

Minutes of Bute BID Board Meeting

Date: 23th October 2024

Location: Bute Fabrics 5.30pm

Attendees: John Glen (JG)
Sophie Reid (SR)
Ian McCulloch (IM)
Duncan Martin (DM)
Alistair Forsyth (AF)
Fergus Murray (FM) online
Kirsty Durrant (KD) online
David Adams McGilp (DAM) online
Dorothy McDonald (DCM)
DL Gordon (DLG)

Matters Discussed

Action

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Erin Murphy, Reeni Kennedy-Boyle
- 2. Minutes of previous meeting of 11th September:** approved.
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 4. Update from DAM of Visit Scotland:** DAM will be remotely attending a meeting with Believe Bute to discuss potential solutions for the use of the Discovery Centre after its closure at the end of September 2025. JG will also be in attendance. DCM raised a query as to what mandate Believe Bute has to enter discussions on behalf of the community and what constitutes a community? DAM responded that there is no formal definition of a community and no way of obtaining the consensus of a whole community on Bute or anywhere. There is no formal agenda for this discussion and no decisions will be made but it's a start and provides an opportunity to meet with representatives of third sector organisations. He also pointed out that the Discovery Centre cannot be run by committee and whoever comes forward will need to satisfy the business case and demonstrate that they can, at a minimum, meet the running costs of the building.

DAM left the meeting at 5.45pm

5. Update from Argyll & Bute Council:

ROTHESAY PAVILION – The tender to finish the capital works will shortly be signed. It will be another two years before the building opens.

VISITOR LEVY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2024 - A&B Council are running consultation workshops with AITC. The levy will not be implemented until the end of 2026 at the earliest. The money raised must be spent on tourism related infrastructure. (*see item 9*)

ROYAL HOTEL –Options are being considered and the work will be phased. Certain government grants have been suspended until next year.

ALBERT PIER – JG asked about the timeline for demolition and FM responded that it is still with the Estates Dept.

CARE HOME FUNDING – £160,000 has been secured from the Islands Infrastructure Fund to create two new adult bed spaces in the care home.

PLAYGROUND PROJECT – FM cautioned the Government will claw back any unspent funding so there is an urgency on all projects to be delivered.

STP TOWN OF THE YEAR - Oban have won STP town of the year. There were 10,000 visitors to the MOD. IM suggested an idea to host a ‘Doon the Watter’ Celtic Connection event. KD pointed out there is a Strategic Event and Festival Fund that could be applied for next year.

WI-FI - KD confirmed that the BID suggestion of 5G in the town was being considered and more info will be provided at a later date.

6. Priorities for the new financial year: JG reported that following a Directors’ brainstorming session SR will collate ideas in a document to set priorities. JG will meet with DCM next Wednesday to get action points from that decision. IM proposed anyone receiving funding from BID should display a logo to show that. DLG to create the logo. JG and DCM
DLG

7. Approval of New Members and New Board Members: ‘Ya Wee Butey’ was accepted as a new Member and ‘Otterburn Cottage’ was accepted as a new Voluntary Member. Two other levy-payers have expressed an interest in becoming Board Members and DCM will meet them next week. DCM

8. Update on Christmas Event: “Winter Garden Glow”: DCM will arrange another meeting of the steering group. Bute Kitchen will organise the licensing for the food and drink stalls and will provide an opportunity for local providers to take part. They are also providing the gazebos and other infrastructure. The Sports Leaders Group from RJC will provide ‘glow’ games on the Putting Green with the four island charity shops volunteering and benefitting from light up putting on the other green. The Discovery Centre will be an alternative indoor space in the case of bad weather. We have been unable to identify a suitably qualified local electrician holding a G39 Certificate who is available to instal the Christmas lighting. KD will seek clarification of the requirements with Tom Murphy, the Amenity Services Manager. DCM

9. Update on Hospitality Business Networking event with Cathy Craig: This meeting has been publicised to levy-payers and will be held at the Glenburn Hotel on 20th November. KD

10. Update on Playpark: KD confirmed the wording of the licence have been agreed by Legal Services as being appropriate for the BID and the document will be finalised at the appropriate council committee on 4th November. DCM will put the project out to tender to four contractors, one of which is island-based, next week. FM recommended a tendering period of a month. DCM

11. Any Other Competent Business: DCM raised the question of storage of Christmas lighting equipment in the town centre for convenience. DM suggested a storage container on High Street. KD will find out more about potential storage opportunities but pointed out that H&S around access to council premises has been an issue in other areas.

KD

Date of next Meeting: 13th November 2024 - Danielle McRorie-Smith (National Programme Manager for SIDs) will be attending to advise on BID governance and the forthcoming BID Ballot Process.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm