal' Quality of candidates has dropped.

RA (Centre Manager, Lion Yard) Tesco taking 3 units; shop-fit in February. Footfall has been good and saw a great turnout for the remembrance service.

DJ (Head of Branch John Lewis & Partners) Trade has picked up and seeing a healthy profit as a result. Staff level are high.

SW (Director, Brookgate) Mini budget was not helpful and the lack of office supply means that Cambridge North development is moving tenants in with no issues. Contractors are struggling with cost of materials and supply.

AG (Executive Councillor for Recovery, Employment and Community Safety) Confirmed the council would remain at the Guild Hall.

10. AOB

Anne Bannell has decided to stand down from the BID Board after being involved with Cambridge BID for almost 10 years. The Board wish to minute Anne's considerable contribution to the BID and the board during this time, especially her work with Independent businesses and we sincerely thank her for this.

It was agreed a recruitment process for new board members would commence in the new year.

Actions from meeting

Action	Task	Responsible	Deadline
1	BB to liaise with RA regarding Christmas lights tender	BB	ASAP

Next Board Meeting 8:30am Thursday 26th January 2023

Location TBC



Signed off _____

Date 24 November 2022